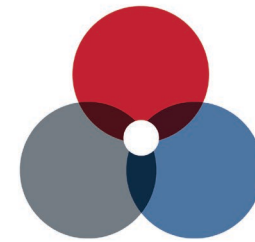


Friday Webinar Series: How COVID-19 is Impacting Food Access

April 17, 2020



THE CENTER FOR EST. 1913
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
RESEARCH • ANALYSIS • ACTION



The Center for Community Solutions

We are a non-partisan, nonprofit that aims to improve health, social and economic conditions through nonpartisan research, policy analysis, communications and advocacy.

www.communitysolutions.com

Twitter: @CommunitySols

Our Priorities



Advancing Wellbeing of
Older Adults



Enhancing Behavioral Health
Access



Improving Maternal and
Infant Health



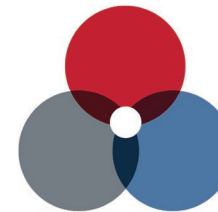
Promoting Comprehensive
Reproductive Health
Education



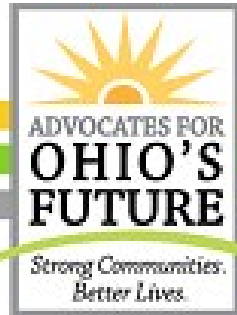
Strengthening Health and
Human Services Safety Net



Supporting Sound Medicaid
Policy



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Advocates for Ohio's Future

Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonpartisan coalition of over 500 Ohio organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that all Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.

Kelsey Bergfeld, Coalition Manager

kbergfeld@communitysolutions.com | www.advocatesforohio.org

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Suite 501
Columbus, OH 43215

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ohiofoodbanks.org

Update on Efforts to Prevent Hunger During COVID-19 Pandemic



Lisa Hamler-Fugitt
Executive Director
Ohio Association of Foodbanks

April 17, 2020



Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member agencies

2019 Foodbank Service

Statistics

Our network is made up of 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,601 member food pantries, soup kitchens shelters, and supplemental feeding programs, serving all of Ohio's 88 counties.

In state fiscal year 2019, our network distributed 229,546,132 pounds of food, or about 191.3 million meals.

Together, we served 3,438,315 households, containing 9,458,206 individuals, including:

**duplicated service statistics*



**2,871,974
children
(30.4%)**



**4,689,228
adults
(49.6%)**



**1,897,004
seniors
(20.0%)**

First unduplicated count:

In calendar year 2019, we served more than **1.6 million different Ohioans** through food pantries.

We provided another **15 million meals** through hot meal programs.

That was **before** the COVID-19 outbreak, during a comparably strong economy.

The Perfect Storm

The COVID-19 outbreak has had a compounding, widespread impact on household food security and on our emergency hunger relief network.



Immediate Economic Impact

As more Ohioans heeded the Governor's recommendation, and then order, to Stay At Home, businesses quickly began furloughing and laying off workers. Businesses and workers in nearly every industry were immediately impacted by loss of demand for their services.



Demand for Help with Food Surges

The Federal Reserve most recently estimated that nearly 4 in 10 American adults don't have enough saved to cover a \$400 emergency. That reality came to bear quickly on Ohio's foodbanks, which experienced immediate 50% to 100% increases and more in requests for help with food.



Delay and Inadequacy in Federal Safety Net Response

H.R. 6201, signed into law by President Trump on March 18, 2020, will send additional commodities to the country's hunger relief network, but that relief will take months to come. **SNAP (food stamp) benefits will take time to rollout to displaced workers and will be inadequate.**



Loss of Traditional Fundraising Dollars

Ohio's foodbanks, like many nonprofits, rely on giving campaigns and in-person fundraising events to generate critical operating dollars. Those events have been cancelled and those dollars will be harder to come by as individuals and corporations feel pressure on their budgets.



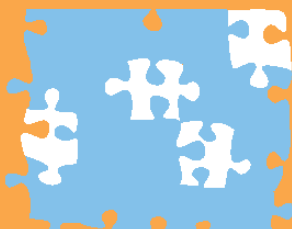
Challenges to Community-Based Food Access

Ohio's foodbanks traditionally rely on 3,600 food pantries, soup kitchens, and other feeding programs to reach people in need across Ohio's 88 counties. Many of those agencies are beginning to close out of concern for volunteer safety or orders to suspend services.



Shift to Focus on Social Distancing

Normally, Ohio's foodbanks promote client choice and community, offering an experience similar to grocery shopping at food pantries, as well as congregate, communal feeding at hot meal sites. The hunger relief network has quickly had to shift to pre-packed food and "to-go" meals.



Lack of Volunteer Support and Reduced Staff

Like many employers, Ohio's foodbanks are coping with reductions in staff due to school closures and quarantine measures. Additionally, Ohio's hunger relief network has had sharp declines in needed volunteer support as older adults and corporate volunteer groups have pulled back.



