



**Testimony: HB 110
FY 2022-23 Biennial Budget
Judy Mobley, President & CEO
Children's Hunger Alliance
March 4, 2021**

Background

Good Afternoon Chairman Roemer, Ranking member West, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. I am Judy Mobley, President and CEO of Children's Hunger Alliance (CHA), a non-profit organization dedicated to the alleviation of childhood hunger in Ohio. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to you today regarding our funding request in the FY 2022-23 budget.

We define food insecurity as limited or uncertain access to enough food to support a healthy life. Many food insecure children simply don't know when they'll eat next. According to 2018 food insecurity statistics from Feeding America, Ohio ranked 8th highest by percentage of children at 18.1% or nearly 1 in 5, and 5th highest based on the actual number of children with more than 489,000 of Ohio's children experiencing hunger. These numbers have dramatically worsened over the past year due to the pandemic. Feeding America projects that in 2020 the percentage of Ohio children experiencing food insecurity will stand at 27.1% or over 1 in 4 children. This equates to more than 700,000 children, a staggering increase of over 200,000 children from the 2018 number.

Children's Hunger Alliance has expanded its partnerships and the number of feeding sites to meet the growing need for our services. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have served over 2.4 million meals in grab and go and congregate settings to Ohio's children through our sponsorship of over 180 summer meals sites, and over 9.4 million meals in FY 20 in afterschool programs, summer settings, family childcare homes, and daycare centers. Additionally, we fulfill our mission through collaborating with schools to enhance their school breakfast programs, and by providing children with nutrition education. We are currently one of the largest and most geographically diverse sponsors in Ohio of the USDA's Child and

Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) administered by the Ohio Department of Education. These federal programs enable us to provide healthy meals and snacks to children struggling with poverty in afterschool programs, summer programs, childcare centers and those being cared for by in-home childcare providers. We currently sponsor a total of 1,130 meal sites - 330 afterschool programs, 180 summer sites, 50 childcare centers and 550 family childcare providers .

In addition to our CACFP and SFSP sponsorship work we have a team that works across the state with schools to increase breakfast participation. In Ohio only 59% of children eligible for a free or reduced priced lunch currently participate in school breakfast. We partner with school districts to evaluate their existing breakfast model and implement best practices to increase breakfast participation in a cost-effective manner. We have many examples of the success this type of collaboration can achieve and in the end the children are the real beneficiaries because more of them can start their school day ready to learn. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic we have worked with schools to maximize their distribution of food to students through all child nutrition programs including breakfast, lunch, afterschool and on weekends to ensure food access regardless of school operational model.

Our work allows us to serve children where they are and ensure they receive healthy meals *before* and *after* school each day. This is critical to their wellbeing when a hungry child finds no food at home.

We also know that unfortunately only 10 percent of children who qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch and rely on their school for food, have access to free meals during the summer. In addition to our own USDA Summer Food Service Sponsorship launched in 2020 to meet growing needs, we also work with other sponsors to increase access to summer meal programs offered at locations such as community centers, churches, schools and day camps. We have helped schools and other organizations develop mobile feeding programs that transport meals to different locations so kids have an opportunity to receive the meals they need close to home.

Finally, Children's Hunger Alliance provides nutrition education and physical activity opportunities to children in an effort for them to learn about healthy food choices and stay active to help reduce the incidence of obesity and chronic disease



and to promote lifelong healthy habits. Our Nutrition Education Team helps in-home childcare providers learn how to plan meals that provide healthy food to the children in their care. We also offer nutrition education and physical activity programming in childcare centers, afterschool programs and summer meal sites.

FY 2022-23 Budget request

The work we do at Children's Hunger Alliance to provide our most vulnerable citizens with one of their most basic needs - food - is critical for tens of thousands of Ohio children who depend on our services.

