

Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus

Learning, connecting, and problem-solving together. Our children are counting on us.

Building a Bridge to Mitigate the COVID Cliff for Children and Families

June 27, 2022

Opening Remarks: Rep. Monique Smith





Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus Co-Chair



Kelsey Bergfeld

Director,

Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF)



Advocates for Ohio's Future

Public Health Emergency Unwind and COVID Cliff
June 27, 2022

Kelsey Bergfeld, Director

Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of over 500 state and local health and human services policy, advocacy, and provider 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.

www.advocatesforohio.org

Strong Communities.

Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwind

Since January 2020, a number of COVID-related enhanced benefits, waivers and program flexibilities have held families together, helped keep them safe and supported their most basic needs, at a time when an unprecedented pandemic raged outside their homes and made going to work a health risk.

When the federal Public Health Emergency expires (currently set for July 15, 2022 but expected to renew until October 14, 2022), these flexibilities and expansions will end causing a COVID Cliff, where families still fighting to gain stability will face the end of enhanced Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the redetermination of the full Medicaid caseload for the first time in over two years, resumed federal student loan payments, and more.

How can we ensure state, local agencies, providers, and impacted Ohioans are prepared for the PHE unwind and mitigate the impact of the COVID Cliff?



Ohio COVID Recovery Coalition

AOF convened a new coalition, the Ohio COVID Recovery Coalition, to analyze and form recommendations for state agencies and counties to "unwind" emergency flexibilities and other policies across assistance programs granted by the federal government to enhance states' ability to respond to the crisis expeditiously and protect and serve the general public.

Objectives

- Identify all waivers/flexibilities in place across federal/state policies intended to provide additional assistance during public health emergency
- Confirm timeline of expirations-including any state actions needed
- What flexibilities could/should be made permanent (in some way, full or partial)
- Help state agencies connect people with assistance-inform recipients of future changes
- Develop recommendations for state agencies



Ohio COVID Recovery Coalition

Healthcare

- Leadership: Loren Anthes, CCS, Kelly Vyzral, CDF-Ohio
 - Medicaid, Eligibility and Redeterminations, Data matching and using other data systems to maintain coverage, Telehealth, ACA Coverage Policies

Nutrition

- Leadership: Joree Novotny, OAFB, Hope Lane, CCS
 - SNAP, Emergency Allotments, P-EBT

Family Stability & Supports

- Leadership: Tara Britton, CCS
 - Housing, Utilities, Benefit Bridge, TANF, OWF, Unemployment
 - Student Loan Repayments



Timeline

December 15, 2021: Final Child Tax Credit (CTC) payment to eligible families. In 2021, 1.2 million Ohio families received an average of \$442 per month.

- Most families w/ children received advance enhanced child tax credit payments July-December (\$250-\$300 per month depending child's age) reaching over 61 million children in December
- These payments kept over 3 million children out of poverty
- Families, by and large, used these payments for basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, utilities, education)
- January was the first month with no advance payment and the impacts were quickly felt
 - The monthly child poverty rate increased from 12.1% in December 2021 to 17% in January 2022, according to Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University



Timeline

June 30, 2022: SNAP interim reports resume

June 30, 2022: Absent congressional and administrative action, all national child nutrition waivers expire on June 30, 2022. Waivers expiring include:

- Use of Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to offer school meals to all children at no charge, regardless of area or individual eligibility based on household income
- Other waivers for out-of-school-time meals (whether afterschool, during summer vacation, or during pandemic-related closures), including non-congregate waivers to allow for graband-go meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

July 15, 2022: Expected renewal of federal PHE from Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for an additional 90 day period.

August 15, 2022: Potential 60-day notice of non-renewal of federal PHE. If so, Ohio Department of Medicaid begins eligibility redetermination activities.



Timeline

August 31, 2022: Federal student loan payments, collections on defaulted loans, and interest accrual resumes. As of September 2021, 1.8 million Ohioans have \$62.5 billion in federal student loan debt, with a national average monthly payment of \$460.

