



# Increase Access to Affordable, Healthy Food

Hunger is a complex problem in Ohio, and it requires a comprehensive solution—including government funding, private and corporate donations, community and faith-based partnerships, and access to federal nutrition programs and other programs for low income individuals and their families. A comprehensive approach is critical to this solution. Access to food can stabilize struggling families, support Ohio workers, and stimulate Ohio's economy.

## Food and Nutrition Assistance



- Many factors contribute to increasing demand for emergency food, including: high prices for home utilities, health care, housing and transportation costs, rising food costs, wage stagnation and decreasing household incomes, and persistent unemployment and underemployment.
- Despite slight improvements in the economy and a national decrease in poverty rates, demand for emergency food has increased by 40% since 2010.
- More than 16% of Ohioans today live in food-insecure households, meaning

they had difficulty at some time during the past year providing enough food for all their family members. Ohio is tied 6th nationally for the highest rate of food insecurity.

- Ohio households are making tough choices and spending tradeoffs. Last year, 66% of households served by Ohio's hunger relief network reported they had to make choices between medicine, medical care and food. An additional 59% of households reported having unpaid medical bills. To learn more, visit [www.ohiofoodbanks.org](http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org).

## Comprehensive Approach to Hunger Relief

- The Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP) is currently flat funded at \$19.55 million per year.
- Use a Comprehensive Approach to **maximize the amount of state dollars available to Ohioans who need it most**. Combine other existing funding for summer meals programs for children and wraparound services through The Ohio Benefit Bank with the existing OFPACP allocation to streamline services and reduce administrative burdens and overhead. Provide additional funding for OFPACP and capacity building for foodbanks and local hunger relief charities.
- This \$30 million per year allocation in the 2018-19 biennial budget will put food on the tables for Ohio families, position our children to be healthy and ready to learn, protect the well-being of Ohio seniors, and set the standard among states for preventing hunger.



# Provide healthy food for millions of Ohioans.