

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ODJFS Director Damschroder Visits Freestore Foodbank for Hunger Action Day

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder toured three Cincinnati Freestore Foodbank facilities today, which is Hunger Action Day. While visiting the Mayerson Distribution Center, Liberty Street Market, and Rosenthal Community Kitchen, he learned more about the organization’s efforts to provide not only emergency food to families in need, but also an array of services aimed at helping to lift them out of poverty and create a more secure, fulfilling path forward. These include emergency clothing, housing services, job-training programs, and more.

“We are happy to partner with the Freestore Foodbank to reduce food insecurity and stabilize and strengthen families in the tristate area,” Director Damschroder said. “Community partnerships are vital to fighting hunger, and the Freestore Foodbank excels at that. They take a holistic approach to serving individuals in need and helping them create a better future. I was very impressed with what I saw today.”

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, ODJFS has provided more than \$1 billion in additional food benefits to Ohio’s families and children. In addition, Ohio’s state fiscal year (SFY) 2022-23 operating budget provides \$49 million to support the Ohio Association of Foodbanks in purchasing and distributing food products. It also provides \$12 million in SFY 2022 to expand the storage capacity and meet the transportation needs of foodbanks during this critical time.

ODJFS administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) for Ohio. The agency also partners with Ohio’s foodbanks to administer several other programs that provide food through food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters for low-income families. These include the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Farm to Foodbank Program, Governor’s Summer Meal Programs, and the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program.

“Freestore Foodbank is honored to host ODJFS Director Damschroder on Hunger Action Day and share our vision of a hunger-free, healthy, and thriving community,” said Freestore Foodbank President/CEO Kurt Reiber. “Through the support of Governor DeWine, Director Damschroder, and our caring tristate community, Freestore’s team of hunger heroes has worked





Department of Job and Family Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Matt Damschroder, Director

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to end hunger while providing stabilization services and workforce training programs to help the families we serve to grow beyond hunger!”

The [Freestore Foodbank](#) is the largest emergency food and services provider to children and families in Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Southeast Indiana. Through its Stabilization Program, individuals can meet with case workers to assess their strengths and challenges and access a variety of services, from housing resources to employment and training.

“We’re proud to partner with ODJFS, our member foodbanks, and our statewide network of hunger relief providers on everything from our Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program, Farm to Foodbank Program, Governor’s Summer Meal Programs to our work connecting individuals to SNAP benefits and much more,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. “We look forward to opportunities to continue to grow on our longstanding public-private partnership to promote equity and security for all Ohioans.”

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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.