September 30, 2022: WIC fruits and vegetables temporary benefit increase expires

October 14, 2022: Potential end of federal PHE by HHS, or renewal through January 2023

- End of Medicaid enhanced federal match agreement (eFMAP), Medicaid redeterminations begin
- End of SNAP maximum allotments (30 days following)
- End of expanded eligibility for SNAP for college students
- Vaccine Emergency Use Authorizations would expire, impacting COVID treatments and vaccines
- End of telehealth and telemedicine waivers for some Medicaid and Medicare services.
 - *HB122 as enrolled permanently expanded both private and Medicaid coverage of a broad range of telehealth services



Additional Considerations of Family Supports

Housing & Rental Assistance

- Eviction moratorium ended in August 2021
- From the Census Household Pulse Survey (June 1-13):
 - 326,300 Ohio households are behind on rent
 - 426,411 Ohio households experienced monthly rent increases greater than \$100 within the last 12 months
- Since 2020, Ohio has received around \$1.4 billion in rental assistance either through the CARES Act (aka Home Relief Program) or the Emergency Rental Assistance programs (ERA1 and ERA2). ERA1 dollars, which were passed by Congress in December 2020, were to help families impacted by COVID.
- The State of Ohio and 18 local jurisdictions from around the states created their own programs to disperse these dollars. For the most part, the local jurisdictions were able to spend most if not all of their ERA1 dollars, however, the State of Ohio has fallen short of the benchmarks the U.S. Department of Treasury has laid out which means some of the State's ERA1 dollars were be reallocated.



Additional Considerations of Family Supports

Housing & Rental Assistance Continued

• ERA2 dollars were authorized by Congress through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Some of the 18 local jurisdictions are now using their ERA2 (or reallocated ERA1) dollars to help families avoid evictions. Those funds sunset on September 30th, 2025.

Federal Student Loan Payment Pause

- Congress and former President Trump passed and signed into law the CARES Act in March 2020 to help across nearly every sector of society; this included relief from federal student loan payments.
- This provision included not only a payment suspension, but a reduction of the interest rate
 to 0% and each month of non-required payments still counted as a month of payments
 toward existing federal loan forgiveness programs, including Public Service Loan
 Forgiveness.
- This payment pause has been extended several times, under both Administrations. The current pause is set to end on August 31, 2022



COVID Cliff

This significant and sudden loss of basic needs supports will be a major hit to household budgets and lead to confusing and stressful times for families and individuals. AOF and partner organizations will continue to work with agency officials, elected leaders and community organizations to take all steps necessary to mitigate the impacts of the COVID Cliff and ensure eligible families retain access to vital, stabilizing supports.

For additional information: https://www.advocatesforohio.org/ohio-covid-recovery-coalition

Contact: <u>kbergfeld@communitysolutions.com</u>





LOREN ANTHES, MBA, CSSGB

Chair for Health Planning,
Sr. Public Policy Fellow,
The Center for Community Solutions



On the Edge of a Cliff Implications of PHE Termination on Beneficiaries in Medicaid

Introduction



LOREN ANTHES, MBA, CSSGB Chair for Health Planning Sr. Public Policy Fellow

lanthes@communitysolutions.com
@lorenanthes

Our Mission

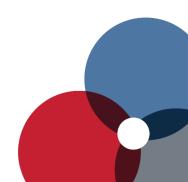
The Center for Community Solutions improves health, social and economic conditions through nonpartisan research, policy analysis, communications and advocacy.

Our Work

Three areas of expertise support every aspect of our work: Applied Research; Nonpartisan Public Policy and Advocacy; and Communications.

www.communitysolutions.com





2020 Timeline and Policy Response

January 31

HHS declares a Public Health Emergency due to COVID

March 9

First cases of COVID-19 were reported in Ohio

March 11

WHO declares a pandemic

March 20

Ohio's first COVID related death

March 21

Gov. DeWine announces Ohio's stay-at-home order

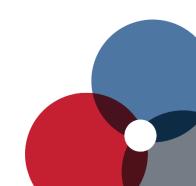
FFCRA/ CARES Act

- Provides a temporary increase in the FMAP of 6.2 percentage points during the PHE
- \$300M into Ohio every quarter
- Prohibits States from disenrolling anyone from Medicaid during the PHE
- COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccinations covered by Medicaid and CHIP

