

THE Ohio Benefit

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Bank

WHAT IS THE OHIO BENEFIT BANK?

The Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB) is a public-private partnership that provides community outreach and access to low and moderate-income Ohioans for free tax preparation and public benefits. In partnership with the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks and the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the OBB allows eligible Ohioans to claim tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, and public benefits, such as food stamps, child care subsidies, home energy assistance and children's health care insurance.

The Ohio Benefit Bank works with partners, such as community or faith-based organizations, senior service programs, foodbanks or food pantries, health providers, and housing programs in order to customize the outreach programs to community needs. The involvement of faith-based and community groups is particularly important, because these organizations are well-positioned to reach underserved populations who might not access benefits through traditional channels.

THE OHIO BENEFIT BANK IS:

BOOSTING THE OHIO ECONOMY:

- Providing access to nearly \$1.6 billion in aid unclaimed every year in Ohio
- Nearly 95% of these unclaimed tax credits and benefits are federal dollars
- The Ohio Benefit Bank has, since its inception, returned over \$18 million in tax credits & benefits

BOOSTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY:

- Each Benefit Bank site can generate as much as \$600,000
- Benefit Bank clients spend the claimed funds in their local communities
- Spending by Benefit Bank clients has multiplier effects in local economies

BOOSTING LOW AND MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES:

- Eligible clients claim as much as \$6,000 in credits and benefits
- Credits & benefits help families meet basic needs & retain employment
- Assistance by over 2,200 counselors at over 550 sites in 75 counties

WHO IS OASHF?

The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF) represents the 12 Second Harvest foodbanks which distribute food to more than 3,300 member charities, including food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other hunger relief organizations that reach all 88 Ohio counties.

OASHF is a system of strong alliances, and it continually seeks to maintain meaningful partnerships that allow OASHF to help people who are most in need. Relationships with the Ohio Departments of Agriculture, Development and Job and Family Services are rooted in decades of success. One particular program, the Ohio Food Program and Agriculture Clearance Program (OFPACP), has been heralded as one of the most successful public-private partnerships in the state.

OASHF also recognizes that hunger goes hand-in-hand with other issues that can make it difficult to meet the needs of daily life. OASHF is proud to be the lead Ohio agency for a program that acknowledges these difficulties, The Ohio Benefit Bank.

GET INVOLVED!

JOIN THE NETWORK!

Become An Ohio Benefit Bank Site.

The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks is always looking for organizations that may like to become an Ohio Benefit Bank site. The Internet-based software and training are provided free of charge to agencies interested in using The Ohio Benefit Bank. To become an Ohio Benefit Bank site you simply need a computer, a printer, Internet access and a desire to help your neighbor. There is no cost for you to use the software or to participate in training. Contact the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks at 1.800.648.1176 to be connected with a representative near you!

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR!

Volunteer With The Ohio Benefit Bank.

The Ohio Benefit Bank is always looking for dedicated Ohioans that would be willing to help their neighbors. If you are unable to host a site, maybe volunteering at a current Ohio Benefit Bank site is an option. We can train and network you with an Ohio Benefit Bank site near where you work or the community in which you live. The Ohio Benefit Bank is always looking for additional counselors! Contact OASHF at 1.800.648.1176 to find out how you can volunteer to help your neighbors in need.

OPEN YOUR DOORS!

Host A Benefits Or Tax Clinic.

The Ohio Benefit Bank is always looking for organizations that may partner on community-wide enrollment events. Simply, you provide the space and assist with marketing to residents; the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks will provide some of the counselors, wireless laptops, printers, and any additional equipment needed for the event. Clinics are ideal for schools, churches, businesses, and other community events. Get involved! Call the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks at 1.800.648.1176 to learn how you can host a clinic in your neighborhood!

CALL THE OHIO BENEFIT BANK!

1.800.648.1176

THE *Ohio* BENEFIT BANK By the Numbers...

\$18,353,552

**Invested in our community through potential benefits allotments and tax credits in
(July 1, 2006 – March 30, 2008)**

\$8,038,052

**2007 Federal & State Tax Returns completed at
Ohio Benefit Bank Sites**

\$3,390,090

**Earned Income Tax Credits Accessed by Ohio
Benefit Bank customers**

\$2,949,696

**Potential annual food stamp allotments for
applications completed at Ohio Benefit Bank sites**

17,000

Ohio Benefit Bank customers served

2,200

**Ohio Benefit Bank counselors helping their
neighbors as of March 31, 2008**

573

**Ohio Benefit Bank sites that have joined the
network as of March 31, 2008**



The Ohio Benefit Bank is a program of the
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