In order to sustain our work and be able to continue meeting the needs of food insecure children in our state, Children's Hunger Alliance is requesting \$2.35 million in state funding over the FY 2022-23 biennium. This funding, which was included by the legislature in Section 307.109 of Am. Sub. HB 166 as an earmark in the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services budget at \$1,175,000 in FY 2020 and FY 2021 from 600689 TANF Block Grant. The legislature's support for this funding has allowed CHA to sustain our programming in our four core program areas – early childhood nutrition, school and summer nutrition, afterschool nutrition and nutrition education and physical activity. Some of the key highlights of the work funded through TANF in the current biennium include:

- Establishment of a holiday and weekend meal program
- Expansion of food access within sponsored childcare centers, family childcare homes, and afterschool programs
- Establishment of Summer Food Service Program sponsorship, providing additional food access during the summer months
- Continued nutrition and physical education programs within childcare centers, afterschool, and summer programs
- Establishment and implementation of software to be used for outreach - increasing access to child nutrition programs, specifically school breakfast programs as well as holiday and weekend meals
- Increased program awareness through development of videos, community outreach, and program materials



I want to thank Governor DeWine and his staff for recognizing the importance of our work and for including CHA in the introduced version of HB 110 (page 1844, lines 56336 through 56339) at a level of \$1 million per fiscal year out of 600689 TANF block grant dollars. While we greatly appreciate the Governor's support and inclusion of these earmarked dollars, due to the increasing need for our services, CHA would respectfully request that the House restore the TANF earmark to the \$1,175,000 annually contained in Amended Substitute House Bill 166. A draft amendment is included in your packet.

We recognize that many worthy organizations are requesting funding in this budget cycle, but it is important to note that funding Children's Hunger Alliance represents an excellent return on investment for Ohio taxpayers. Our direct sponsorship work leveraged over \$19 million of federal nutrition funds back to Ohio in federal fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Additionally, our advocacy work with schools to increase breakfast participation and our support of summer meal sites directly increases the federal child nutrition funds they receive. We estimate that this would add an additional \$20 million of federal child nutrition funds bringing the total dollars leveraged to approximately \$39 million.

In conclusion, Children's Hunger Alliance plays a unique role in Ohio's hunger relief system. Receiving state funding would allow us to sustain our work and provide vital services to address childhood hunger in high need areas throughout Ohio.

Chairman Roemer and Committee members, I thank you for your time and consideration of our funding request.



OUR MISSION

Ensure children without access receive healthy food, nutrition education and physical activity.



Children's Hunger Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger in Ohio.

More than one in five children in Ohio (pre-pandemic) live in food-insecure homes, now, one in four – which means they are not sure where their next meal will come from. Children need regular access to nutritious food to fuel their growing minds and bodies. Food-insecure children are more likely to experience poor health and learning challenges. Our organization works to give them a healthier childhood and a chance at a brighter future.

Children's Hunger Alliance works with child care providers, local schools and community partners such as libraries, parks and recreation centers and faith-based organizations, as well as the USDA and Ohio Department of Education to provide food-insecure children with the nutritious meals they need to thrive.

Founded in 1970, Children's Hunger Alliance serves all regions of Ohio with 50 staff members at our offices in Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toledo as well as many staff working remotely throughout the state.



A

AFTERSCHOOL

We organize the delivery of nutritious meals and snacks to afterschool programs and lead fun physical activities and nutrition education programs.

B

BREAKFAST

We help school districts offer or expand school breakfast programs so that more children can start the day with a nutritious meal.

C

CHILD CARE

We help child care providers serve more nutritious meals and snacks, promote healthy eating habits and engage children in physical activities.

S

SUMMER

We work to increase access to summer meal sites and provide physical activities, nutrition education and enrichment programming.