Postpartum Coverage - ARP

1135 Waiver

HCBS/Provider Relief Funding



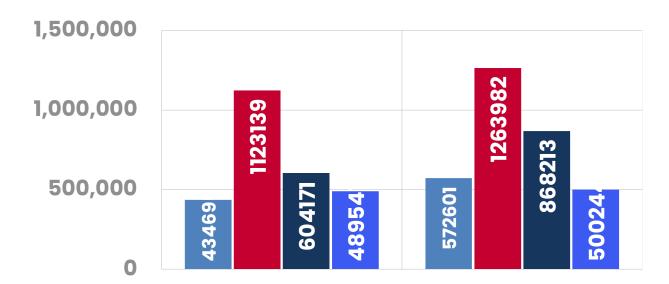
Caseload Impact

Net Growth Rate:

+20.1%, +560,795 *2.79M to 3.35M*

CFC Adults

■ CFC Kids



January '20

January '22

Increases

Percent, Volume



31.72%, 137,906



43.7%, 264,042

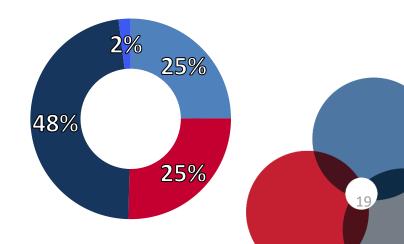


12.54%, 140,843

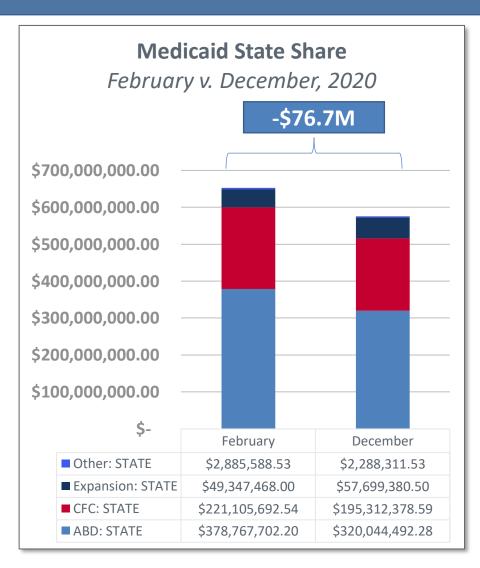


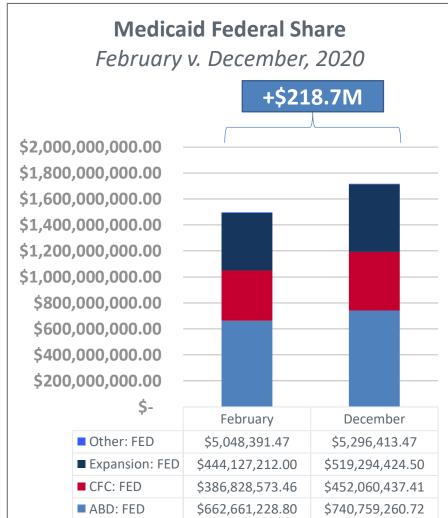
2.19%, 10,703

Share of Caseload Growth



Federal Assistance





- 328k more enrollees
- FFCRA/PHE 6.2%
 increase in FMAP =
 \$106M difference in
 federal support to
 accommodate
 caseload per month
 in Ohio



Federal Public Health Emergency: Federal and State Guidance

Federal guidance

- HHS will provide states with 60 days' notice prior to the end of the PHE
- States must develop and document strategies to meet CMS timelines via the Post-COVID Eligibility and Enrollment Operational Plan including risk-based analysis ("risk-based analysis" is to identify individuals who are likely ineligible and prioritize processing of these cases)
- States may take up to twelve months following the end of the PHE to complete all eligibility and enrollment actions, redeterminations, renewals, pending
 applications

Federal reconciliation bill requirements (Build Back Better Act)

- If passed*, key provisions include:
 - o Phase out of the 6.2 percentage point FMAP enhancement over two quarters and sunset of continuous enrollment requirement on October 1, 2022
 - States may begin disenrolling ineligible individuals beginning April 1, 2022, if those individuals had 12 months of continuous enrollment and the State meets certain requirements

HB110 requirements

- ODM must complete eligibility renewals and redeterminations within 90 days after the end of the PHE
- Within 60 days of the end of the PHE, ODM must complete and act on eligibility redeterminations for all beneficiaries who haven't had a redetermination in the
 previous 12 months
- ODM must seek approval from CMS to conduct redeterminations for all beneficiaries who were enrolled for 3+ months during the PHE
- ODM must employ a vendor to use 3rd party data sources to "identify individuals who are likely ineligible"
 - ODM will use this to satisfy in part the CMS expectation for a "risk-based approach"

