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Mid-Ohio Food Collective



WHAT A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION CAN DO

<https://www.bolderadvocacy.org/2014/04/08/yes-nonprofits-you-can-lobby/>:

1. Contrary to popular belief, charitable organizations are allowed to advocate
2. Advocacy is specifically defined, gives leeway on activities to educate
3. Candidate versus issue



WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Effective advocacy enables nonprofits to help shape public debate on important social issues

The term “advocacy” encompasses a broad range of activities (including research, public education, lobbying, and voter education)

Advocacy is the number one way nonprofits can advance their issues and help bring about systemic, lasting change

**Per Bolder Advocacy preceding cite*



What is Grassroots Advocacy?

- Aims to involve citizens personally affected by an issue at the heart of an organization's mission
- Efforts to “plant seeds” of concern, growing awareness and engaging citizens organically
- Finding strength in numbers and harnessing that strength to influence public opinion and government action





WHERE ADVOCACY CAN TAKE PLACE

- **Local:**
 - City council
 - School board
 - Mayor's office
 - Local Business Leaders
 - City/County Chamber of Commerce
 - County Organizations (County JFS, Senior Services, Veteran Services)
- **State:**
 - State legislative body
 - Governor
 - Attorney general
 - State Chamber of Commerce
 - State-level agencies (Medicaid, ODA)
- **Federal:**
 - Congress
 - Fed Agency/regulatory body (USDA, Farmbill, SNAP funding)





- **Social determinants of health (SDOH)** are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.
- **Examples:**
 - Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
 - Racism, discrimination, and violence
 - Education, job opportunities, and income
 - Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities
 - Polluted air and water
 - Language and literacy skills





How is the Mid-Ohio Food Collective Tackling SDoH's?

- Extended Hours
- Farmacy Program
- Healthy Meals prepped by Mid-Ohio Kitchen
- FreshTrak System
- Mid-Ohio Farm



- Food insecurity increases risk of exposure to COVID-19
- Poor health increases susceptibility to COVID-19
- Poverty increases risk of exposure to COVID-19 and inadequate care

