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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**  
Bill Teets, 614-403-2331  
[Bill.Teets@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Bill.Teets@jfs.ohio.gov)

Dasia Clemente, 614-817-2945  
[Dasia.Clemente@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Dasia.Clemente@jfs.ohio.gov)

## **Controlling Board Releases \$15M in ARPA Funds for Ohio Foodbanks**

*State helps families by working with local farms*

COLUMBUS – Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder today announced Ohio is committing \$15 million to help address rising food costs. The announcement was made after the Controlling Board released \$15 million in American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds, which ODJFS will issue to the Ohio Association of Foodbanks (OAF). The funds will be used by foodbanks to work with Ohio-based farms to purchase, transport, store, and distribute livestock, dairy, and poultry protein products for Ohioans in need.

“These funds will help our foodbank partners work with Ohio farmers to feed families in need,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “This is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring all families have access to healthy, affordable food.”

Earlier this year, ODJFS announced Ohio would use a \$13.5 million U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to buy food from Ohio farmers and other producers and provide it to those in need. Under that grant, OAF will purchase locally produced foods from approximately 50 suppliers, at least half of whom will be socially disadvantaged.

“The \$15 million we are committing today will be administered through 13 regional foodbanks, with each entity identifying and procuring products based on their own local needs,” said Damschroder. “Foodbanks play an important role in addressing food insecurity, particularly for those who may not be eligible for other income-based assistance.”

“Our state’s livestock and poultry industries thank Governor DeWine, President Huffman, Speaker Cupp, Minority Leader Russo, and Minority Leader Yuko for their leadership in supporting this immediate funding to help Ohio’s foodbanks restock their shelves and the tables of the families they serve,” says Scott Higgins, CEO, Ohio Dairy Producers Association. “Foodbanks need sources of high-quality protein, and dairy foods like milk, cheese, and yogurt are nutrient powerhouses packed full of protein, as well as calcium, vitamin D, and potassium, three nutrients noted by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans as nutrients of concern – nutrients many Americans don’t get in their diets.”

ODJFS administers several programs to fight hunger in Ohio. These include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for low-income elderly individuals. Those in need can learn more at [jfs.ohio.gov/ofam](https://jfs.ohio.gov/ofam).

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*The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.*

