

# OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

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## *U.S. House Budget Would Endanger Older Adults, People Living with Disabilities and Children*

### **Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks:**

“This week, the U.S. House Budget Committee approved its 2018 budget resolution, which strips billions of dollars from a program that helps working families, seniors and people living with disabilities put food on the table. The budget includes major reductions in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, in addition to drastic cuts to other programs that expand economic opportunity for everyday Ohioans.

“SNAP is one of the most cost-effective tools we have in the fight against hunger and poverty. In Ohio, about 85 percent of all SNAP participants are children, seniors or people with disabilities. Not only is it the right thing to do to make sure everyone has enough nutritious food to eat, it’s also good for our entire economy. When families can afford to buy groceries, it pumps money back into local businesses, instead of putting more families into our food pantry lines more frequently. This budget plan would devastate millions of families – and the businesses that rely on their spending.

“Before we made a national commitment to end hunger, some areas of the country, including Ohio’s Appalachian region, had serious problems with hunger, including children suffering from malnutrition. Although the help that SNAP provides is extremely modest – averaging only \$1.38 per person per meal in Ohio – the program keeps more than eight million people out of poverty nationwide, including nearly four million children.

“Ohio’s charitable hunger relief network is committed to feeding the hungry in our community. But if Ohio families lose SNAP benefits, we won’t be able to make up the difference. Members of Ohio’s congressional delegation should protect SNAP and other poverty-reduction programs in the federal budget. We all win when our communities are healthy and prosperous.”

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Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, representing the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, is available for interviews on how this budget proposal would impact vulnerable Ohioans. To arrange an interview, please reach out to her at the contact information below.

#### **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 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2016, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 208 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association also serves as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank and operates the state’s largest navigator program for the Affordable Care Act. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at [www.ohiofoodbanks.org](http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org).*

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