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\$13.5M Grant Helps Keep Food Supply/Demand Cycle Moving

Foodbanks will buy local products and distribute to underserved families.

Columbus, Ohio – Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder announced today that the State of Ohio will use a \$13.5 million U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant to buy food from Ohio farmers and other producers and provide it to those in need.

“This important collaboration will go a long way toward interconnecting our underserved producers of abundant, safe, and wholesome food to our growing populations and food-insecure communities,” said Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Dorothy Pelanda. “The Ohio Department of Agriculture couldn’t be happier to be part of this project that not only helps our farmers and food producers, but also those who need access to that food.”

ODJFS will lead the project, in partnership with USDA and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks (OAF).

“So many Ohioans win because of this funding,” said Damschroder. “This grant allows those who supply food and those who lack food to benefit each other and Ohio’s economy.”

The two-year project began this month and will be administered through the Ohio Community Agriculture and Nutrition (CAN) Project. OAF will purchase locally produced foods from approximately 50 suppliers, at least half of whom will be socially disadvantaged.

The recipients will be those underserved by traditional food distribution networks, including rural households, older adults, people living with disabilities, and immigrant populations. Also included will be Ohioans experiencing or at-risk of chronic, diet-related diseases who may not have consistent access to nutritionally adequate foods.

A focus of the project is buying and distributing foods included in HER (Healthy Eating Research) Nutrition Guidelines.