Threats to Food Supply Chain

With added pressure on grocers and food retailers as schools, daycares, and restaurants close, product that may have been donated to a foodbank will now be sold in primary or secondary markets. Further strain on the larger food supply chain will increase costs and limit availability.

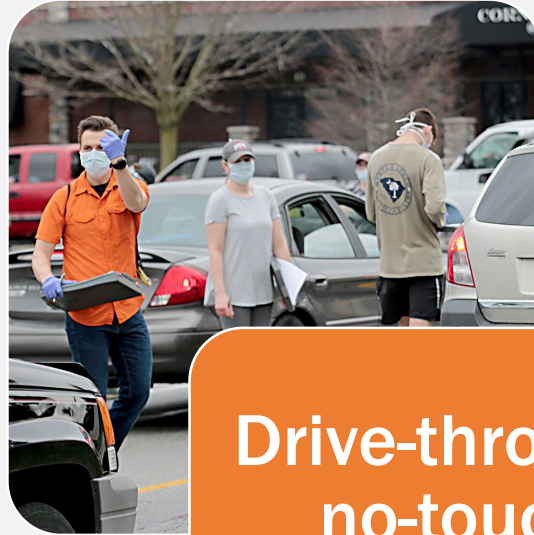
Modifications to Hunger Relief

Ohio's foodbanks and their member food pantries and hot meal programs have drastically altered services.

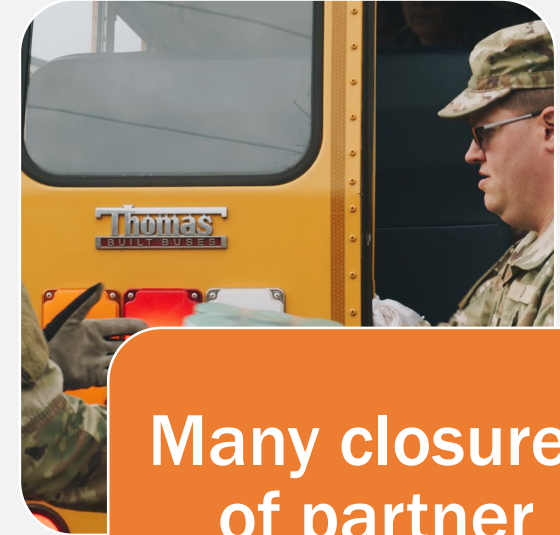




Pre-packing
foods and
preparing “to-
go” meals



Drive-through,
no-touch
distributions,
ramping up
home delivery



Many closures
of partner
agencies &
requests for
new services

Action from the State of Ohio



Governor DeWine and his administration have been responsive to our emergency needs.



**Ohio National
Guard
deployment**



**Emergency
funding
through TANF
Executive
Order**



**Philanthropy
Strike Force:
working to
direct
donations**

Action from Congress & USDA

Summary of relief actions impacting food security at federal level

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515
April 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

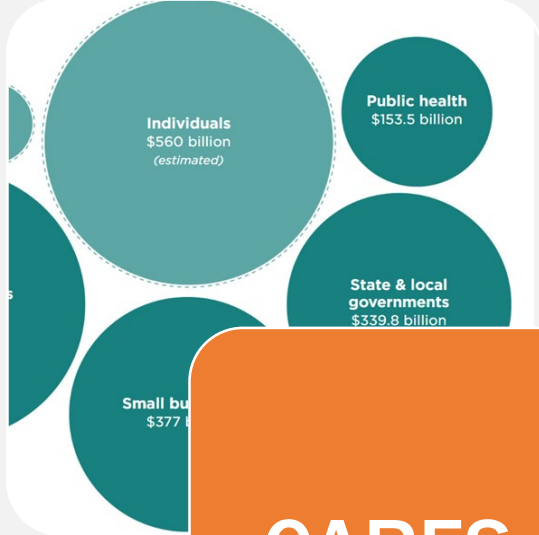
Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write in support of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' (ODJFS) request to operate the Disaster Household Feeding Program, and to urge you to act swiftly on this request for the State of Ohio.

Ohioans are facing significant economic challenges as the country takes action to halt the spread of COVID-19. As more Ohioans lose work, emergency food providers in every part of the state are seeing a massive increase in demand for food assistance. According to ODJFS, as of March 26, 2020, the state has received more than 187,800 new claims in unemployment in a single week. During this time, many food banks reported a significant – greater than 50 percent – increase in clients, with roughly two-thirds of the total utilizing emergency food services for the first time.