4-1 6 6-1-1

PCG Contract: C-2223-07-0383

For each terminated beneficiary PCG flagged as likely **ineligible**, PCG will be credited for a percentage of the State's share of cost savings multiplied by the amount of time each beneficiary remained ineligible — up to 9 months - following their termination date, as of the date PCG is in receipt of the State's eligibility file. PCG's fee will be based on a percentage of the State's share of ODM's capitation payments, as follows:

Coverage Group	РМРМ	Federal Share	State Share	State Share of PMPM	
CFC Adult	\$ 570.18	64.10%	35.90%	\$	204.69
Group VIII	\$ 730.44	90.00%	10.00%	\$	73.04
CFC Kids (not CHIP)	\$ 295.93	64.10%	35.90%	\$	106.24
CHIP Kids	\$ 295.93	74.87%	25.13%	\$	74.37
ABD Kid	\$1,387.32	64.10%	35.90%	\$	498.05
ABD Adult	\$2,294.70	64.10%	35.90%	\$	823.80
Duals	\$2,055.28	64.10%	35.90%	\$	737.85

Source: Controlling Board, Under Attachments

Potential Impacts



INDUCED RECESSION

If disenrollment is accelerated,
Ohio Will lose 51.5k jobs including
30.5k outside of healthcare,
reducing Gross State Product by
\$5.2B



INCREASED GOVT EXPENSE

County governments have to make determinations and are facing staffing challenges, numerous eligibility systems and threat of penalties



LEGAL RISK

Due process and discrimination potential is significant.
Additionally, PERM may be impacted, risking billions in clawback from state and county governments



DISENROLLEMENT

Up to 440k disenrolled. Increased likelihood of hospitalization.



Effects of Churn on Health Service Use

- After an episode of churn, beneficiaries were more than twice as likely to be hospitalized compared to baseline rates six months prior to disenrollment for all four ACSCs
- Beneficiaries with longer gaps in coverage experienced larger percentage increases in rates of ED visits and hospitalizations
- We observed differences by race and ethnicity, but they were not consistent for all measures
 - A prior study in California that measured hospitalizations over five years found that Black and Hispanic beneficiaries had a much higher risk of hospitalization after an episode of churn than white beneficiaries



Ohio Medicaid Member Contact Information Update

Member Transition & Enrollment

The most important action for Ohio Medicaid members right now is to update their contact information to make sure they do not miss any information about the next generation of Ohio Medicaid

Members Have Three Options to Update Their Contact Information



Call (844) 640-6446. After selecting the option for their preferred language, they should select option 2 and will be prompted to enter their zip code



Individuals with an existing Self-Service Portal (SSP) account can report changes online at https://ssp.benefits.ohio.gov. After logging in, they should click the Access my Benefits tile, then click Report a Change to my Case from the drop down and follow the prompts



Contact their County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS).

Ohio Medicaid members can find their CDJFS by viewing the County

Directory at https://jfs.ohio.gov/County/County_Directory.stm

Contact Information Includes:

- Name
- Residential Address
- Mailing Address (if different than residential address)
- Phone Number (cell and landline, if applicable)
- Email Address

Navigator Info

- Ohio Medicaid, OAF and several of our Navigator consortium partners developed <u>a packet of Medicaid changes marketing</u> <u>materials</u>, including:
 - A flyer with basic information and links to important websites (and a fillable version of this flyer)
 - Social media graphics and sample posts
 - A web banner highlighting changes
 - A <u>webpage</u> with information about the changes and links to important information: https://getcoveredohio.org/Medicaid/



Joree Novotny

Director of External Affairs,
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Family and Child Nutrition and the Public Health Emergency Unwind

Joree Novotny

Director of External Affairs, Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Co-chair, AOF COVID Recovery Coalition Nutrition Subcommittee
Presentation to Ohio Children's Caucus
June 27, 2022





















