



January 15, 2019

#### SNAP Early Release and Government Shutdown Resources

Due to the partial U.S. government shutdown, February SNAP benefits will be available on the EBT (Ohio Direction) card January 16, 2019. *These are the February benefits that are being released early due to the government partial shutdown.* To read more on this early release, go to <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2019/000319>. For SNAP questions or issues, contact the local Job & Family Services office by calling 1-866-886-3537 (choose option 6, then option 2). For information posted by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, go to <http://jfs.ohio.gov/> or call 1-844-640-OHIO.

For questions or eligibility for unemployment benefits, go to <https://unemployment.ohio.gov/PublicSelfServiceChoice.html>.

Those struggling to purchase food or simply to make ends meet can reach out to us for food relief or guidance: <https://www.midohiofoodbank.org/get-help/get-food/>.

A variety of national resources were recently shared by USA Today: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/01/10/government-shutdown-freebies-deals-and-help-furloughed-workers/2523404002/>.

Constituents of Congressional Representatives Balderson, Beatty and Stivers (who cover the majority of the 20 counties we serve) may call 1-833-876-0937 for assistance. The toll-free number will direct the caller to the correct Representative's office. For those who live in another Congressional District, go to <https://www.house.gov/representatives> to find contact information for all Representatives.

#### **Governor's Cabinet Appointments**

**Mike DeWine has been sworn in as Ohio's 70<sup>th</sup> Governor** marking the start of a new Administration. He and Lt. Governor Jon Husted have also made numerous cabinet and senior staff level appointment. To review announcements of these appointments, go to <https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor/media/news-and-media/>. Most notably for our issues, Kimberly Hall is the nominee to head the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services; Maureen Corcoran for Director of the Department of Medicaid; and, Dorothy Pelanda for Department of Agriculture. The nominees have to be confirmed by the Ohio Senate, along with other senior level officials, but are able to begin their duties while that process is pending. For the release on these appointments, including an overview of their experience, go to <https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor/media/news-and-media/010119>.

#### Advocacy Tools

Education is an integral component of advocacy. The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) has put together material to be used in educating policymakers on hunger issues. Be sure to visit this site and utilize these tools as part of our ongoing effort to educate officials on efforts to end hunger in our communities: <http://frac.org/research/resource-library/every-candidate-know-hunger>.

#### Advocacy Contacts

For questions or information, contact your advocacy team: Tim White, Advocacy Manager: (614) 317-9480 or [twhite@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:twhite@midohiofoodbank.org); or, Marilyn Tomasi, Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs (614) 317-9446 or [mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org). Or, for federal advocacy information, you can also visit the [Feeding America](#) and the [Food Research and Action Center \(FRAC\)](#) advocacy sites.