CALL TO ACTION

Stubbornly high food prices have led to uncertainty for families facing hunger. More and more people turn to federal nutrition programs like the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—but people polled want the government to do more to address food insecurity. Tell Congress: Pass the strongest possible farm bill to help families and individuals facing hunger across the country!

Contact Your Member of Congress Here!

Farm Bill Update

House and Senate Ag Leaders Release Additional Details on Farm Bill Proposals

In early May, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (MI) released the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act bill summary detailing specific section-by-section proposals for the farm bill. Some of the main highlights of Senator Stabenow’s proposals include:

- Strengthening TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) by increasing entitlement funding by $900 million over ten years, and increasing the authorizations for storage and distribution (to $200 million) & infrastructure grant funding (to $20 million).
- Supporting additional avenues for TEFAP access, including via the Farm to Food Bank program, funding for culturally-relevant foods, and flexibility for geographically isolated states.
- Advancing SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) by maintaining 5-year updates to the Thrifty Food Plan, which helps to adjust these programs to inflation, and improving the SNAP Employment and Training program.
- Increasing access to SNAP for some college students, individuals with drug felony convictions, seniors, military

Legislative Watch: Public Assistance Programs Garnering Attention

Three bills have been introduced in the Ohio Legislature that would significantly impact public assistance programs. While it is difficult to predict whether any of these bills will be enacted this year, they could be precursor for debate next year during the state budget deliberations and therefore bear watching.

State Public Assistance Funding for Federal Funding Lapse

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) and Rep. Latyna Humphrey (D-Columbus) have introduced legislation to ensure the continuation of vital assistance programs that support low-income households and vulnerable populations in Ohio in the event of a lapse in federal funding.

With delays in a finalized Farm Bill following long delayed federal budget bills, the proposed legislation requires the Directors of Job and Family Services and Health to determine the necessary amount to sustain programs such as SNAP, TANF, and WIC during funding interruptions. Appropriations would be made from the Budget Stabilization Fund, up to its available balance. House Bill 288 is pending in the Families and Aging Committee and has received sponsor testimony.

SNAP Senior Supplemental Legislation

In a bipartisan bill introduced by Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) and Rep. Daniel Troy (D-Willowick), households with a member aged 60 or older and receiving less than $50 per month in SNAP benefits would receive additional assistance.

The bill states that households with a member aged 60 or older and receiving less than $50 per month in SNAP benefits would receive additional assistance to increase their monthly benefit to $50. House Bill 428 is pending in the Government Oversight Committee and has had sponsor testimony.

Public Assistance Regulatory Oversight
House Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA) also released a less detailed farm bill framework. Based on these materials, the House framework will include a cut of nearly $30 billion in SNAP food assistance benefits by restricting future updates to the Thrifty Food Plan. Discussions within committee have mentioned the use of these funds to be reinvested into nutrition program improvements while others will be invested into non-nutrition programs.

The release of these proposals starts another phase of the negotiations for the next farm bill. The House framework and Senate bill summary will be used by the Agriculture Committees to negotiate a final farm bill. Any farm bill that becomes law must have bipartisan support in order to pass because of the narrow margins in both chambers of Congress.

Did you know that over 40% of the households served by Mid-Ohio Food Collective include a senior? Many seniors in our community face hunger, yet it’s an issue that often remains unseen. As a community, it’s our responsibility to ensure that our seniors don’t face this challenge alone. Your voice can make a significant difference in the lives of those who have given so much to our community.

Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing opportunities are available at all locations such as the new Mid-Ohio Market at Gantz 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.

Advocacy Resources:

Access advocacy resources and FAN updates

MOFC Team Welcomes U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Officials for Tour of Mid-Ohio Farm

MOFC One Team members were joined by senior officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and key staff from the City of Columbus for a tour of the Mid-Ohio Farm on the Hilltop.

They witnessed first-hand the innovative techniques being employed on the Farm and saw how public investment through programs like the Community Development Block...
Grant, awarded to us by HUD and administered by the City, is effectively used to tackle the root causes of hunger and foster thriving communities.

We extend our thanks to HUD and the City of Columbus for joining us! We look forward to further strengthening our relationship with the local, regional, and federal HUD offices and are grateful for our long-standing partnership with the City!

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