

**May 21, 2019**

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### **Ohio Foodbanks Seek Additional State Support**

Ohio's foodbanks are grateful for the multi-decade partnership with the State of Ohio in working collaboratively to develop innovative programs to reduce hunger and food insecurity in our state. However, there is so much more that can and needs to be done. In the current state budget proposal for the 2020/2021 biennium, hunger relief programs are flat funded. This included the current level of \$19.5 million per year for the Ohio Food Program & Agricultural Clearance Program (\$39 million over the budgetary biennium). The Ohio Association of Foodbanks and its members are requesting two items be addressed in a potential amendment to the budget bill (House Bill 166) during hearings before the Senate Finance Committee:

- 1) Combine anti-hunger state funding into one line item in a comprehensive approach to hunger relief, providing operational efficiencies in these efforts.
- 2) Provide additional dollars for the clearance and other programs to offset additional costs in efforts to lift citizens out of poverty. Under the comprehensive anti-hunger approach, this would represent an ask of \$30 million total for the clearance program, summer meals program and customer assistance and capacity building programs.

### **What We Need Our Supporters to Do**

Please contact your State Senator today or tomorrow and ask them to support a hunger relief amendment to the state budget proposal to combine the line items and provide a small increase in funds. To find your State Senator, go to <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/>; for sample language, go to [http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/2010/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action\\_KEY=22477](http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/2010/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=22477).

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### **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). Access [advocacy resources](#) and [FAN e-blasts](#) here; or, for federal advocacy information, visit the [Feeding America](#) and the [Food Research and Action Center](#) (FRAC) advocacy sites.