



**Greater Cleveland
Food Bank**

Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Statement on Governor DeWine Signing the Ohio State Operating Budget into Law

Statement attributable to Kristin Warzocha, President and CEO, The Greater Cleveland Food Bank

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank applauds the Ohio General Assembly and Governor DeWine for their commitment to hunger relief and addressing the root causes of food insecurity.

The bill passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed by Governor DeWine provides an additional \$15 million dollars over the biennial operating for state nutrition programs, for a total investment of \$32.05 million per year for Agricultural Clearance Programs and the Ohio Food Program. GCFB is serving more people than we have in our history, and seeing the ongoing impact of inflation and the end of the emergency SNAP allotments on families, job seekers, children and seniors across our 6-county service area. This funding will be critical to help ensure that those in our community facing hunger have access to the nutritious food they need to survive and thrive.

Of significant importance, the bill also makes an investment in addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity with the inclusion of \$10 million dollars to create three Community Resource Centers and invest in building our partner agencies' capacity. The first Community Resource center will open this fall at 15500 South Waterloo Road in the renovated space that formerly housed the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's distribution center. These Community Resource Centers will support individuals seeking assistance and provide a "one-stop-shop" of Northeast Ohio's most effective non-profits. These organizations will collaborate and co-locate to provide local residents a hand up to employment and other services that will lead to long-term economic stability and empower people to thrive.

This spending allocation is a significant step forward in our efforts to ensure that everyone in our community has the nutritious food they need every day and to ending hunger today, tomorrow, and for a lifetime.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is grateful for Governor DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly's support for the more than 1,000 Greater Cleveland Food Bank partners and the communities we serve.