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# The state of food security and hunger relief in Ohio & how policies and programs help or harm

July 26, 2023 | Ohio Conference of Community Development Summer Conference



Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member agencies





# The end of SNAP Emergency Allotments

**Impact: Loss of \$126 million per month in SNAP benefits, directly impacting 673,339 households\* (roughly 1.46 million Ohioans) and indirectly impacting local grocers and retailers and local economies**

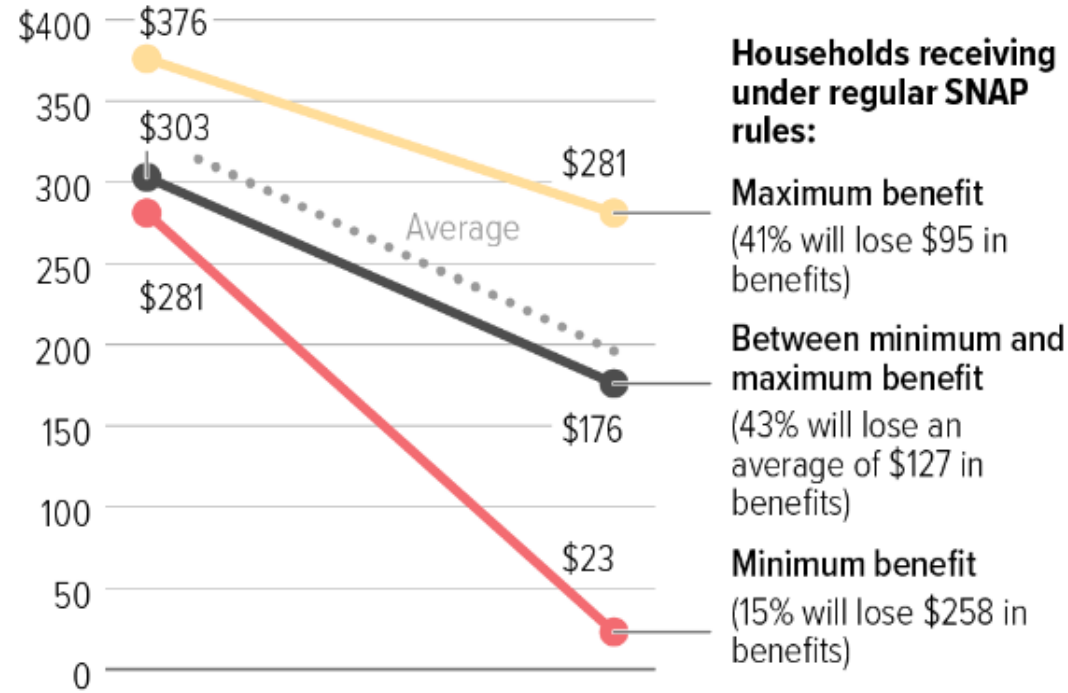


*\*[www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/ohio](http://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/ohio), February Extension Approved (SNAP Emergency Allotments)*

