

Food Programs

Problem:

- Lack of funding has left many food banks without the resources to feed many hungry Ohioans.
- If Ohio does not address the critical need for food, some food banks and charities will reduce their hours and days of operation. Others will try to cut staff or salaries to make ends meet. Still others will close their doors altogether because they cannot survive.
- Food banks are not currently able to provide assistance for non-food items essential to needy families like cleaning products and personal hygiene products.

What we Want: To continue to provide food for many struggling Ohioans by funding an agency with a proven record of success, ABLE's position is to:

- Increase funding for Second Harvest Food Banks statewide from \$17 million to \$34 million over two years.

Background Information:

- The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food banks, Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger have partnered with ODJFS to provide emergency food distribution programs to more than 12 food banks. OASHF represents 12 food banks which distribute food to more than 3,300 member charities. In 2008, OASHF distributed more than 98 million pounds of food and grocery items through the Ohio Food Bank network.
- More than 1.8 million Ohioans were served through food pantries from October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Of those clients served, more than 232,000 were seniors, and nearly 705,000 were children.
- See <http://www.oashf.org/Ohio128GeneralAssembly.html> for more information.

Impact:

- Funding for the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks for \$34 million over the two year period will support continuation and expansion of a grant agreement to purchase food and grocery products, capacity building grants, and distribution of products through 12 food banks to organizations participating in the emergency food distribution.
- Second Harvest Food Bank will be able to provide some important non-food items.
- Expanding investment programs can have positive results for other human services programs.

To Get Involved:

- Funding for food & hunger programs MUST be increased. You can help! Join together with ABLE and find out how you can have your voice be heard. CONTACT ABLE TODAY! Contact Jason or Carmen at (216) 651-2606 or by e-mail at jason@able.organizeohio.org or carmen@able.organizeohio.org.