**Families
First Act
(H.R. 6201)**



**CARES Act
(H.R. 891)**



**Intervention
and
leveraging
influence**



**SNAP
Flexibility**



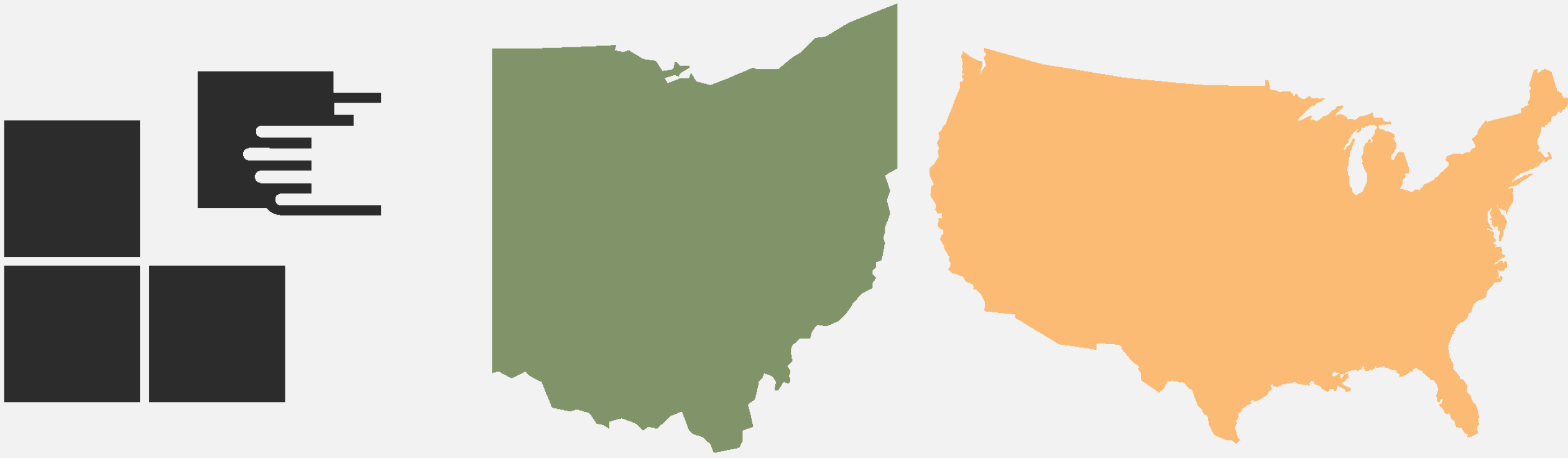
**Child
Nutrition
Flexibility**



**TEFAP
Disaster
Household
Distribution
Program**

What we need in the weeks and months ahead

**We must continue to be
#InThisTogetherOhio**



We will continue to need philanthropic and private support. We will need additional, sustained support from the State of Ohio. And most importantly, we need a strong federal nutrition safety net and we need the State of Ohio to apply the safety net as broadly as possible.



Lisa Hamler-Fugitt

Executive Director





Greater Cleveland Food Bank

COVID-19 Challenges and GCFB Response

April 17, 2020



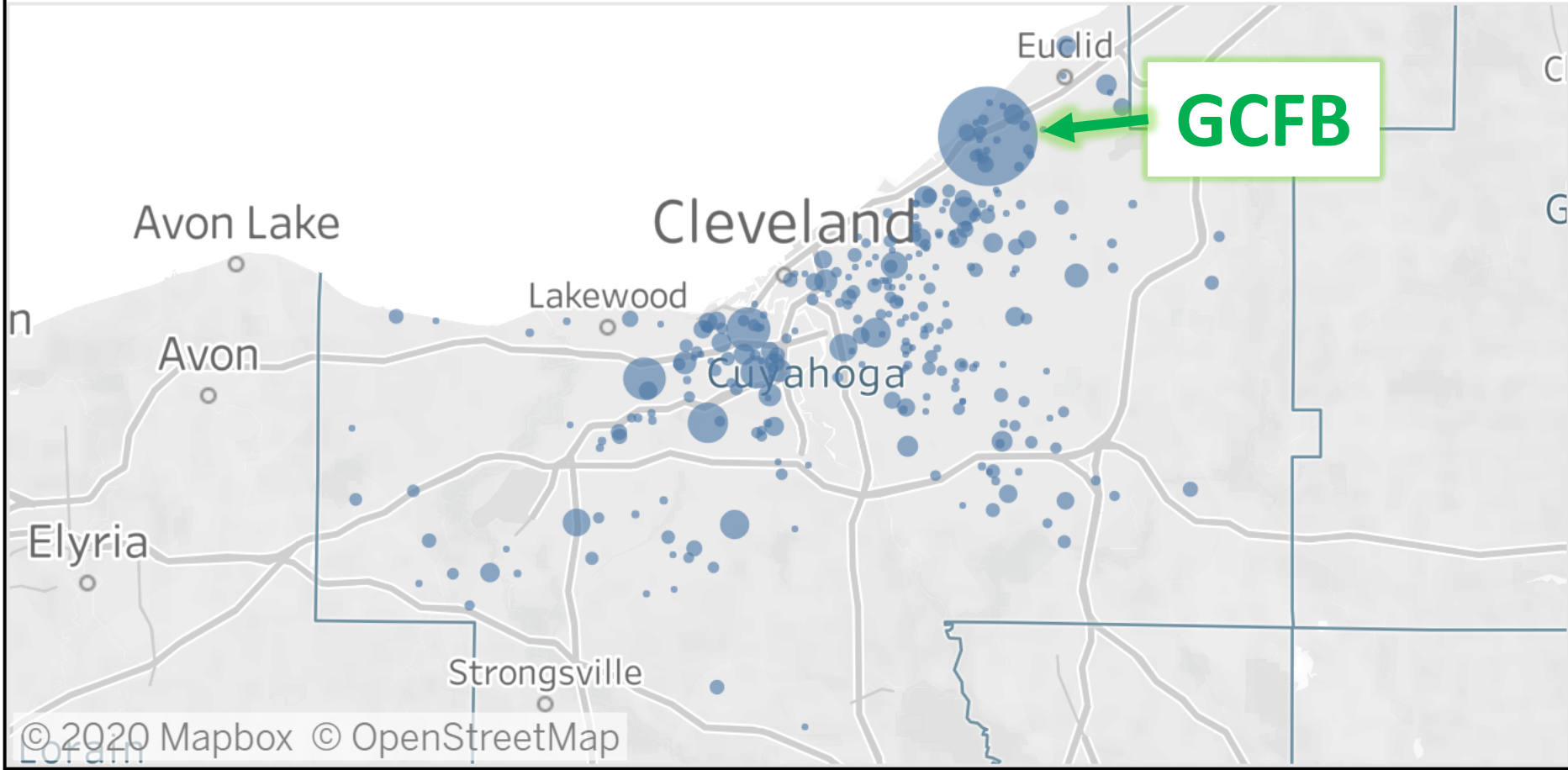
Challenges in Service Delivery: Decreased Supply & Increased Demand



