

**John R. Kasich**  
Governor**Christiane Schmenk**  
Director**For Immediate Release**

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**Governor's Office of Appalachia Provides Grant for a Mobile Food Pantry***Funding will benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley*

**COLUMBUS** – Today, Jason Wilson, Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia, announced that the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley has received a \$17,000 Community Improvement Grant from the State Appalachian Development Program. The grant will help Second Harvest launch its mobile food pantry program in Columbiana County. The State Appalachian Development Program is administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Community Development.

"The mission of the Governor's Office of Appalachia is to strengthen the communities in the region," said Jason Wilson, Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia. "By supporting the Second Harvest Food Bank's mobile food pantry, we are making a difference in the lives of many families and some of our most vulnerable residents."

"We are extremely grateful to Director Wilson and the Governor's Office of Appalachia for their support in implementing a mobile pantry to provide food to residents in Hanover and Franklin Townships in Columbiana County," said Mike Iberis, Executive Director of the Food Bank. "The mobile pantry will reach residents who are currently without access to emergency food assistance. This Community Improvement Grant will help ensure that as winter approaches, our friends and neighbors in these communities will not have to choose between heating their homes and providing food for their families."

The Community Improvement Grant will help the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley purchase a refurbished box truck and equipment that will be used for delivering food to mobile food pantry sites in Columbiana County. The first mobile pantry distribution will take place Thursday, September 13, at Fellowship of the Beloved in Hanoverton in Franklin Township from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and on the second Thursday of each month thereafter. The mobile food pantry program is designed to get food to hungry individuals and families in underserved rural areas and communities that do not have access to one of the Food Bank's member organizations.

The State Appalachian Development Grants provide funding for projects that improve the standard of living for residents of Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties and support the goals of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

**About Ohio's Governor's Office of Appalachia**

*As an advocate for Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties, the Governor's Office of Appalachia works on behalf of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington, D.C. to promote the region's assets and to support local, regional, state, and federal initiatives. These initiatives contribute to the economic, educational, and community prosperity of the people of Ohio's Appalachian region.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to support business attraction and retention efforts by providing targeted investments that assist in job creation, as well as provides assistance and services to Ohio's*

*communities and individuals. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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