FIGURE 2



## Losses Will Vary Across Households, But Average 1-Person Household Will Lose \$132 When SNAP Emergency Allotments End



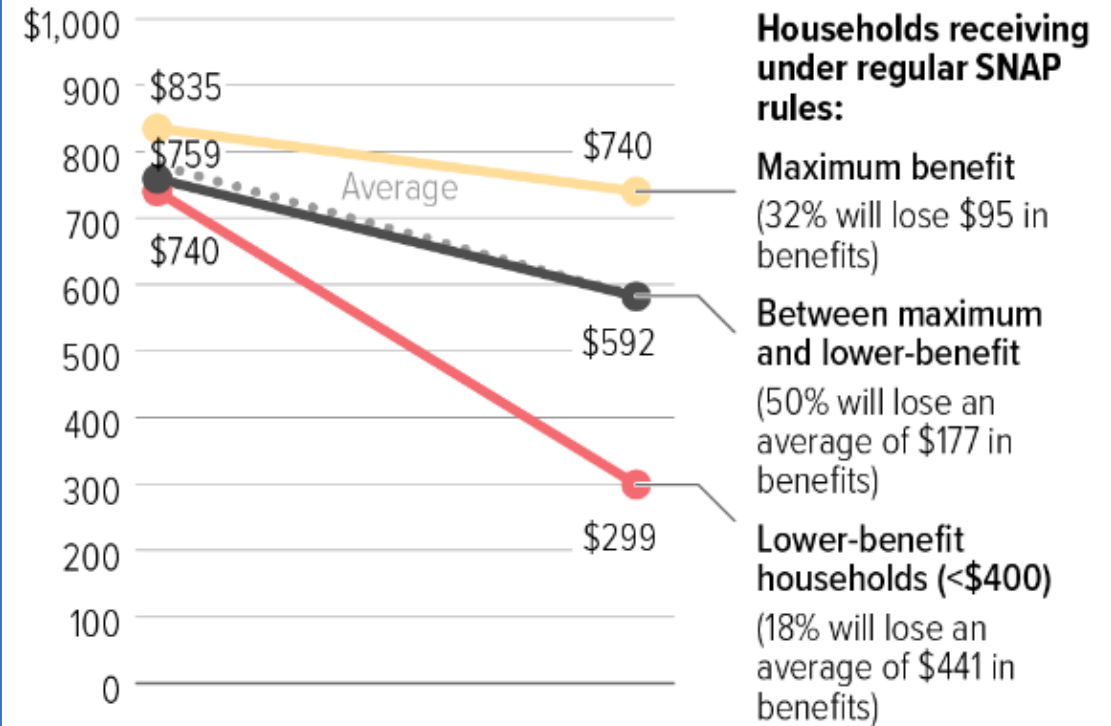
Note: Figures may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Estimates based on CBPP analysis of fiscal year 2019 SNAP Household Characteristics data with income and expenses inflated to fiscal year 2023 values

FIGURE 3



## Losses Will Vary Across Households, But Average 3-Person Household Will Lose \$197 When SNAP Emergency Allotments End



Source: Estimates based on CBPP analysis of fiscal year 2019 SNAP Household Characteristics data with income and expenses inflated to fiscal year 2023 values

# Record Need

- For the first time ever, our network provided take-home groceries more than 3.1 million times in one quarter – that was **BEFORE** Congress announced that SNAP Emergency Allotments would end after final benefit issuances in February.
- We have broken our quarterly record for pantry visits every quarter for the past year.



LOCAL NEWS

# Second Harvest warns food for hungry might soon be rationed as donations plummet



NEWS WEA

Inflation and supply chain issues affecting food banks.

Tuesday, June 21st 2022, 7:29 AM EDT

# Food bank CEO: It is 'more difficult and more expensive to obtain food'

Matt Habash Guest columnist

Published 5:30 a.m. ET June 1, 2022

NEWS

# 'We're all feeling it.' Food pantries, banks continue work, seek support as prices soar



Abby Miller

Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 10:00 p.m. ET June 14, 2022

POSTED ON [JUNE 11, 2022](#)

# Inflation is sending more Ohioans to food banks. Can pantries keep up?

Jun 22, 2022 - News

# Feeling inflation's pinch, Ohio food banks plea for help

**After months of high inflation + increases to consumer prices + loss of \$126 million per month in SNAP, we anonymously surveyed more than 2,000 foodbank clients from across Ohio.**





44.3%



have at least one  
member under 18

38.1%



include at least one  
disabled member

## In the last 2-3 months:



**68%** had to choose between food and transportation/gas

**66%** had to choose between food and utilities



**55%** had to choose between food or medicine/health care

**50%** had to choose between food and housing



# Nearly **4 IN 10**

have at least one member with high blood pressure/hypertension

# More than **1 IN 4**

have at least one member with diabetes

# More than **1 IN 7**

have at least one member with heart disease/stroke





**2 IN 3 (65.5%)**

households served by foodbanks have adults in their household that **cut the size of meals or skipped meals** because there wasn't enough money for food in the last 12 months, including more than

**1 IN 3 (36.6%)**

that did so **almost every month over the last year**

# More than **8 IN 10**

foodbank clients sought help  
with emergency food because  
of higher food costs



