

Why the Farm Bill Matters

The farm bill provides the heart of our collective commitment that no one in Ohio or anywhere across this great nation should go hungry. The nutrition assistance programs contained in this legislation feed tens of millions of children, seniors, veterans and other hungry Americans in every county across the United States.

THE NEED IN OHIO

In Ohio, 15.1% of people are food insecure, including 20.3% of children and 8.9% of seniors. Farm bill programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), provide food to those in need in Ohio. Feeding America's network of 200 food banks across the country, including 12 that serve Ohio, works in partnership with these programs to support food insecure individuals and families.

SERVING THE NEED IN OHIO

The 1,758,310 food insecure individuals in Ohio need an additional \$829,430,000 to meet their annual food budget shortfall. Unfortunately, 47.3% of these individuals live in households that earn too much to qualify for food assistance from federal nutrition programs such as SNAP. For the 832,420 of Ohioans who are ineligible for SNAP, but remain food insecure, TEFAP and food banks play a vital role in nourishing those in need in the community. Together, TEFAP and SNAP provide essential resources for millions of food insecure individuals and allow food banks to expand their focus to include job training, nutrition education, and other programming. Through public private partnerships, local food banks in Ohio are one step closer to closing the meal gap and ensuring all Ohioans have access to nutritious food.

DIRECTLY HELPING OHIO

In FY2017, SNAP provided food assistance directly to approximately 1,502,000 individuals in Ohio, roughly 66% of whom are children, seniors, or people with disabilities. The program provided \$2,226,190,303 in food benefits to Ohio, generating around \$3,784,523,515 in economic activity. SNAP supports nutrition education efforts (SNAP-ed) in Ohio as well as employment and training programs to help beneficiaries gain skills and work experience necessary to move toward self-sufficiency. Ohio received around \$10,590,008 for employment and training programs in FY2016. The broad reach of the SNAP program is further supplemented by the nutritious food made available through TEFAP, CSFP, and other federal programs.

SUPPORTING PROGRAMS IN OHIO

TEFAP is an especially cost effective federal investment, providing 90 cents on the dollar in food benefits to food banks and communities in need. TEFAP supplements resources available to our nation's food banks and food pantries, enabling them to feed millions more families each year. Organizations in Ohio received \$10,667,095 in TEFAP food funding in 2017. CSFP also provides American-grown, healthy commodities to individuals at least 60 years old and operates in 49 states, Puerto Rico, and three Indian Tribes. Ohio received \$7,057,246 in FY2017 to help around 24,427 seniors.

Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger and home of The Ohio Benefit Bank
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OHIO NEEDS OUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO PUSH FOR A STRONG FARM BILL

Feeding America supports a bipartisan farm bill that strengthens the national commitment to reducing hunger. Charitable donations alone cannot ensure families have adequate access to nutritious food. TEFAP funds one in five meals provided through Feeding America food banks. In addition, for every meal Feeding America provides, SNAP provides twelve. Feeding America urges Congress to protect SNAP and increase TEFAP funding to \$350 million per year in the next Farm Bill to reduce hunger in our communities.