The Growing Need

- 131,000+ individuals filed for unemployment in our six-county service area since beginning of March
- 8,500 new families served by GCFB in same period, with 4,000 of those new families served in the last two weeks
- 2,200+ avg. calls per week to GCFB Help Center since mid-March
- At the same time, more than 200 of our partner programs have closed their doors - nearly 100 of these closures include our Kids Café partners (afterschool meals) that typically operate in libraries, community centers, afterschool sites, etc.

PantryTrak Locations & Services - New Families Served





Food Supply Challenges

- Food retail donations are down more than 40% over the past month
- Shelf-stable food is in demand for the families we serve, but it costs GCFB about \$0.40 more per pound than fresh produce
- Our vendors have been impacted by supply chain issues, which causes delayed or cancelled orders (example: one vendor delayed our delivery because they ran out of food labels)





Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

GCFB COVID-19 Service Delivery



How We Traditionally Work in the Community



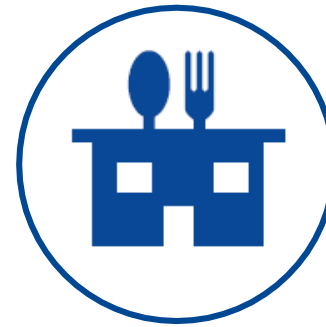
DONATED FOOD AND MONEY

Food is donated by retailers, manufacturers, and food drives, or acquired through state and federal nutrition programs. Money and food are also donated by businesses and individuals.



GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK

Once donations arrive at the Food Bank, volunteers sort, repackage, or prepare the food to be distributed to the community.



PARTNER AGENCIES & PROGRAMS

Local churches, community centers, schools, and other organizations partner with the Food Bank and order bulk food from our warehouse to have delivered to their location.