**54%** reported  
feeling down,  
depressed, or  
hopeless  
since  
March

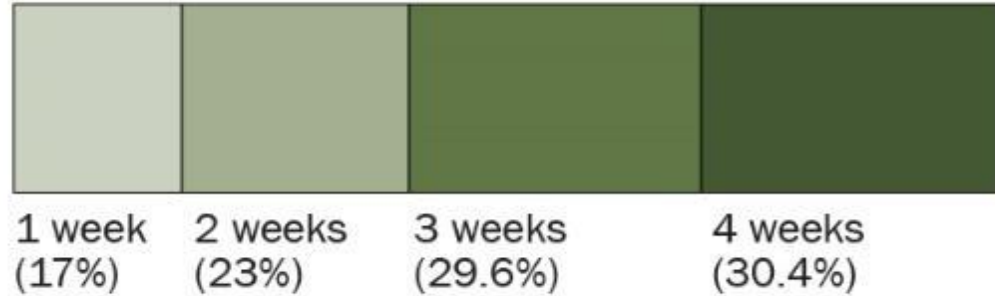




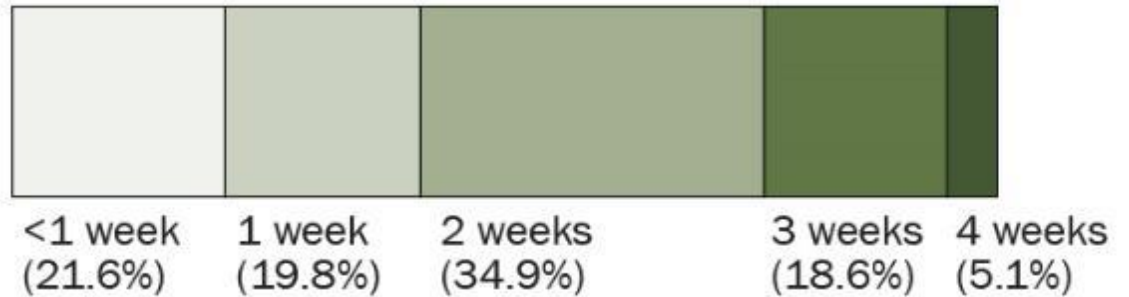
→ **40.7%** participate in SNAP



With pandemic-era SNAP benefits, **3 in 10** SNAP participants said their benefits lasted the full month



Since the end of pandemic-era SNAP benefits, **just 5% of** SNAP participants said their benefits lasted the full month





37% said they will  
rely on us more  
often in the next 2  
months; just 5%  
said they would rely  
on us less often

**“It means there is a week or two that I will not have food to eat because the \$95 that we were getting extra certainly helped me get through the month with food. It was a big loss when they took it away. I have actually lost 50 lbs since I lost my job and had to get on snap. Since we lost the extra \$95 benefit, I continue to lose weight because I have zero money coming in because my unemployment has been exhausted and nobody will hire me even though I have submitted over 150 applications and I have a great work history but nobody will hire me because of my age. So let me tell you, that \$95 was a big loss to me.”**



**“The loss of the additional monthly allotments have been detrimental to myself and family, and my household financial stability and daily living conditions. I am 37 years old, single, disabled, and also live with and provide care day to day to my younger brother who is 30, completely disabled with several more severe disabilities than myself. We both lost our dear mother 3 years ago this coming August to her 5th battle with stage 4 cancer. I cared for her all on my own for the past 10 + years off/on each time she battled cancer and was in remission. We were just sliding by the past 2-3 years with the extra SNAP benefits, and [it] was nice to have one less day to day worry or problem. Now being the head of house I spend most days wondering what other basic human need I will have to sacrifice or bill to juggle or something to do without, in order to make sure my brother and I will always have enough food to last throughout the month.”**



# Policy and Programmatic Solutions

# Permanent Summer EBT Program for Kids

First new *permanent* federal food assistance program of this magnitude in nearly 50 years. \$40 per child per month (adjusted for inflation over time) for low-income school-aged children (begins 2024)



# State-Funded Offset for Reduced Price Meals

**In the wake of the failure of Congress to put permanent universal free school meals into statute, Ohio included funding to offset the cost of reduced-price meals in its budget! 80,000+ kids will benefit!**



# Additional state funding for food purchase programs supporting foodbanks

The State of Ohio provided \$7.5 million per year in additional funding for the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program, for a total of \$32.05 million per year in the 2024-25 budget.