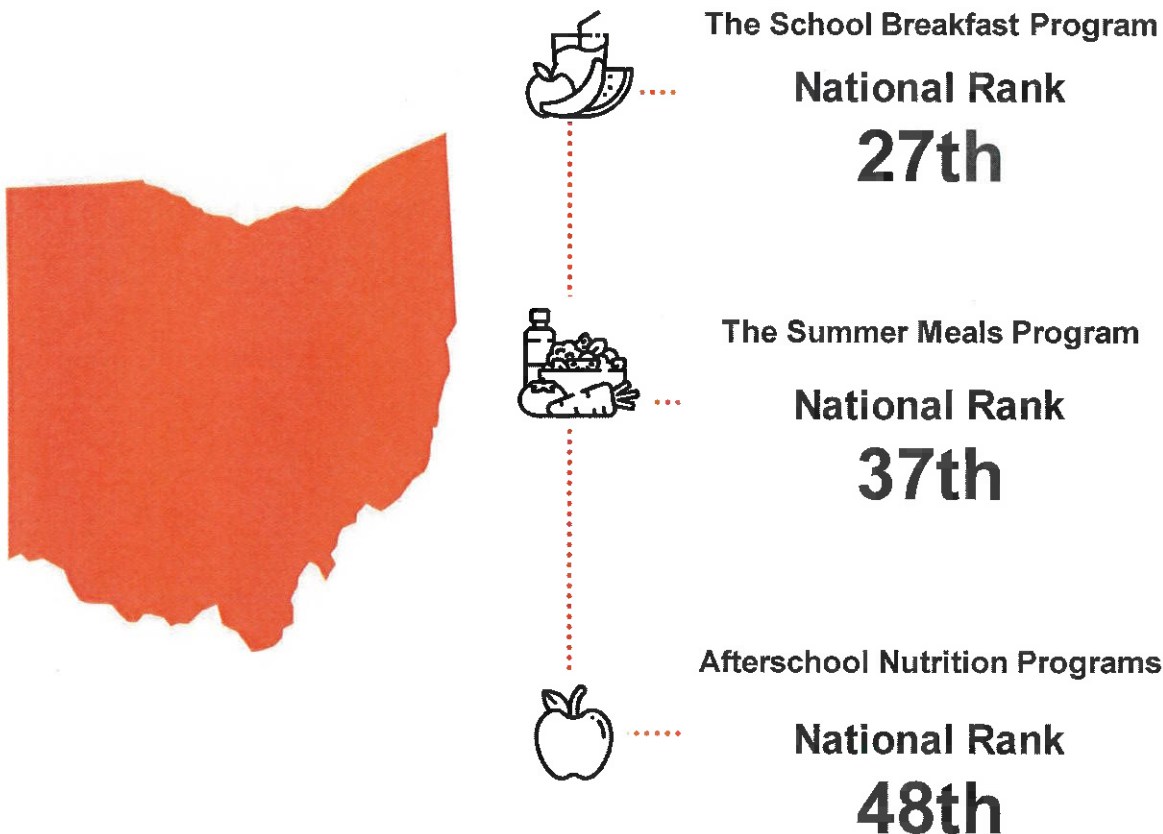
Ohio: Program Performance 2019

20.3%

of all children in Ohio live in food-insecure homes.

One out of every five kids in Ohio is growing up in a family that struggles with hunger. State and federal nutrition programs can help kids get the nutrition they need, but these programs are severely underutilized. Closing the participation gap in these programs can help end childhood hunger and bring new resources into the state.

Participation in National Nutrition Programs*



*Ranked among 50 states and Washington, D.C., with #1 with highest participation rates.