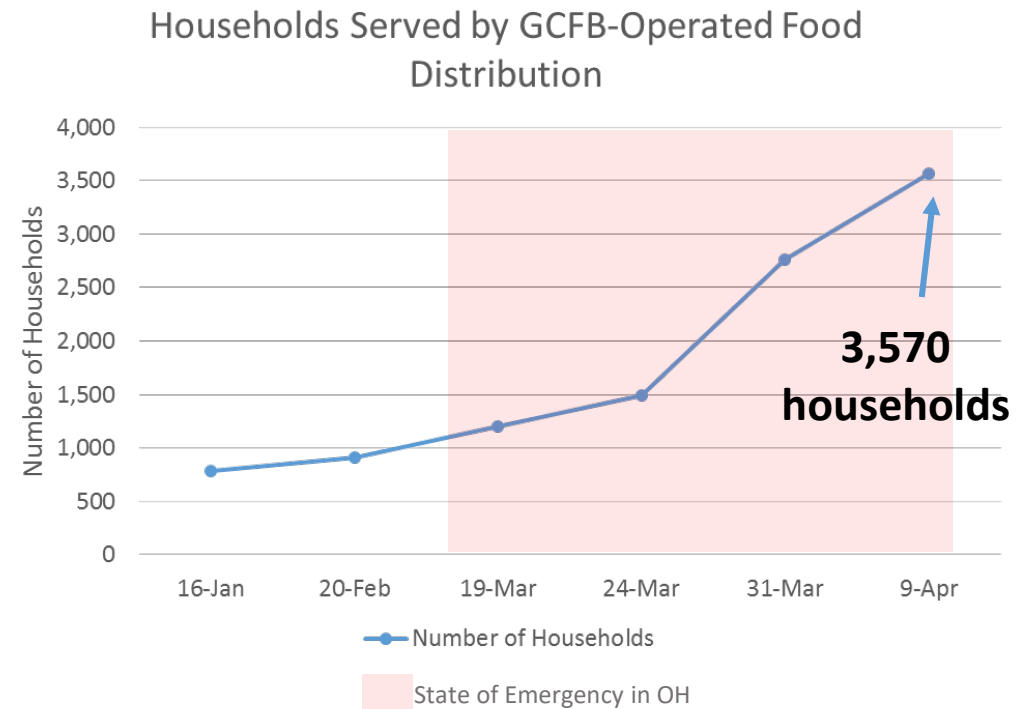
FOOD INSECURE NORTHEAST OHIOANS

Agencies distribute food and/or serve prepared meals to hungry people in their communities. Nearly half of these clients are children or seniors.



Weekly GCFB Distributions

- Before COVID-19, we had a monthly produce distribution at our warehouse, serving an average of 800-900 families per month
- Since mid-March when closures began, GCFB has been providing a weekly distribution
- After only two weeks, we outgrew our space and relocated to the City of Cleveland Municipal Lot
- 1/3 of families served have never been to emergency food program before









KUFNER
216-529-3320

WWW.KUFNERTOWING.NET
3775 RIDGE RD
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114

P.U.C.C.
148213-T



Other GCFB COVID-19 Efforts

- Providing 9,000 weekend backpacks per week to kids accessing to-go school meals
- Delivering 600 boxes of food each week to homebound seniors and disabled individuals who cannot access food during COVID-19 crisis
- Providing “walk-up” hours at GCFB at least 2x/week for individuals seeking food (~150-200 families per week)





COVID-19 Policy Priorities- abv.

- Disaster Household Distribution Program
- Waiver of congregate feeding requirement for kids programs
- Increased TEFAP funding and authorization of P-EBT/emergency SNAP allotments in FFCRA and CARES Act
- Increased funding from State of Ohio for shelf-stable food, food from Ohio growers and producers, and household cleaning/hygiene items
- Temporary emergency SNAP allotments (March & April)

What's still needed? (F: Nat'l request, S: State request)

- Increase SNAP benefits by 15% & increase min benefit to \$30 (F)
- Suspend administrative rule changes to SNAP (F)
- Grant flexibility in feeding kids beyond June 30 (F)
- Pandemic SNAP (P-EBT) benefits in Ohio (S)
- Emergency SNAP allotments for May and June (S)



How Can You Help?

Advocate

Sign up for advocacy updates at greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/advocate

Spread the Word

If you or someone you know needs help (and lives in NE Ohio), please direct them to call our Help Center at 216-738-2067. We can help them get connected to food resources and apply for SNAP.

Donate

If you are able, consider making a donation to your local food bank!
Every dollar helps and allows us to be flexible in purchasing the items we need most. (greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/give)



Recap of CHA work during Coronavirus Pandemic

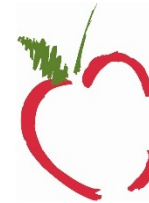


Who We Are

Founded in 1970, Children's Hunger Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger in Ohio. Through our work, Children's Hunger Alliance provides healthy meals and snacks to food-insecure children, advocates for legislation to improve the welfare of Ohio's youngest citizens and teaches nutrition and physical education to those they serve.

- Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio
- 45 staff members
- Serving Ohio's 88 counties
- Regional Office locations in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo





What We Normally Do

Provide meals through USDA Sponsorship – Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- Afterschool programs (300+)
- Family childcare providers (750)
- Daycare Centers (30+)

Provide meals and operate summer meal sites through USDA Sponsorship – Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Work with Schools to Increase Breakfast Participation

Educate and engage children and families in nutrition and physical education





CHA Response to Covid-19 Crisis

Partnered with 27 Community Action Agencies to provide ready to serve meals and

- Continue to help as food supply allows
- Provided over 18,000 meals the first week schools were closed

Approved to be a summer sponsor

- Allows emergency feeding in non-congregate settings i.e. Grab and Go

Serving meals to approximately 100 sites across the State

- Including Cleveland and Cincinnati Rec Centers





CHA Response to Covid-19 Crisis

Began mobile feeding at 3 library sites in Columbus and at St. Stephens Community Center

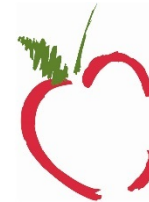
- Meal sites were not within reasonable walking distance
- Serving over 750 kids each day and growing

Will begin providing dinner at all Columbus City School meal locations

- Phased in over the next two weeks
- Expect to provide approximately 15,000 meals weekly
- Will also serve 70 homebound families as part of this collaboration