FIGURE 1: Linkages Between Food Insecurity, Poverty, and Health During COVID-19

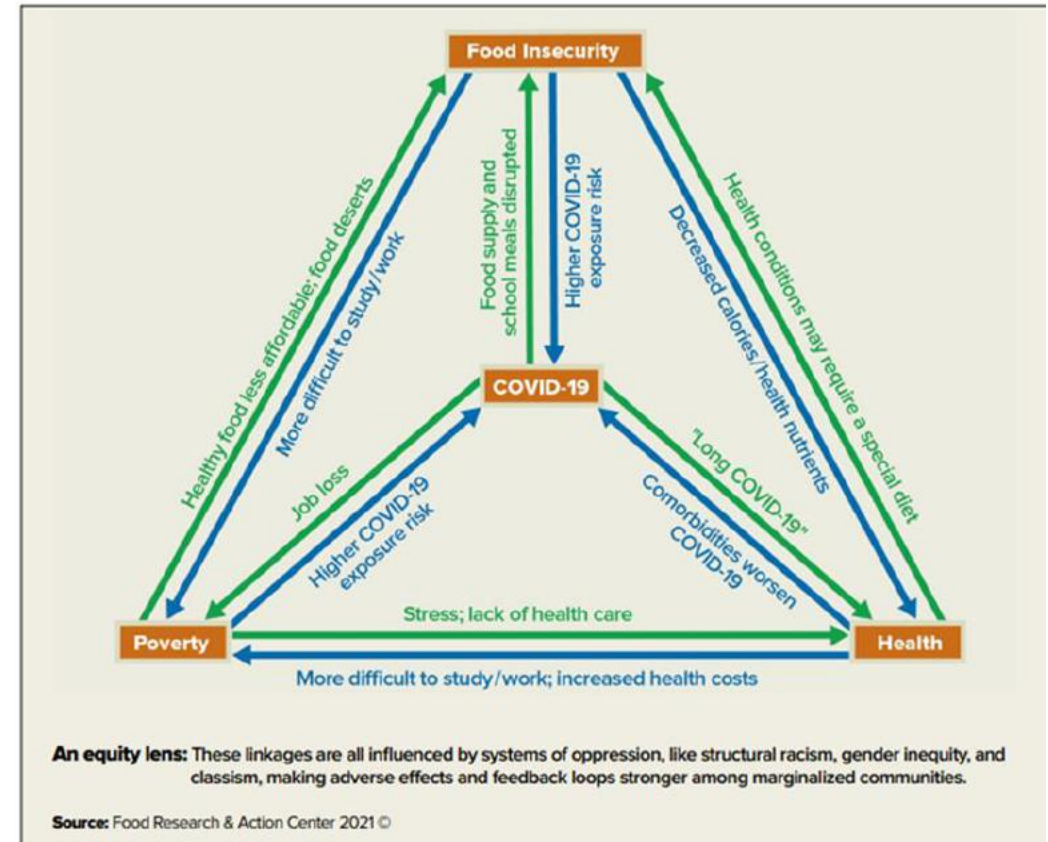


FIGURE 1: Low Income Communities Prior to and During COVID-19

Prior to COVID-19			During COVID-19		
Hunger	Poverty	Health	Hunger	Poverty	Health
Triple the national rates of hunger	2019: 11% of all households were below the official poverty level	High rates of chronic disease	Triple the national rates of hunger	Half of households have difficulty paying for regular expenses and experience slower job recovery	COVID-19 deaths correlated with county-level poverty and with income inequality

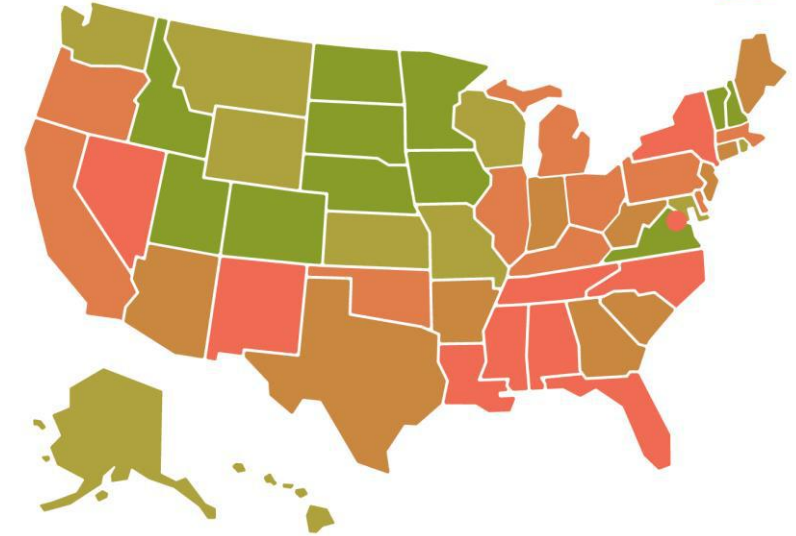
Source: Food Research & Action Center 2021 ©



- Feeding America estimated that 17 million people in the country could become food insecure because of the pandemic, bringing the total to more than 54 million people in the country, including 18 million children

THE STATES WITH THE MOST FOOD INSECURITY DURING COVID-19

BASED ON 8 FACTORS WITH A TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE OF 50