# Dignity. Equity.

- Secure benefits
- Modernized shopping options
- Disconnecting nutrition from work
- Protecting food choice
- Benefits for students



# Support Agriculture & Hunger Relief through Federal Commodity Programs

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) provided 23% of all food distributed through Ohio's statewide hunger relief network last year; down from 27.8% in 2020**



# Support Agriculture & Hunger Relief through Federal Commodity Programs

Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA), or Ohio CAN, supporting local, socially disadvantaged farmers



Department of  
Agriculture



Department of  
Job and Family Services

Jul-23





# Bipartisan Farm Bills are achieved in coalition

- **The Farm Bill is reauthorized about every five years. A short-term extension is inevitable since the current one expires September 30. Issue areas and points of contention include:**
  - SNAP work requirements (already included in debt ceiling agreement)
  - Limiting or expanding food choice (restricting types vs. hot/prepared meals)
  - Crop subsidies & keeping up with impact of climate change on food supply
  - Marginalized SNAP participants (older adults, disabled Americans, college students, people with felony convictions, Puerto Rico residents)



# Bipartisan Farm Bills are achieved in coalition

- **Positive things we are striving for and believe we can achieve:**
  - **Disconnecting work from nutrition (food security supports work participation, job and family security, employment stability – stop making SNAP punitive)**
  - **Modernizing Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to prevent theft**
  - **Regulatory changes that can improve program access, like around college students, limited felony bans still in place, & performance outcomes for local agencies**
  - **Benefit adequacy for older adults, disabled people – increasing minimum benefit**
  - **More entitlement funding for TEFAP to keep up with prices increases, need**





## Apply For SNAP

SNAP can provide funds to help you purchase groceries for yourself and your household.

You can apply on your own by clicking the button below, or by calling any of these foodbanks for help with applying:

Southwest Ohio: Freestore Foodbank: 513-381-7627, Shared Harvest Foodbank: 513-881-9024

Northeast Ohio: Greater Cleveland Food Bank: 216-738-2067

Central and Eastern Ohio: Mid-Ohio Food Collective: 614-782-5503, Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign, and Logan: 937-325-8715 ext. 103

Northwest Ohio: Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank: 419-242-5000 ext. 221

Southeast Ohio: SE Ohio Foodbank/HAPCAP: 740-270-3247

[APPLY FOR SNAP NOW](#)



# Free, unbiased help is available!



[getcoveredohio.org](https://getcoveredohio.org)



(833) 628-4467 or (833) NAV-4INS

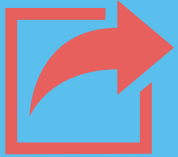
# How to help connect Ohioans to care:



Make a referral to a Navigator



Distribute marketing materials



Share information on social media



Host a Navigator at your event

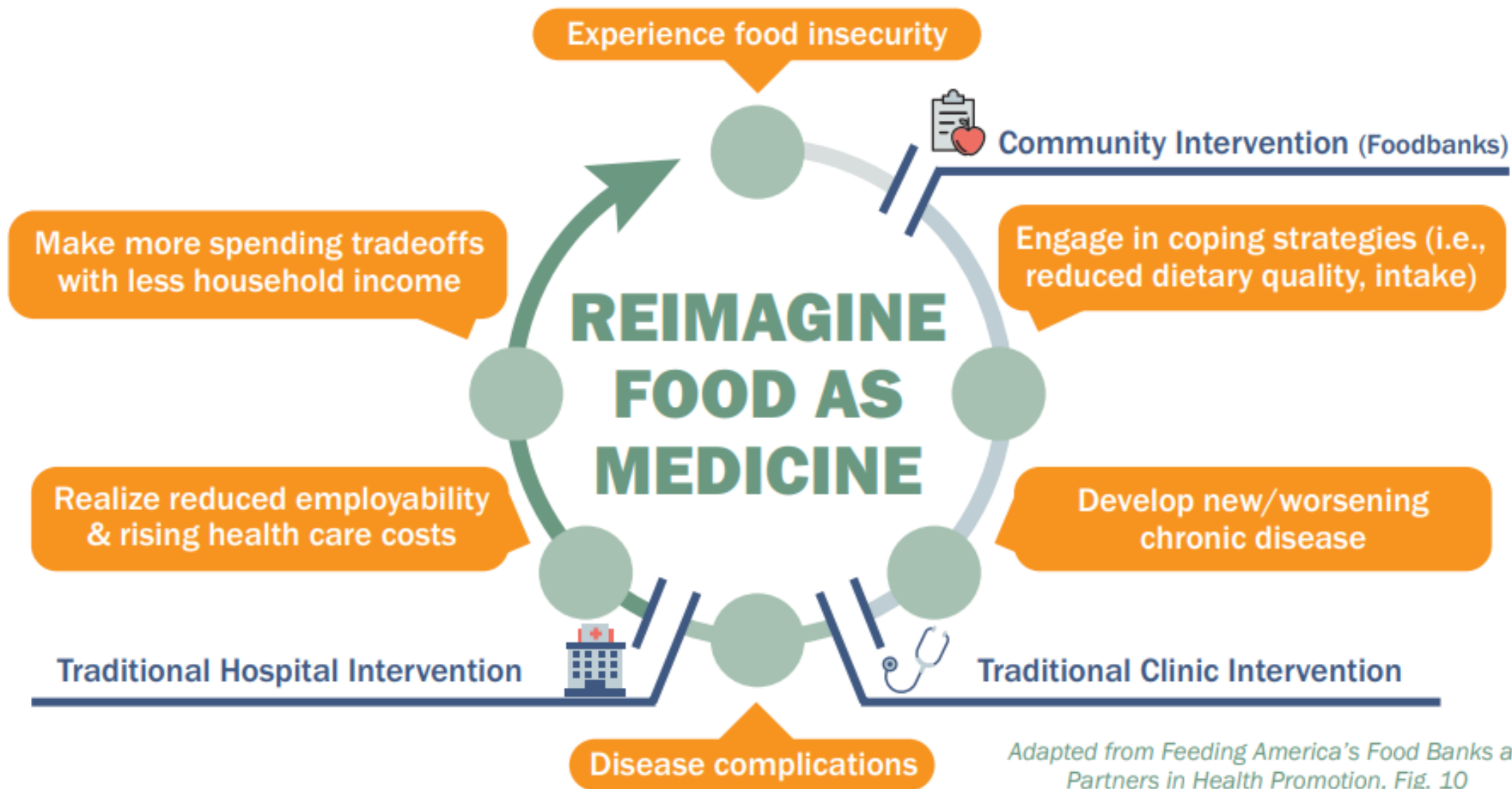


This project is supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$2.33 million with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



**AmeriCorps**





*Adapted from Feeding America's Food Banks as Partners in Health Promotion, Fig. 10*



## SCREENINGS, REFERRALS, AND ASSESSMENTS



- Food pharmacy/ prescriptive food offerings that improve food security while addressing disparity in health outcomes
- Food insecurity screening in health care settings, warm service referrals, and partnerships with third-party platforms
- Cross-sector data sharing to assess compliance, monitor and measure outcomes, improve service delivery, etc.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



- Connecting food insecure patients to federal nutrition programs like SNAP and other household resources
- Integrated nutrition education and/or food procurement practices with dietetic lens
- Event-based outreach, education, and/or clinical services that reaches food insecure individuals as strategy for interrupting food insecurity/chronic disease cycle