Began pilot program with Panera to serve as a food vendor this past Monday in Columbus

- Initial response has been very positive
- Plans to expand further in Columbus and additional Toledo sites



CHA Response to Covid-19 Crisis

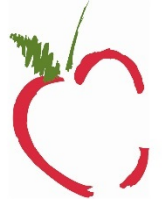
Continue responding to new requests to provide food

- Looking to provide meals 1st to sites with no meals then will begin providing 3rd meal when requested (exception Columbus City Schools)

Due to current ready to serve meal vendor not being able to meet demand, CHA obtained individual meal components that meet USDA nutritional requirements

- Staff began packing meals to allow us to continue feeding kids last Thursday
- Components for 240,000 meals

In discussions with Columbus City Police, Franklin County Sherriff, and Ohio Association of Police Chiefs to pilot providing ready to serve meals for officers to use when they encounter kids in need



How Can People Help?

Connect with CHA if you know of an area where kids needs for food are not being met

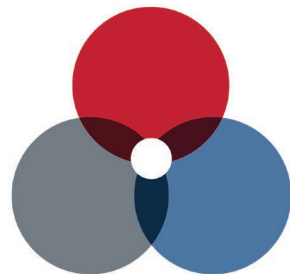
We can use volunteers to continue packing meals– Sign up Genius listed

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094BAEAE2AAAF85-childrens>

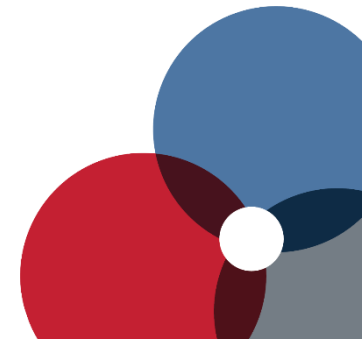
Rachel Cahill

Consultant

The Center for Community Solutions

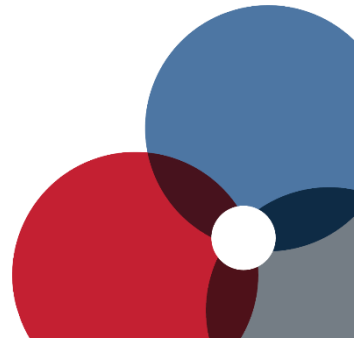


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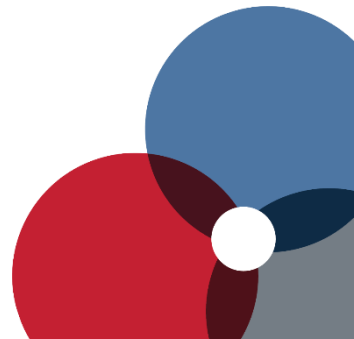
Policy & Process Changes So Far

- SNAP emergency allotments
- Postponed redeterminations & simplified applications
- Waived ABAWD work requirements & time limits
- New flexibilities for WIC & child nutrition programs
- Disaster distribution authority for Food Banks



State Recommendations

1. Submit plan to FNS for Pandemic EBT
2. Share data on rising demand
3. Extend emergency SNAP allotments
4. Request additional administrative waivers from FNS
5. Pursue FNS' online purchase pilot
6. Raise SNAP's gross income limit to 200% FPL



State Recommendations

Priority #1

Ohio Should Enact a Pandemic-EBT Program to Help Kids

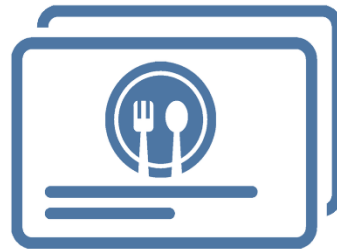
Since March 13,

1 in 4 of Ohio's Children



No Longer Have **Access** to
Free and Reduced-Price
Meals At School

Pandemic EBT Would Give Families
A **Monthly Electronic Benefits Card**



Worth The Value Of The
Meals Kids Are Missing

Michigan and Rhode Island
Have Approved P-EBT Programs



Other States Are In The
Process Of **Getting P-EBT**

Learn More About the P-EBT Program and Why It's Good
For Ohio By Visiting CommSols.com/PandemicEBT