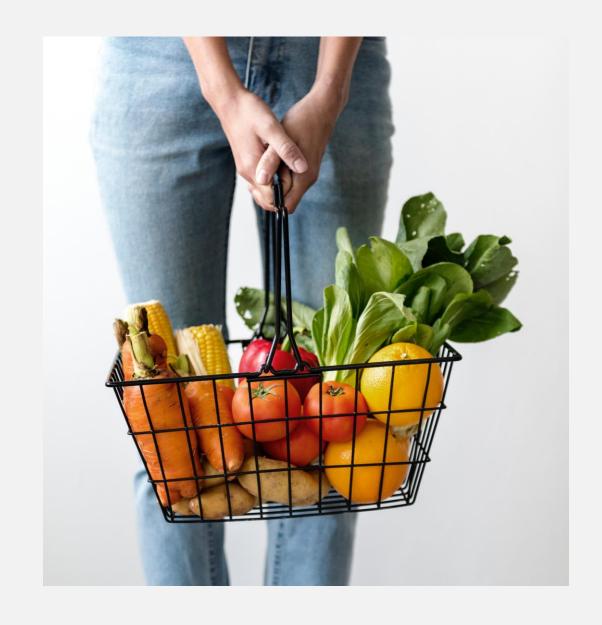




Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing
Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks
and 3,600 member
agencies

Topics to Cover

- Evolving landscape of available resources: Out-ofschool-time and schoolbased meals, P-EBT, SNAP, WIC, foodbanks
- Pressure on household grocery budgets
- Actions policymakers and stakeholders can take





SNAP: Most Critical Child Nutrition Program

- SNAP participants, including families with children, will see a reduction in benefits when Public Health Emergency ends.
- Average benefit reduction:
 \$80 per household member, per month.





Other Impacts on SNAP

- End of other administrative and procedural waivers and flexibilities
- Inadequate staffing levels at county agencies, lack of public access
- Same staff work Medicaid and SNAP caseloads – pressure on access points
- Good news: more rapid expansion of online purchasing options







SNAP and College Student Eligibility



- College students normally are the most restricted from participating in SNAP. Students enrolled fulltime cannot participate in SNAP unless they also work 80 hours/month, care for young children, or are disabled.
- Current temporary rules:
 - Eligible for work study, or
 - \$0 Expected Family Contribution, and
 - Meet all other eligibility tests



Child Nutrition – NSLP, CACFP, SFSP

- National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs: 130% FPL for free, 185% FPL for reduced-price, or Community Eligibility (CEO) if 40%+ eligible at building/district
 - Meals have been close to universally free during pandemic for all Ohio students, applications not collected
- Child and Adult Care Food Program: free meals at child & adult day care facilities with 25% or more in Title XX/XIX, one meal and/or snack for afterschool if 50%+ eligible for NSLP
- Summer Food Service Program: normally congregate-only meals, can only be 'open' in areas where 50%+ eligible for NSLP



Child Nutrition – NSLP, CACFP, SFSP

- Most schools & providers have been utilizing flexibilities and waivers approved legislatively to operate their programs and provide meals to students and children.
- Some of these include:
 - Seamless Summer Option (SSO) waiver (+higher reimbursement rates)
 - Non-congregate feeding waiver
 - Waivers on: meal times, parent/guardian pick-up, meal pattern flexibility





Child Nutrition – NSLP, CACFP, SFSP



- Authority to extend these waivers must be granted to USDA legislatively – that did not happen in the most recent omnibus package
- Waivers are all set to expire June 30, 2022
- Summer meals (SFSP) providers already preparing for 'normal' summer – meaning congregate feeding, area eligibility
- School food service departments struggling with supply chains, staffing, solvency

Child Nutrition -SFSP Referrals



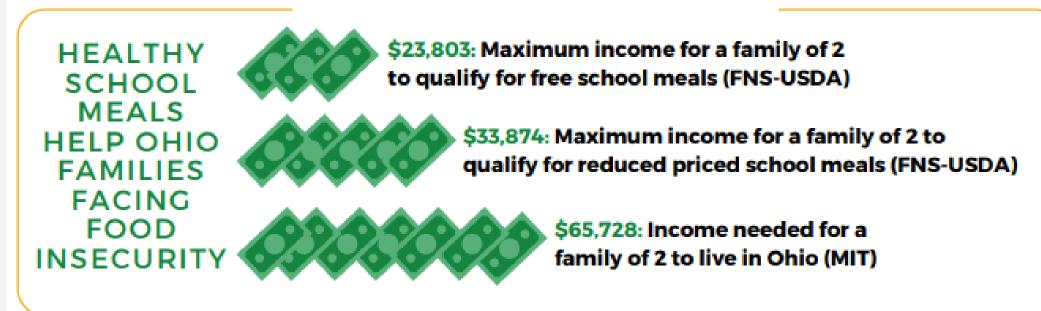
If your area is eligible & there is a gap in sites, a gap in sites consider helping to recruit sponsors/sites for next year!