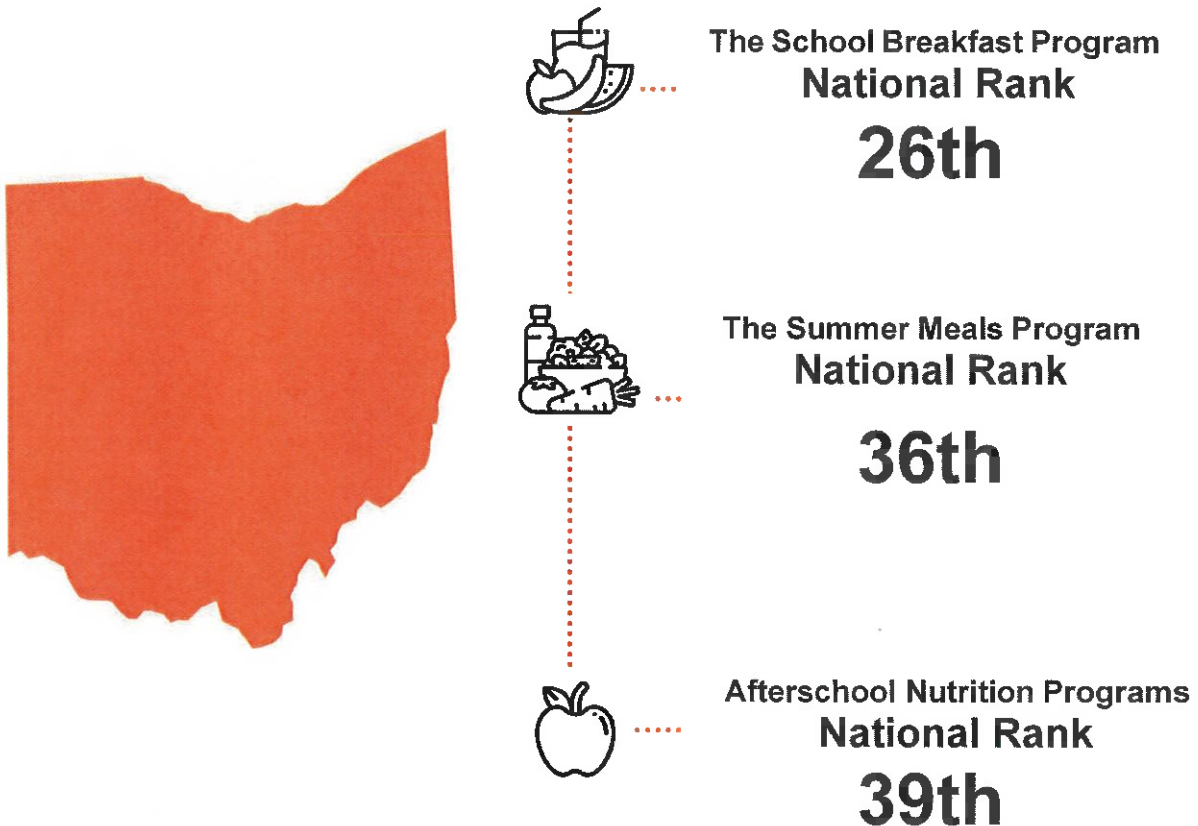
Ohio: Program Performance 2020

27.1%

of all children in Ohio live in food-insecure homes.

