



# FAN Updates

September 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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## Government Shutdown

If you have turned on the television or scrolled on your phone, you've probably seen that Congress has been a little crazy these past several weeks.

The Congressional stalemate continues on a funding resolution to the looming federal government shutdown that will start **Sunday, October 1** as the federal fiscal year expires without a new budget plan in place. The TEFAP and SNAP federal hunger relief programs are funded through October. However, with some federal workers and contractors being furloughed through a shutdown and others not being paid, there could be issues with all federal programs due to fall out from lack of staffing.

There is great worry about the WIC program as USDA leadership has stated they have only enough fund to continue its operation "for a few days." When discussing programs such as WIC, in a statement Ohio Governor Mike DeWine shared that he, "does not see an immediate problem as far as delivering those federal services here in the state of Ohio. We do have the money..."

USDA is looking to states to fill the gap and we are awaiting guidance from the Ohio Department of Health.

We are adjusting our inventory as needed and our flow of food will continue despite a shutdown. But the longer the shutdown goes, the more challenging it will be to meet expected elevated community need. This is on top of demand having risen by over a third year-over-year as a result of COVID and inflation. We have been through this before and we will be here to meet community need.

### Key Dates for the Expected Shutdown:

**October 1:** shutdown begins

**October 4:** last federal paycheck for impacted federal employees and contractors

**October 18:** first missed paycheck – this is when the pain will begin in earnest for many impacted federal employees and contractors

**November 1** (day 32 of a potential shutdown): second missed paycheck and will be the start of assistance programs experiencing more problems as funds will not likely be allocated beyond October.

### What Can You Do to Help?

Individuals and families impacted by the shutdown and need food assistance can be referred to [www.freshtrak.com](https://www.freshtrak.com) to find a pantry.

Neighbors needing assistance with relief programs like SNAP can be referred to <https://mofc.org/snap-outreach/>. Share these sites with community organizations to ensure our neighbors receive the assistance they deserve.

**HUNGER  
ACTION  
MONTH**

HUNGER  
LIVES HERE  
AND SO  
DOES HELP.

As we are approaching the end of **#HungerActionMonth** we want to take a moment to say 'thank you' to all those who shared their support! All month long, we have been raising awareness and calling on our community to take action to end hunger. Wherever you call home in Ohio, **Hunger Lives Here ... and So Does Help!**

Check out our latest **#HungerActionMonth** items at [www.mofc.org/action](https://www.mofc.org/action) including the food perspective of many of our neighbors at <https://mofc.org/foodperspective/>

Check out some of the media coverage of our customers and volunteers here:

[NBC4 highlighted MOFC's ongoing work with the Food Pantry Network of Licking County](#)

[ABC6 covered MOFC's efforts to support New American](#)

[Our network's efforts to address rural hunger were covered by NBC4](#)

To learn more about MOFC's advocacy efforts beyond **#HungerActionMonth**, follow us on social media or check out [www.mofc.org/advocacy](https://www.mofc.org/advocacy).

### 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

FreshTrak

**Find Food Resources In  
Your Neighborhood**

coming months. To learn more about volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups, visit <http://vhub.at/MOF>.



### GR Team Out and About

GR team members joined the Ohio Association of Foodbanks and Feeding America in Washington D.C. in September to discuss with our Congressional delegation the importance of supporting a food secure Farm Bill and the negative impact of a federal government shutdown.

MOFC met with our federal officials to share about the importance of protecting and expanding programs like **TEFAP** (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) and **SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) to ensure access to healthy sustenance for all members of our community.



Find out how you can become an advocate for MOFC and those we serve at <https://mofc.org/advocacy/>.

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