



FAN updates

June 2023 | News & Updates from
the Foodbank Advocacy Network

Advocacy Resources:

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

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To sign up for the Food Advocacy Newsletter (FAN) and to receive our advocacy alerts and calls-to-action, or for questions or more information on our advocacy efforts, email advocacy@midohiofoodbank.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing opportunities are available at all locations such as Mid-Ohio Market at Norton Road. Our agency partners need the support of community members to meet the growing needs of our neighbors and that is especially true in the coming months. To learn more about volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups, visit <http://vhub.at/MOF>.

No School. No Lunch.

From June to August, we provide free, nutritious meals to children 18 and younger at multiple sites, including our Mid-Ohio Kitchen at Reeb Avenue. With your support, we can make a difference in our community by offering vital nutrition and joyful summer memories to children and families in need. To support this critical child feeding program, go to <https://mofc.org/no-school/>.

State Budget Heading into Home Stretch

Action Request: Support the OAFB Funding Ask

The ask by Ohio's hunger relief network is available at <https://ohiofoodbanks.org/funding-request/>. Please add your voice by signing onto the following petition at <https://p2a.co/gsrvqaj>.

Debt Ceiling Compromise Agreement

Provisions in the recent debt ceiling legislative agreement are mixed. While SNAP eligibility has been expanded for homeless people and veterans, work requirement time limits have been expanded to age 54 from 49. The changes are temporary and scheduled to sunset in 2030. The proposal also narrows exemptions for cash assistance for families through the TANF program and would fund WIC below case load estimates. Medicaid and Medicare were spared cuts in the agreement.

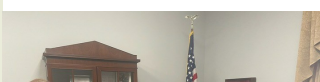
One concern is that as foodbanks across the country are experiencing record service levels due to historic inflation and the end of the Public Health Emergency, many more Americans could be pushed over the hunger cliff, resulting in further increases in food insecurity. **Read [Feeding America's statement on the agreement](#).**

With the end of the COVID Public Health Emergency declaration, assistance program waivers have ended, causing issues for beneficiaries and expanding foodbank customer rolls. With some of the provisions of the debt ceiling agreement stacked on top of the pandemic end and ongoing inflation, MOFC's FAQ documents on the end of pandemic era waivers for Medicaid and SNAP are a good resource on these public assistance programs. [Read the SNAP Emergency Allotments FAQ](#). [Read the Medicaid Unwinding FAQ](#).

ON THE DOCKET



On May 3, MOFC'S Government Relations team joined advocates from across Ohio at the Statehouse to advocate for increased funding for hunger relief efforts. We want to thank the 11 House and Senate members who listened to our request for additional dollars for direct food purchases and the creation of a special senior SNAP supplemental payment as well as to support the health navigator program. Pictured is the MOFC team with agency partner NSI representatives as we caught up with House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington.).



MOFC Government Relations staff returned to the nation's capital for the Anti-Hunger Policy Conference and Capitol Hill visits with our federal representatives in the U.S. House



and Senate. It was a great opportunity to join peers from Ohio's anti-hunger network in sharing with our state's federal officials the need for equitable funding and regulatory frameworks in the upcoming Farm Bill and appropriations bills. We appreciate the time of our federal officials and their staff in discussing current hunger trends and our legislative requests.



MOFC GR and Agency Services staff met State Senator Al Landis (R-Dover) at Christ's Table, a soup kitchen in Zanesville, during their hot lunch service. We want to thank Senator Landis and his wife Debby for jumping into the service line and taking the time to meet with Christ's Table customers, volunteers, and staff. For more about this visit, check out the resultant media coverage: <https://www.whiznews.com/christs-table-visited-by-state-senator/>



MOFC was thrilled to be named one of Franklin County's Community Partners of the Year! MOFC attended the first-ever State of the County Luncheon at Huntington Park, where Franklin County Commissioners highlighted noteworthy accomplishments of the county in the past year and shared goals for the upcoming year. MOFC is grateful for the unwavering support that Franklin County continues to provide in our mission to end hunger.

Have you caught any of the recent media stories highlighting how Mid-Ohio Food Collective and other anti-hunger organizations are responding to the spike in need in our communities?

From this [ABC News](#) feature story to this [local look](#) at current reality for food pantries, the story of how foodbanks and pantries are being strained by current conditions is being shared at all levels. For more media coverage of MOFC and related stories, visit our [media page](#).

TEFAP Sign-on Letter

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks recently shared an Ohio-specific sign-on letter urging U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), a member of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, to support the request for increased TEFAP funding as part of the 2023 Farm Bill. In particular, the letter urges support of Entitlement TEFAP fundings at \$500 million, TEFAP storage and distribution funding at \$200 million, and TEFAP infrastructure grants at \$15 million per year in discretionary funding. TEFAP is the federal program that is the linchpin program for food bank food acquisition. To learn more about how this critical program and the Farm Bill impact anti-hunger programs, go to <https://www.feedingamerica.org/take-action/advocate/the-emergency-food-assistance-program>.

Action Request

Sign onto this letter at [this link](#) by end-of-day **June 14** to add your voice to this urgent request!

August 8 Special Election for Issue 1

Ohio has scheduled a special election for August 8th, when voters will consider a major change to Ohio's constitution. You can expect to hear more about Issue 1 in the coming months, and we are urging our communities to exercise their right to vote in August.

July 10 is the voter registration deadline for the special election; information about voter registration is online at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/>.

- Access additional related key dates at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/ballotboard/2023/certified-ballot-language-for-issue-1.pdf>.
- To see the official ballot language, go to <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/current-voting-schedule/>, MOFC is compiling additional information related to this special election, so watch for more coming your way.