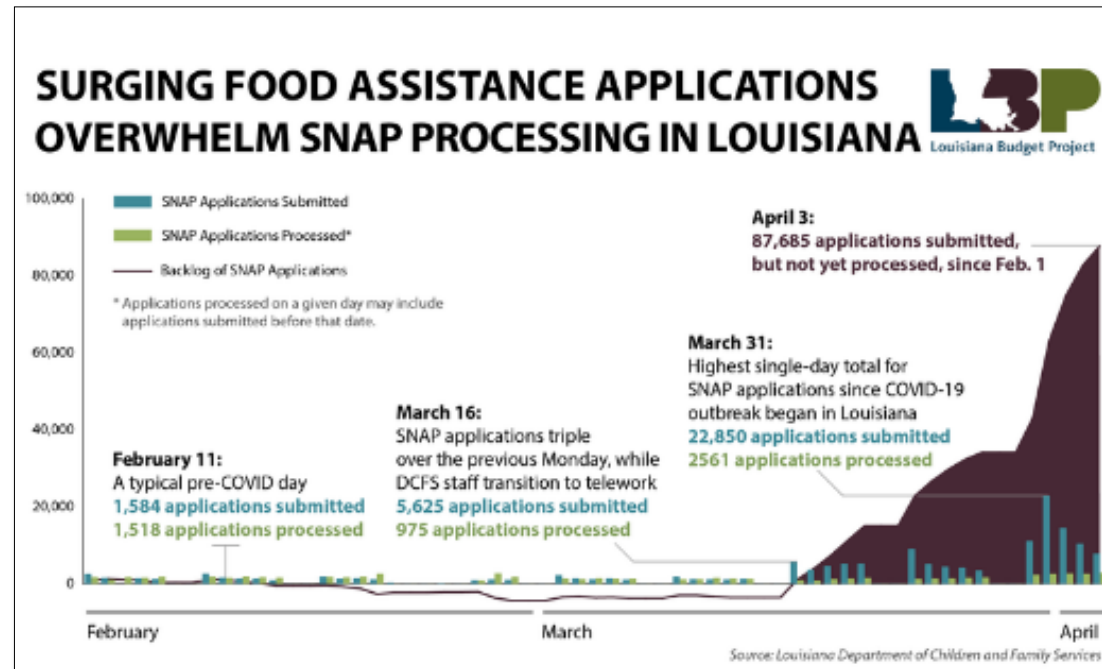
State Recommendations

#2: Share county-level data on rising demand

- Nationwide caseload projected to rise anywhere from 16% to 47%
- Metro counties reporting 3x to 5x increase in applications in April

Key question:

Is Ohio seeing a spike in applications or do access barriers remain?



State Recommendations

#3: Extend emergency SNAP allotments into May and June

So far, 450,000 SNAP households received SNAP supplement for March worth \$80 million. Another supplement will be issued in late April.

Examples

Supplement

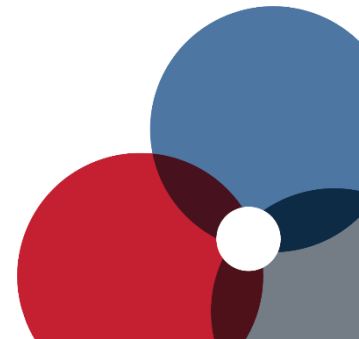
Family A gets \$200/mo. in SNAP for 1 adult and 2 kids. Since this is less than the maximum SNAP of \$509 for a family of 3, Family A will get a **SNAP supplement of \$309.**

Individual A gets \$16/mo. in SNAP. The maximum SNAP for one is \$194. This individual will get a **supplement of \$178.**

No Supplement

Family B gets \$509/mo. in SNAP for 1 adult and 2 kids. This family will **NOT get any extra SNAP because they get the maximum SNAP for 3 people.**

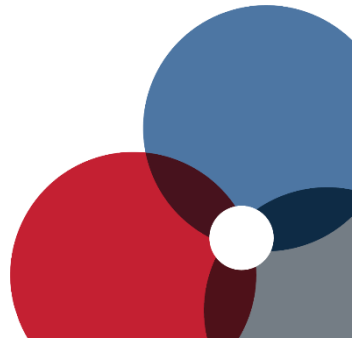
Individual B gets \$194/mo. in SNAP. This individual **will NOT get any extra SNAP because they get the maximum SNAP.**