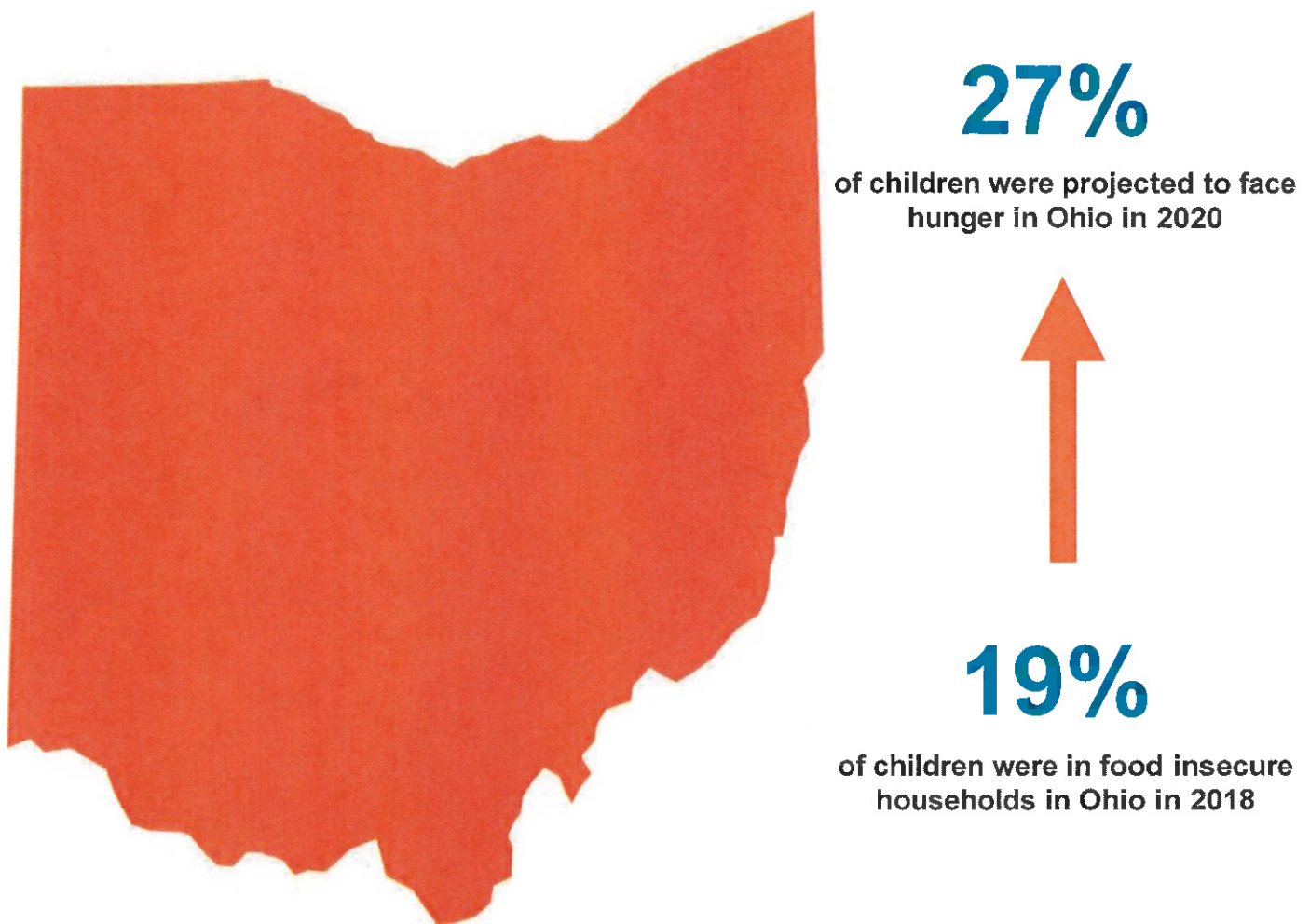
Prior to the pandemic, one out of every five kids in Ohio was growing up in a family that struggles with hunger. It is estimated that now that number is 1 in 4. State and federal nutrition programs can help kids get the nutrition they need, but these programs are underutilized. Closing the participation gap in these programs can help end childhood hunger and bring new resources into the state.

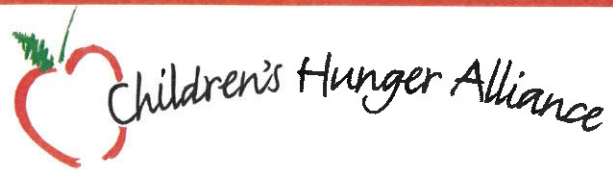
Participation in National Nutrition Programs*



*Ranked among 50 states and Washington, D.C., with #1 being highest participation rates.