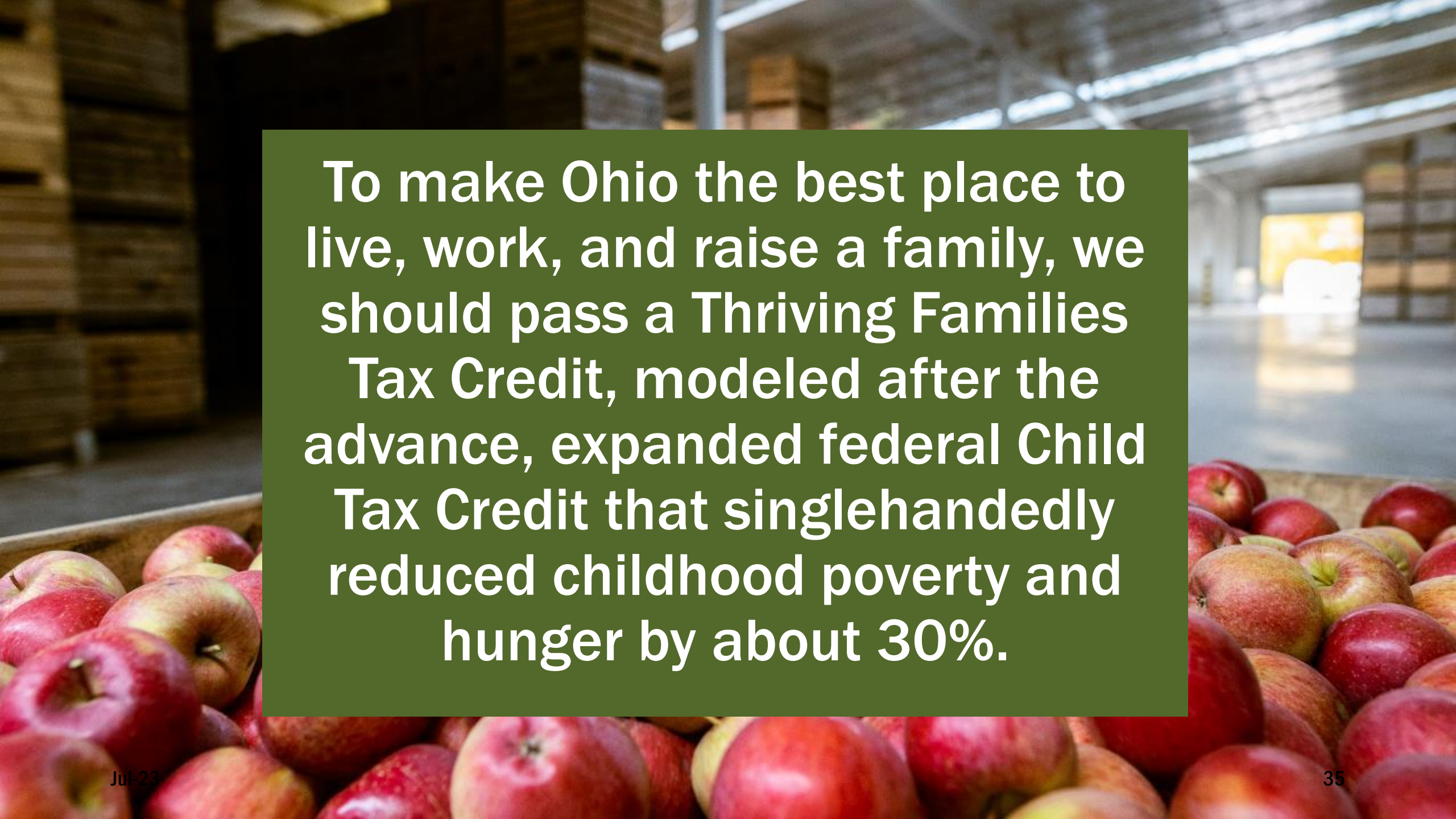
## INTEGRATED HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS



- Place-based food pantries available to mitigate food insecurity and promote nutrition within clinical setting
- Transportation to convenient, healthy foods or delivery of healthy foods to targeted population as part of patient services menu
- Consistent, balanced foods supplied over long-term disease management or prevention plan, in partnership with chronic care providers

**The rate of child food insecurity in Ohio was 14.8% in 2021, when advance, expanded child tax credits and SNAP Emergency Allotments were available. That was down compared to 17.4% in 2019.**