State Recommendations

#4: Request additional administrative waivers from FNS

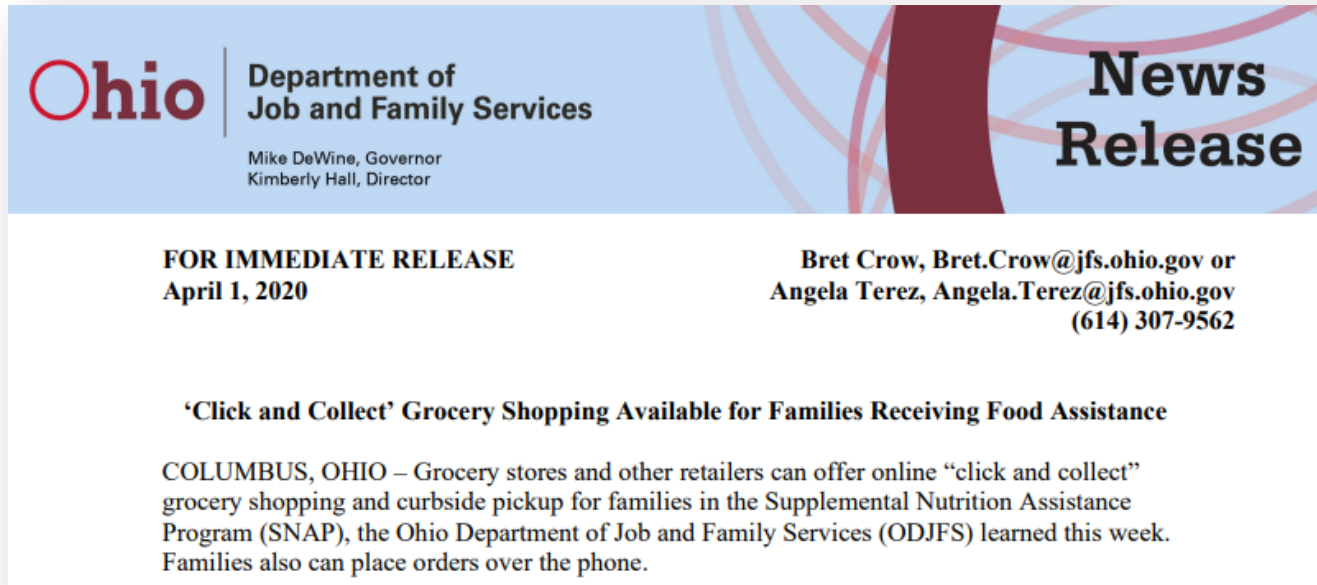
- *Suspend all claims activity*
- *Hold harmless period for Quality Control (QC) reviews*
- *Suspend, rather than terminate, households receiving short-term pandemic-related unemployment*



State Recommendations

#5: Request to join SNAP Online Purchase Pilot

- More than 50% of SNAP households in Ohio include an elderly or disabled individual
- 10 states currently approved for online shopping with home delivery through SNAP



Ohio | Department of
Job and Family Services
Mike DeWine, Governor
Kimberly Hall, Director

**News
Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2020

**Bret Crow, Bret.Crow@jfs.ohio.gov or
Angela Terez, Angela.Terez@jfs.ohio.gov
(614) 307-9562**

'Click and Collect' Grocery Shopping Available for Families Receiving Food Assistance

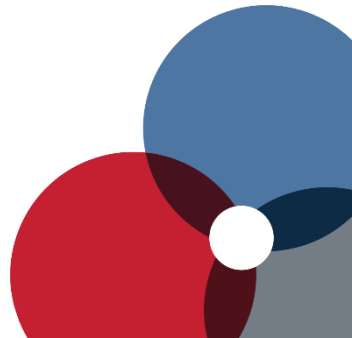
COLUMBUS, OHIO – Grocery stores and other retailers can offer online “click and collect” grocery shopping and curbside pickup for families in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) learned this week. Families also can place orders over the phone.

Only a few retailers (Kroger, Walmart) currently able to offer curbside pickup for SNAP customers

State Recommendations

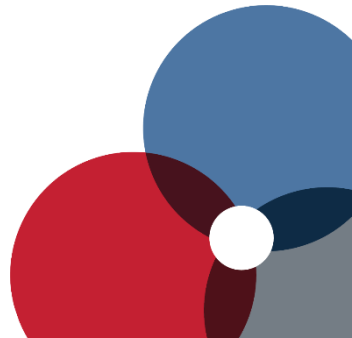
#6: Raise SNAP's gross income limit to 200% FPL

- This is a state option that the DeWine administration could opt into any time.
- Brings in additional federal SNAP dollars at a time when state/local revenue is rapidly declining.
- **Especially helpful for families of essential workers receiving relatively low wages**
- For Family of 3, 130% FPL = \$2,311 per month vs. 200% FPL = \$3,620
- SNAP's Net Income Test at 100% FPL still applies; Only families with significant deductions (e.g. housing and childcare costs) continue to qualify



Federal Recommendations

1. Increase SNAP benefits by 15% *until the economy recovers*
2. Increase minimum SNAP benefit to \$30
3. Suspend all proposed rules that limit eligibility and cut benefits
4. Extend Pandemic EBT through summer



Resources

- [Pandemic EBT: What it would provide for Ohio's school children](#) (Community Solutions Blog)
- [COVID-19 & Emergency SNAP Allotments: What You Need to Know](#) (Community Solutions Flyer)
- [SNAP during COVID-19](#) (Community Solutions Infographic)
- [Seeking Unemployment Insurance? Remember to apply for SNAP too.](#) (Community Solutions Blog)
- [Ohio's Food Assistance Policy in the Time of Pandemic](#) (Policy Matters Ohio)
- [FNS Actions to Respond to COVID-19](#) (Child Nutrition, SNAP, TANF & WIC waivers)

Send additional SNAP questions to Rachel Cahill at rachel@rcahillconsulting.com



Questions?



Rachel Cahill
The Center for
Community Solutions



Lisa Hamler-Fugitt
Ohio Association of
Foodbanks



Kimberly LoVano
Greater Cleveland
Foodbank



Scott Neely
Children's Hunger
Alliance