COVID-19: Impact on Child Food Insecurity





IMPACT – FY20

SCHOOL BREAKFASTS 4,500,000

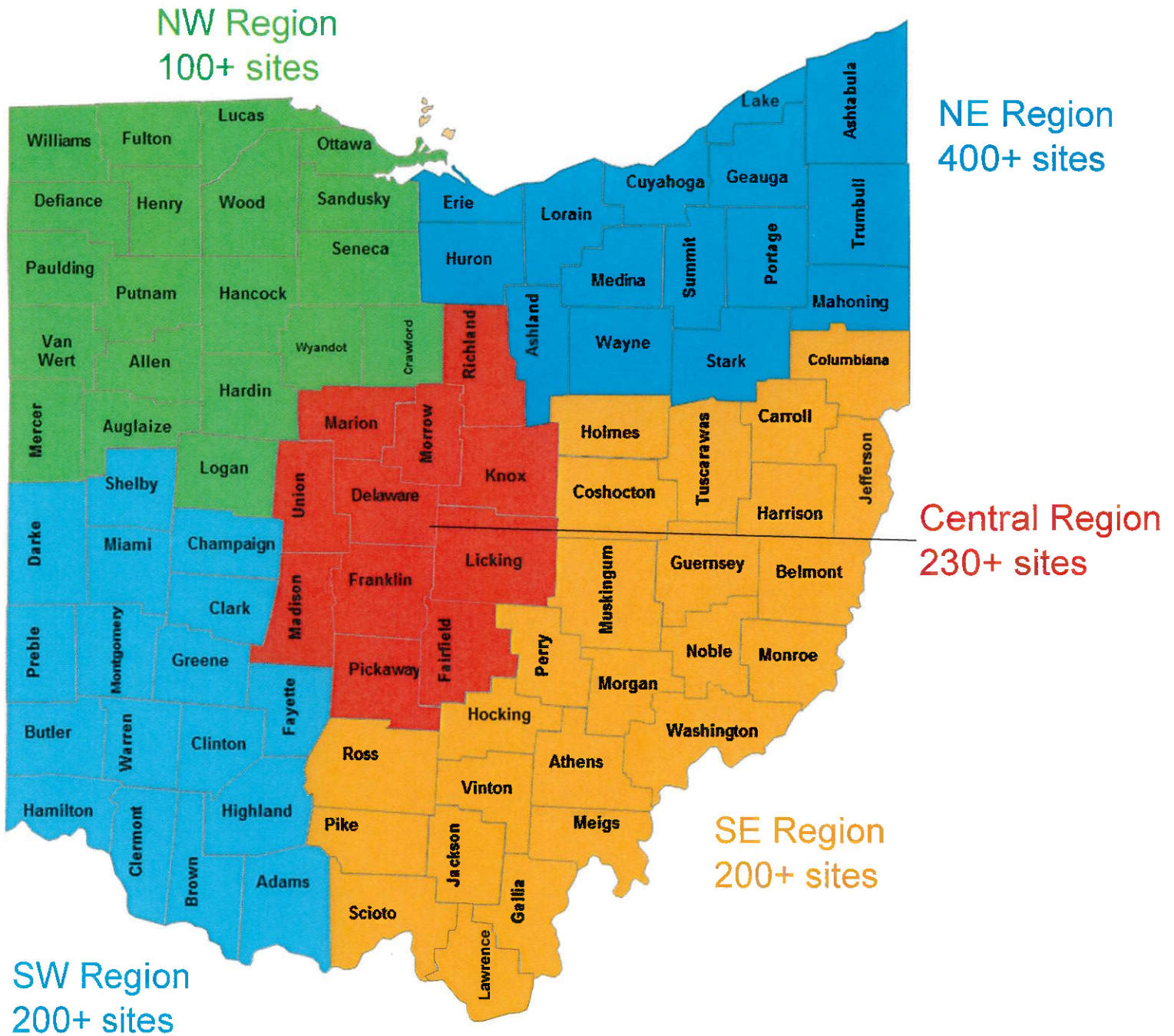
IN-HOME PROVIDER MEALS & SNACKS 2,600,000