- Call 1-866-3-HUNGRY
- Visit education.ohio.gov (or search 'Ohio SFSP') to find clickable map
- Text 'FOOD' to 304-304 (service also available in Spanish by texting 'COMIDA')

Healthy School Meals for All!



Contact Katherine Ungar, Policy Associate, Children's Defense Fund-Ohio



Child Nutrition – Pandemic EBT

- Created to provide families with funds to purchase food when children do not have access to traditional school meals.
- National School Lunch Program free/reduced price students, kids under 6 in SNAP households, school year vs. summer
- More at ohiopebt.org







Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)



- WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support; supplemental, highly nutritious foods such as cereal, eggs, milk, whole grain foods, fruits and vegetables, and ironfortified infant formula; and referral to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human service programs.
- Pregnant and breastfeeding people, infants, and kids up to age 5, 185% FPL



Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)



- WIC waivers have included a physical presence waiver and a remote benefit issuance waiver; unfortunately, Ohio is one of just 9 states that still requires in-person office visits to reload WIC benefits (no online/automatic issuance)
- Latest omnibus package extended boost to WIC Fruits and Vegetables package through end of FFY
- Usually \$9/month for kids and \$11/month for women, now \$24 for kids, \$43 for women

WIC and Infant Formula Shortage

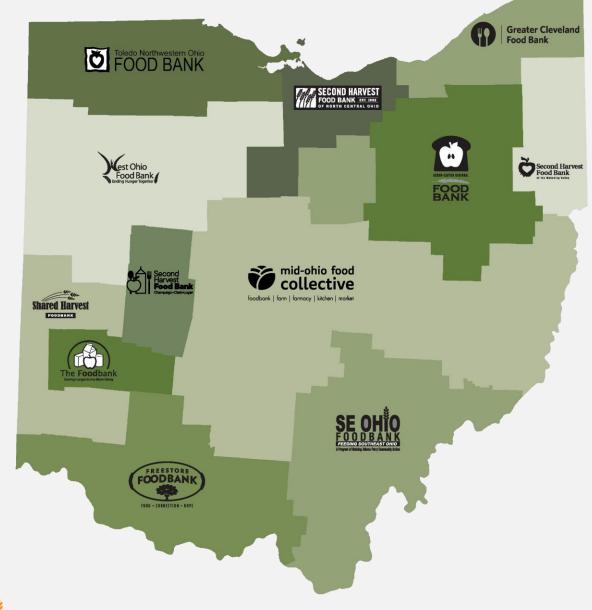
- Caregivers relying on WIC to help afford infant formula are normally restricted to purchasing only certain types of formula (brand, can size) and in certain amounts at set frequency
- Latest: Ohio now has some waivers; recipients still have to physically go to the WIC office to change & to load benefits
- Highlights overdue need for modernization





Help from Foodbanks

- 3,700 local partners (including close to 2,000 food pantries)
- Serve up to 200% FPL (selfdeclaration)
- Also operate area/populationspecific programs, like CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) for 60+ at or below 130% FPL, privately-funded school backpack programs, grocery delivery, mobile distributions, etc.





Less Food, High Need

- Supply chain issues, Russia invasion of Ukraine, input costs across supply chain, rising costs, end of PHE-related boosts all mean less food
- USDA commodities declining, suffering from shortages
- Need has remained higher than pre-pandemic and most foodbanks are seeing need increasing again





LOCAL NEWS

Second Harvest warns food for hungry might soon be rationed as donations plummet

The Columbus Dispatch

ion ThisWeekNews BuckeyeXtra Obituaries E-Edition



NEWS

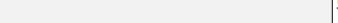
Inflation and supply chain issues affecting food banks.