**Child poverty fell by 14% or more while those federal investments in family wellbeing were in place.**



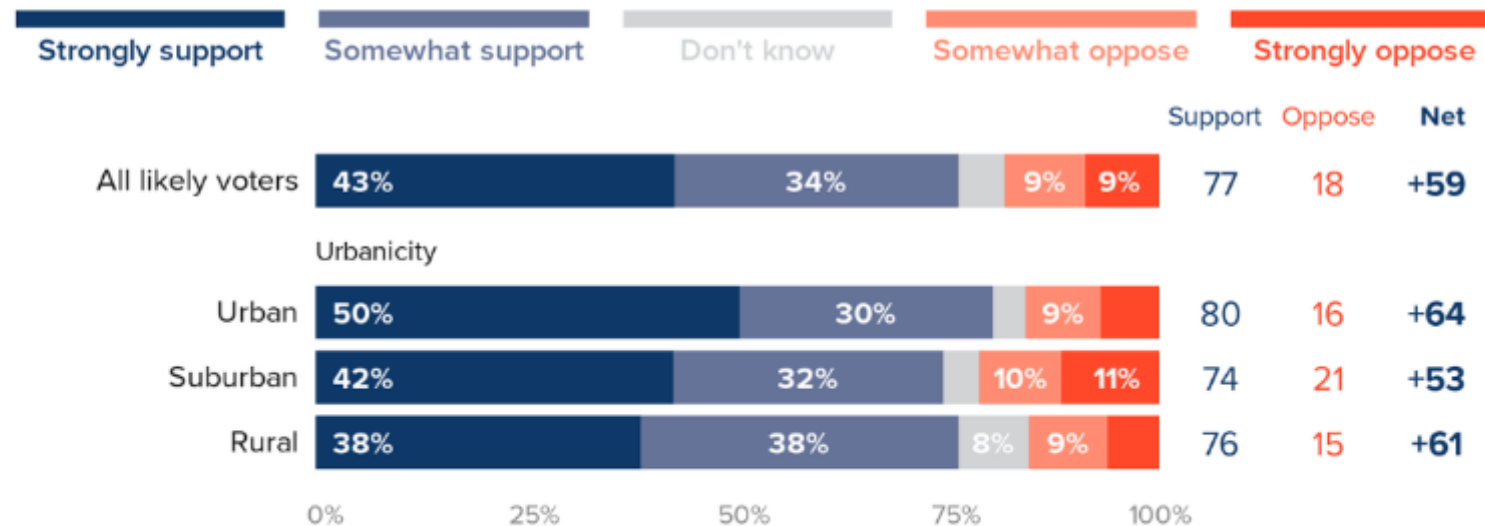
To make Ohio the best place to live, work, and raise a family, we should pass a Thriving Families Tax Credit, modeled after the advance, expanded federal Child Tax Credit that singlehandedly reduced childhood poverty and hunger by about 30%.

# 77% of Ohio voters support a state-funded child tax credit

## Voters in Ohio Support Implementing a State Child Tax Credit

The Child Tax Credit is a tax credit provided to low-to-moderate income families with children under the age of 17.

Would you support or oppose a state-level Child Tax Credit in Ohio?



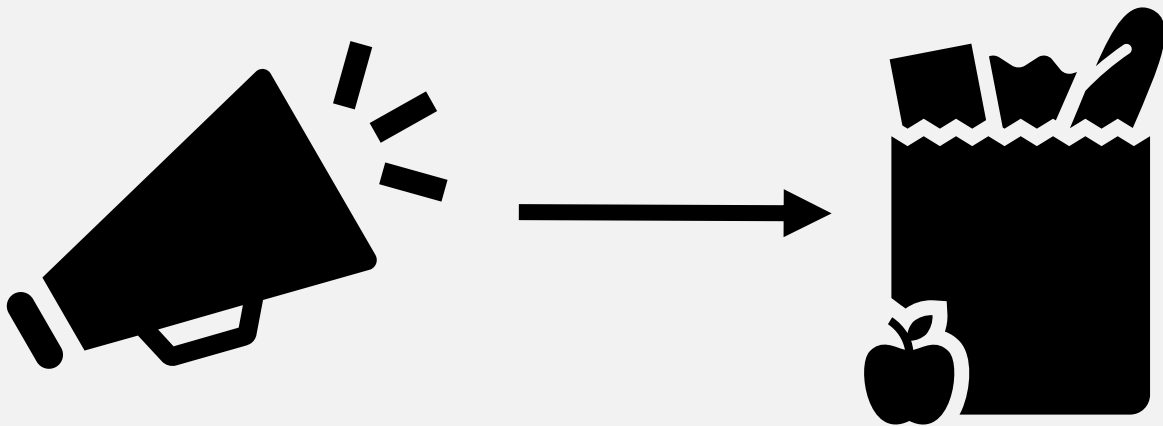
September 23–30, 2022 survey of 1,387 likely voters in Ohio