SUMMER MEALS 1,200,000

AFTERSCHOOL MEALS & SNACKS 630,000

CHILDCARE CENTER MEALS & SNACKS 500,000

TOTAL SERVED 9,430,000





Central Office

1105 Schrock Road, Suite 505
Columbus, OH 43229
614-341-7700

Regional Offices

4415 Euclid Avenue, Suite 301
Cleveland, OH 44103

10945 Reed Hartman Hwy, Suite 122
Cincinnati, OH 45242

1715 Indian Wood Cir., Suite 200, Office 223
Maumee, OH 43537

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Judith L. Mobley

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Gary Sorrell

Nationwide

Bob Stallman

Miami Valley Lighting

Laurie Stamer

The City of Columbus, Mayor's Office

Ellen Berndt (Advisory Member)

Community Member

November 2, 2020

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Ohio Governor
Riffe Center for Government
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

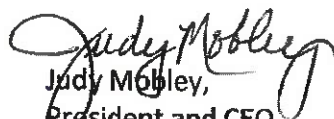
Dear Governor DeWine:

As you are aware, Children's Hunger Alliance (CHA) is a statewide non-profit, founded in 1970 in Columbus, Ohio whose mission is to ensure children in need receive healthy food. A critical component of expanding our work has been the \$2.35 million Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) earmark (see attached language) within the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services budget. This language was included by the legislature and supported by your office in Am. Sub. H.B.166. We know that one in five of Ohio's children are hungry and that need has only been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Recognizing the elevated importance of critical food access programs throughout the pandemic and beyond, I respectfully request your consideration for maintaining the earmark for Children's Hunger Alliance and including the language in your executive budget proposal to the legislature.

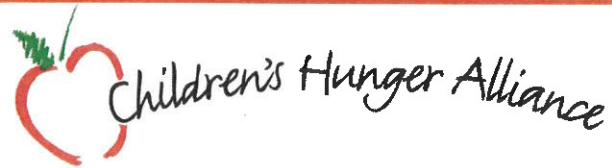
During this pandemic, CHA has expanded its partnerships and the number of feeding sites to meet the growing need for our services. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have served over 2.4 million meals in grab and go settings to Ohio's children, and over 13 million meals in FY 20 in afterschool programs, summer settings, family childcare homes, and daycare centers. Additionally, we fulfill our mission through collaborating with schools to enhance their school breakfast programs, and by providing children with nutrition education. Over and above the state funding we receive, I am proud that CHA helps bring back to Ohio millions of dollars through its sponsorship of federal child nutrition programs and we raise over \$3 million annually from private sources to support our work.

Thank you again for your support of Children's Hunger Alliance and the work we do. I look forward to continuing to work together to help Ohio's children and families.

Warmest regards,


Judy Mobley,
President and CEO

c. Lee Anne Cornyn, Director of Children's Initiatives, Governor DeWine
Timi Pierce, Chief of Staff, First Lady Fran DeWine

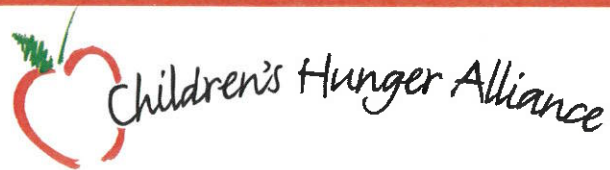


Am. Sub H.B. No. 166

133rd G.A.

SECTION 307.109. CHILDREN'S HUNGER ALLIANCE

Of the foregoing appropriation item 600689, TANF Block Grant, \$1,175,000 in each fiscal year shall be provided, in accordance with section 5101.80 and 5101.801 of the Revised Code, to the Children's Hunger Alliance to assist with meal sponsorship, early child care programs, child care, consultations and nutrition education, school district nutrition programs, after school nutrition programs, and summer nutrition programs.



Proposed H.B. 110 Amendment

HC

H.B. 110 as introduced

LSC 134

_____ moved to amend as follows:

1 "Section 307.80. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant

2 In line 56341 delete "\$1,000,000" and insert "\$1,175,000"

3 The motion was _____ agreed to.

4 SYNOPSIS

5 Department of Job and Family Services

6 Section 307.80

7 Increases the earmark for Children's Hunger Alliance from \$1,000,000 to \$1,175,000 in each fiscal year from appropriation item 600689, TANF Block Grant