Tuesday, June 21st 2022, 7:29 AM EDT

Food bank CEO: It is 'more difficult and more expensive to obtain food'

Matt Habash Guest columnist

Published 5:30 a.m. ET June 1, 2022



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NEWS

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NEWS

'We're all feeling it.' Food pantries, banks continue work, seek support as prices soar



Abby Miller

Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 10:00 p.m. ET June 14, 2022

POSTED ON JUNE 11, 2022

Inflation is sending more Ohioans to food banks. Can pantries keep up?

AXIOS Columbus

Latest stories

Membership

Jun 22, 2022 - News

Feeling inflation's pinch, Ohio food banks plea for help



Just some factors impacting food security:

- The cost of groceries has increased in Ohio by 11.2% year-over-year.
- Housing costs are increasing dramatically; average rental prices in Ohio went up 14.6% in 2021 for a 2bedroom apartment.
- Average gas prices of \$5/gallon.
- Home energy prices have outpaced even record rates of inflation.
- End of other support, especially expanded CTC.

Sources: Consumer Price Index; Rent.com; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics





7:18 PM · Jun 23, 2022 · Twitter Web App





Build, renovate, & expand warehouses & facilities to be more **versatile**.





Purchase food and personal care items during a time of continued high need.





Increase **capacity** for perishable food logistics and delivery programs.





Purchase critical logistics equipment for **regional and local** storage and distribution of foods.





Establish
neighborhood-based
markets in high-need
and underserved
communities.





Retain essential staff, hire new staff, & facilitate workforce development & reentry programs.



The Ohio **Association of Foodbanks** network is requesting \$50 million in immediate funding and \$133 million in longer-term support from **ARPA** state fiscal recovery funds to maintain & build resilient basic needs infrastructure

JUN 14, 2022

We Need Help Now

Ohio Association of Foodbanks Joint Statement on Critical Need for Support During Food Shortfalls, Hardship: We are calling on Governor DeWine and members of the Ohio General Assembly to act, with urgency, to help us prevent hunger now and promote stability in the months ahead.



Ohio Association of Foodbanks @OhioFoodbanks

"We are spending more money and getting less food,"

@jcmorefield said. "It's a scary situation to not know if
we are going to have the food we need to serve the
families that are struggling."

@GovMikeDeWine, we need help now.

@SecondHarvestOH



morningjournal.com

Second Harvest warns food for hungry might soon be rationed as donations plu... Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, which provides food to local food banks and hungry families in a four-county area, is sounding the alarm tha...



























FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 14, 2022

Ohio Association of Foodbanks Joint Statement on
Critical Need for Support During Food Shortfalls, Hardship
Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of
Foodbanks, and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks Board of Directors

Refer to Foodbanks

ohiofoodbanks.org

- Click "Find Your Foodbank" for a clickable county-level map to find regional foodbank & best way to make referrals
- Many use 2-1-1
- Some use FreshTrak (freshtrak.com)
- Some have their own hotlines for referrals

Get Help

We believe every person deserves the dignity of adequate, nutritious food, but millions of Ohioans can't always afford it on their own.

We're here to help.



Find Your Foodbank

Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks partner with 3,600 local food pantries and meal programs to serve all of Ohio's 88 counties.

LOCATE YOUR FOODBANK



Help with SNAP

ohiofoodbanks.org

- Click "Get Help" for more public benefit programs
- Individuals that need help applying for SNAP can contact SNAP outreach foodbanks
- Talk with counties about readiness to serve & seek out solutions



Apply For SNAP

SNAP can provide funds to help you purchase groceries for yourself and your household.

You can apply on your own by clicking the button below, or by calling any of these foodbanks for help with applying:

Freestore Foodbank: 513-381-7627

Greater Cleveland Food Bank: 216-738-2067

Mid-Ohio Food Collective: 614-782-5503

Shared Harvest Foodbank: 513-881-9024

Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank: 419-242-5000 ext. 221

APPLY FOR SNAP NOW





Questions?

Joree Novotny
Director of External Affairs
jnovotny@ohiofoodbanks.org



Jun-22 50

Questions & Answers

Moderated by Hannah Ross, Legislative Aide for Rep. Smith

For legislators and legislative staff, please feel free to unmute yourselves to ask questions or share feedback.

For all other participants, please use the chat or Q&A feature, and we will do our best to answer in the time allotted.



Thank you for joining today's webinar!

For more information on upcoming Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus webinars and meetings, please contact:

Alison Paxson, apaxson@childrensdefense.org