LESS FOOD INSECURITY

MORE FOOD INSECURITY

Alabama	27.0	Kentucky	26.6	North Dakota	15.7
Alaska	22.1	Louisiana	30.2	Ohio	25.1
Arizona	23.3	Maine	22.6	Oklahoma	24.0
Arkansas	23.7	Maryland	18.2	Oregon	23.8
California	25.4	Massachusetts	26.5	Pennsylvania	26.1
Colorado	16.8	Michigan	24.2	Rhode Island	22.2
Connecticut	22.4	Minnesota	17.1	South Carolina	22.5
D.C.	24.4	Mississippi	33.5	South Dakota	15.7
Delaware	31.1	Missouri	18.7	Tennessee	27.7
Florida	28.1	Montana	18.3	Texas	22.4
Georgia	23.0	Nebraska	17.2	Utah	14.4
Hawaii	21.7	Nevada	30.8	Vermont	14.4
Idaho	15.1	New Hampshire	14.6	Virginia	17.7
Illinois	26.3	New Jersey	22.8	Washington	19.6
Indiana	23.3	New Mexico	28.2	West Virginia	23.4
Iowa	12.3	New York	30.2	Wisconsin	18.9
Kansas	21.1	North Carolina	27.6	Wyoming	19.4



State of Hunger, Poverty in Your Region

Ohio

- **496,100** workers live in households that participated in the Food Assistance Program
- **65% +** of SNAP participants are in families with children
- **12.6%** of households were "food insecure," or struggled to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.
- **13.1%** of the population lived below the poverty line.
- **18.4%** of children lived below the poverty line.
- **8.3%** of elderly lived below the poverty line.

Pennsylvania

- **548,400** workers live in households that participated in SNAP
- **61%** of SNAP participants are in families with children
- **10.2%** of households were "food insecure," or struggled to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.
- **12%** of the population lived below the poverty line.
- **16.9%** of children lived below the poverty line.
- **8.3%** of elderly lived below the poverty line.

Michigan

- **461,400** workers live in households that participated in the Food Assistance Program
- **61%** of SNAP participants are in families with children
- **12.2%** of households were "food insecure," or struggled to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.
- **13%** of the population lived below the poverty line.
- **17.6%** of children lived below the poverty line.
- **8.4%** of elderly lived below the poverty line.



STATE PROCESS PRIMER

- BILL PROCESS:
 - Committee to floor to other chamber to Governor
 - Vetoes, non-concurrence and other process swerves
- STATE BUDGET PROCESS:
 - Every two years; Governor to House to Senate to Conference Committee to Governor (who has line item veto power)



FEDERAL PROCESS PRIMER

- BILL PROCESS:
 - Committee to floor to other chamber to President; can go to multiple committees and process swerves
- BUDGET PROCESS:
 - New budget each year – October 1 to September 30 FY
 - Farm Bill lays parameters for funding which is contained in separate budget bill
 - 12 major funding bills for federal government operations



FEDERAL

- COVID-19 Relief – will there be more relief packages?
- Federal Budget: Build Back Better, Child Nutrition Act, Farm Bill
- USDA TEFAP and other program rules – including end of regulatory waivers
- Social Determinants of Health – Medicaid, Housing, Employment





MAKING CONTACT

- How to find Legislator contact info:
<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/>
- E-mail has become primary contact means; phone also works
- Be polite, professional and succinct
- Always end with request to visit your site to see firsthand what you do and the impact on the community!



THE ASK

- Start with who you are: your name, position, organization
- Why you are contacting them: requesting support of increased anti-hunger funding – have specific ask, if there is one!
- Share your experience:
 - Why this issue is important to you
 - What have you seen – include stats (*what changes have you seen in your customer base and service offerings?*)



Discussion

- What are ways that you have participated in advocacy efforts in the past?
- How can MOFC Advocacy team assist?



UPDATES AND RESOURCES

Key websites for updates and advocacy action requests:

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service Newsletter: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/>
- Feeding America: www.feedingamerica.org
- Food Research and Action Council: www.frac.org
- The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: www.cbpp.org
- Mid-Ohio Foodbank: www.midohiofoodbank.org
- Foodbank Advocacy Network (FAN): <https://mofc.org/advocacy/>
- Ohio Association of Foodbanks: www.ohiofoodbanks.org
- The Root Cause Coalition: <https://www.rootcausecoalition.org/>
- Sign onto newsletters, follow on social media!
- Share with others!
- Utilize these resources for advocacy calls-to-action and to educate - tell our story!





THANK YOU

Call on your advocacy team for questions and assistance:

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