DATA FOR PROGRESS

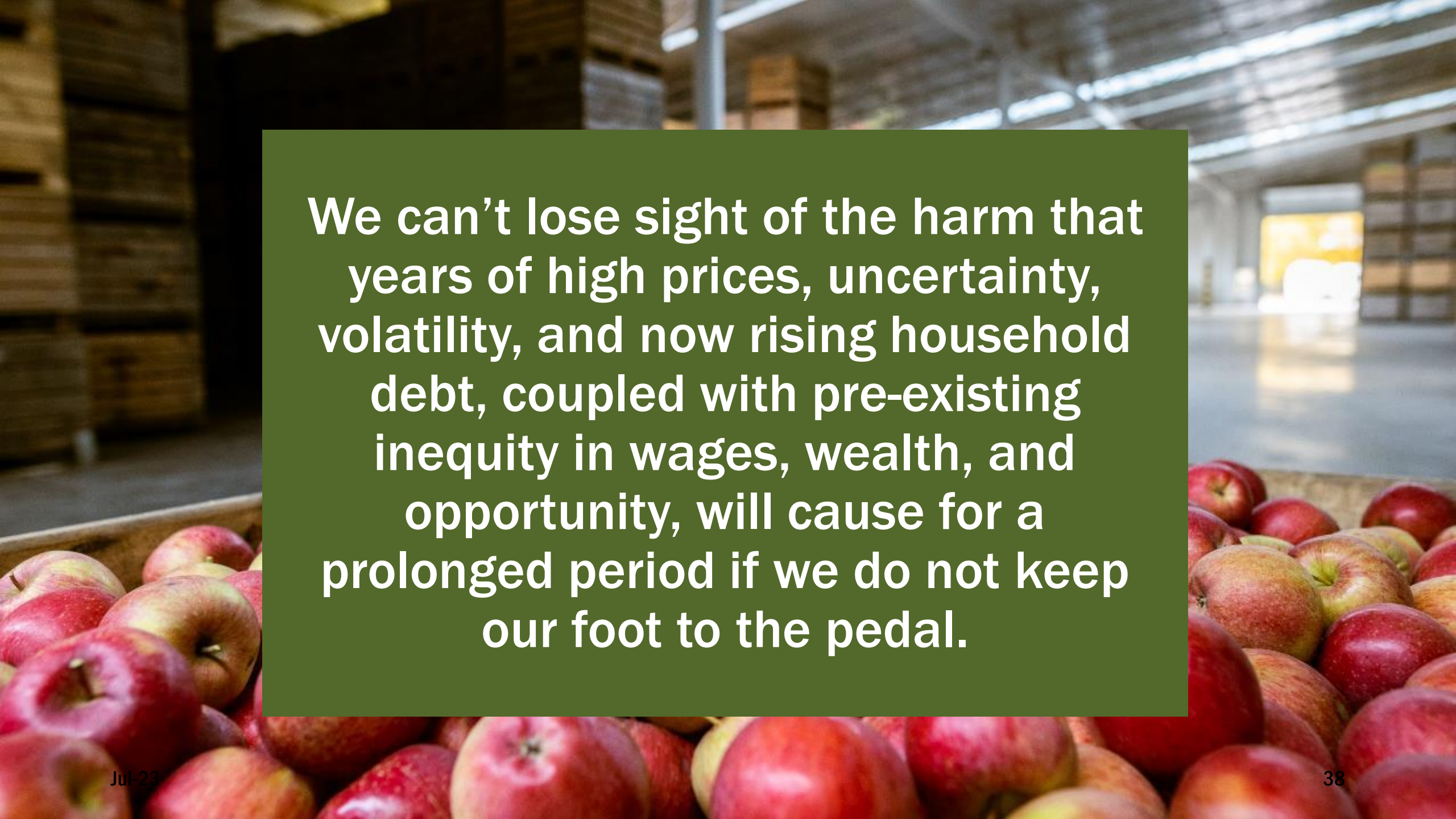
We could give 1 million Ohio families with children with incomes under \$85,000 an average refund of \$1,000 just by closing the LLC loophole

# How You Can Help

Be in coalition and support coalition work. Add your voice. Often, we are driven out of coalition when we're told what sort of crumbs we're working with and left to fight over them– but that only does harm to the people and communities we all serve who do not come in pieces and parts. **Food security** is **housing security** is **economic security**.



Add your organization to key sign-on letters. Submit joint guest columns to news outlets. Attend coalition meetings, district site visits, etc. Discuss your support for a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill when meeting with legislators. Be connectors.



**We can't lose sight of the harm that years of high prices, uncertainty, volatility, and now rising household debt, coupled with pre-existing inequity in wages, wealth, and opportunity, will cause for a prolonged period if we do not keep our foot to the pedal.**



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