



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Statement on Emergency Funding for Foodbanks Announced by Governor DeWine
*Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the
Ohio Association of Foodbanks***

“Governor Mike DeWine signed an Executive Order to provide just shy of \$5 million in emergency funding from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant to support Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks and the statewide hunger relief network.

“We are extremely grateful to Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Kimberly Hall and Governor’s Office Faith Based and Community Initiatives Michele Reynolds, Executive Director for this response to our plea for help as the lines at our emergency food distributions lengthen. Ohio’s foodbanks recognize that just as millions of Ohio households are challenged to afford their basic needs during this crisis, so too is the State of Ohio challenged with an obligation to balance its budget amid revenue shortfalls and record unemployment expenditures. We are humbled by and so thankful for this strong display of leadership and commitment to struggling Ohioans.

“The Ohio Association of Foodbanks has long partnered with the State of Ohio on a bipartisan basis to prevent hunger and promote household security for our fellow Ohioans, and this support is an important extension of that partnership. This funding will be put to immediate use to purchase available items such as: canned fruits and vegetables; canned meats; cereals, pastas and rice; boxed dinners; locally grown produce; locally produced milk, butter, cheese and dairy products through partnerships with the Ohio Dairy Producers Association, Dairy Farmers of America – Midwest Area and the National Farmers Organization; fresh meat and eggs; and essential household cleaning and personal hygiene items. More importantly, this funding will keep some very cash-strapped foodbanks from running out of food and supplies as they see close to double and sometimes even close to triple the demand for their help.

“Food security is a basic, fundamental right. We are grateful for the steps the State of Ohio and Congress have taken so far to reinforce our country’s hunger relief response during this outbreak. We urge Congress to continue to do its part by authorizing a 15 percent increase to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in the next federal COVID-19 relief package to bolster the economic stimulus that federal nutrition safety net provides for families and communities. We encourage Ohioans struggling with loss of income to apply for SNAP at benefits.ohio.gov or by calling 1-844-640-6446. More information about how to help or how to get help can be found at <http://ohiofoodbanks.org/coronavirus>.”

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About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is Ohio’s largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2019, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute nearly 230 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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