

Impacts of The Ohio Benefit Bank: Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley Territory

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks has served as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank™ for 11 years. Its statewide network of over 1,000 sites use The Benefit Bank® to submit applications for a variety of work support programs and tax credits, including 35 sites in the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley's territory, which includes Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull Counties.

Applications available through The Benefit Bank®	
JFS 7200 (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Ohio Works First)	
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP Plus)	
Free federal and state tax filing, including the Earned Income Tax Credit	
ODM 7216 and JFS 7103 (Application for Health Coverage & Help Paying Costs and Medicare Savings Program QMB, SLMB, QI-1)	
Plus many additional benefits, programs, and services supporting low-income households	



The Ohio Benefit Bank™ (OBB) strives to stabilize low- and moderate-income households with work support programs. Since its inception in 2006, the OBB network in Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley's territory has:

- Submitted **1,303** applications for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits with a potential **\$2.9 million** value
- Submitted **22** applications for Child Care Benefits and **224** applications for Ohio Works First
- Submitted **237** applications for HEAP benefits
- Helped **1,178** people apply for health care benefits
- Helped file **6,725** federal and state tax returns at no cost through The Benefit Bank for refunds valued at **\$5.6 million**, for an estimated cost savings of **\$504,000** in tax preparation fees

Not only does the OBB support the foodbank's mission, it is also used by many community organizations to help streamline access to work support programs and reduce confusion for clients and caseworkers:

- The OBB includes case management tools for Pro counselors that serve as Authorized Representatives for clients that have difficulty navigating the application process on their own
- The OBB currently partners with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) to connect inmates from almost all ODRC institutions with SNAP benefits upon release

Over the past 11 years the OBB network in the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley's territory has returned over \$18.8 million in potential benefits and tax credits to more than 7,800 Ohioans.



We humbly ask you to please consider investing in the continuation of this important community resource.

