

Ohio's Budget

Praying for our Daily Bread



What is Ohio's Budget?

House Bill 33 is a two year document setting Ohio's direction for the next two years. Governor DeWine announced his budget priorities in January and the House of Representatives passed their version of the budget (HB 33) in April. The Senate will pass their version in the coming weeks before a Conference Committee creates a final version by June 30th.

Budgets are Moral Documents:

A budget reflects our values as a community. HB 33, as passed by the Ohio House, expands foodbank spending, resources for school meals, as well as updates our school funding model to reflect current expenses. The budget also expands Medicaid services for certain children. While there is still much to do, we are encouraged by good stewardship in the House budget to serve our community.

Called to Love Our Neighbor:

As people of faith we respond to hunger each and every day in our communities, but charity alone is not a long-term solution. Ohio needs a public commitment to food security.

DID YOU KNOW...

- + 1 in 9 people face hunger in Ohio (1.4 million people)
- + 1 in 6 children face hunger in Ohio (412,000 kids)
- + 1 in 10 households with seniors face hunger.
- + 29% of Ohio households are below 200% of the FPL - often choosing between medicine, food, and other necessities.
- + Inflation has eliminated recent wage gains for Ohioans.
- Groceries 12.5%, Heating 33%, Rent 12.6%

Policy Recommendations

1. Hunger Free Schools:

Full bellies lead to full minds. Our schools provide desks, transportation, and textbooks so that all students can succeed - and food should be a part of the equation. We are grateful for the House expansion of school meals by making reduced priced meals free. *We encourage the Ohio General Assembly to continue to invest in ending childhood hunger by protecting this investment and expanding the school breakfast program so more children qualify for free breakfast.*

2. Strengthen Ohio's Foodbanks:

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks continues to be on the front lines of Ohio's charitable response to hunger. The Governor proposed to flat-fund Ohio's foodbanks at \$25 million a year, and the House increased that to \$40 million a year. *We encourage the Ohio Senate to protect this investment increase funding for Ohio's foodbanks to \$50 million per year to purchase food and support our emergency food system.*

3. Protect and Expand SNAP:

SNAP is our number one defense against hunger in Ohio. Senior citizen hunger contributes to increased health concerns and expenses. The Ohio Senate should protect SNAP and invest to reduce senior citizen hunger. *We encourage the Ohio General Assembly to offer a Senior Food Incentive for seniors on SNAP to increase their state minimum to \$50 a month, instead of \$23.*

TAKE ACTION:

Contact your State Senator (www.ohiosenate.gov) and tell them to take action to end hunger in Ohio.

Hunger Network in Ohio



Dominican
Sisters of Peace
Sisters and Associates
in Mission