# Ashtabula County Convening Meeting Report 

## Overview

As part of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2018 Strategic Plan, staff will convene meetings with hunger relief agencies, community leaders and community organizations in ten communities. The purpose of the meetings is to review existing services, discuss community needs and explore ways to connect food insecure residents to programs and services that will help them become more self-sufficient. Ultimately, the goal is to reduce long-term reliance on charitable food assistance and to shorten the line at local hunger programs.
The first convening meeting was held on June 30, 2016 in Ashtabula County, at the Educational Service Center, in conjunction with Country Neighbor, the Food Bank's partner distribution organization in the county.

## Background Information

Ashtabula County is the $28^{\text {th }}$ most populated county in Ohio, with more than 100,000 people. Children under age 18 comprise $23 \%$ of the population, and seniors age 65 and older make up 16\% of the population (2010-2014 American Community Survey (ACS)). The ACS estimates also tell us that $19 \%$ of the population lives below $100 \%$ of poverty and $43 \%$ of people, or an estimated 41,197 people, are eligible for food assistance. The USDA pantry eligibility for food assistance is $200 \%$ of poverty, which is currently an annual income up to $\$ 40,319$ for a family of 3.

There are more than 16,000 Ashtabula County residents who earn an income between 130\% and $200 \%$ of poverty. This segment of the population makes too much money to be eligible for SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamps. If these residents were to find themselves in need of food assistance, they will need to rely on the network of emergency food assistance programs serving the county.

Maps 1-3, which are in the Appendix, show how the distribution of the population eligible for food assistance has changed between 1999 (pre-recession), 2005-2009 (pre, during and post-recession) and 2010-2014 (post-recession). Currently, there are 34 programs in the county that partner with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to provide food assistance. This has increased from 24 programs in 1999. Table 1, in the Appendix, provides information about how poverty changed in communities since 1999.

Map 4 shows the households that were served by a pantry program that uses the PantryTrak client in-take system. Between May 2015 and April 2016, more than 3,000 Ashtabula County households were served by a pantry program using PantryTrak. To gain the most complete picture of households using the emergency food assistance network, all pantry programs need to be using PantryTrak. Map 4, however, does provide a picture of where households are coming from and areas where there are likely eligible households that are not using emergency food assistance services.

## Selected Data of Interest

Ashtabula County is fortunate to have a number of organizations within the county that are collecting and analyzing information on a regular basis. These groups include the Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, the Health Department, and the Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County. What follows, then, is not a review of all demographic information related to the county, but, some data related to the three largest drivers of food insecurity - housing, employment, and health care/medical - specific to Ashtabula County.

As of February 2016, the unemployment rate in the county is $5.3 \%$, and more than 42,000 people are employed (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics). Production (plastic and metal production, welders, plant operators and technicians) is the largest occupation group. The median wage for this group is $\$ 33,435$, or $165 \%$ of the federal poverty level for a family of three. During the official recession (December 2007 - June 2009), Ashtabula County lost more than 3,000 jobs. Between 2001 and 2014, manufacturing jobs in the county decreased by 2,300 . Chart 1 shows changes in employment and population since 2000.

> Employment and Population in Ashtabula County $$
2000-2016
$$



According to the Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County, the major employers in the county are the Ashtabula County Medical Center (an affiliate of the Cleveland Clinic), Ashtabula County Government, Ashtabula Area City Schools, Cristal Global and Molded Fiber Glass Companies.

For nearly $20 \%$ of the county's population, their health status is rated as poor or fair (CDC, 2014). Ashtabula County ranks poorly on a number of health related factors. Out of Ohio's 88 counties, Ashtabula County ranks as follows on these health-related indicators:

- $10^{\text {th }}$ highest for the percent of uninsured adults ( $18 \%$ ) (Census Bureau, SAHIE, 2013)
- $11^{\text {th }}$ highest for infant mortality ( $8.8 \%$ ) (CDC, 2006-2012)
- $12^{\text {th }}$ highest in limited access to healthy foods (7.8\%) (USDA, 2010)
- $14^{\text {th }}$ highest in deaths from drug overdoses (25.4\%) (CDC, 2012-2014)
- $16^{\text {th }}$ highest in the prevalence of diabetes (12.5\%) (CDC, 2012).

In terms of housing, 85\% of the nearly 46,000 housing units are occupied (2010-2014 American Community Survey). The county is in the top $25 \%$ for housing vacancy. Of the county's households, nearly 1 in 5 had at least one of these four housing problems - severe overcrowding, a lack of complete kitchen facilities, a lack of complete plumbing, and a severe cost burden (2014 County Health Rankings).

In more than half of the renter-occupied housing units (51\%), the housing costs comprise $30 \%$ or more of the household income; this is defined as a cost burden for the household. Only Athens County has a higher percentage of renter-occupied housing units with a cost burden ( $56 \%$ ). If a household is experiencing a housing cost burden, there are likely other items the household does not have the money to purchase. It is possible that food is one of those things. While Ashtabula County ranks $2^{\text {nd }}$ in the state for cost-burdened renteroccupied units, they also rank $12^{\text {th }}$ in the state for cost burdened owner-occupied housing units (2010-2014 American Community Survey). Chart 2 illustrates the situation for both owners and renters.

Housing Costs in Ashtabula County


It is also important to note that child poverty in Ashtabula County is $27 \%$, or $26^{\text {th }}$ highest in the state (2010-2014 American Community Survey). In 27 of the 35 schools in Ashtabula County, at least $50 \%$ of the students qualify for free and reduced price lunch. Nutrition assistance for children is critical in reducing poor health outcomes in the short- and longterm. Food insecurity is associated with a higher risk of fair or poor health status and hospitalizations among children. Children from food insecure households are also twothirds more likely to experience developmental risk than their food secure counterparts.

## Ashtabula County Resources

As with the data collection and dissemination, the collaborative nature of the county is also evident with the network of service providers. The Ashtabula County Community Action Agency collects information on the needs of county residents. In 2014 and 2015, the top three needs were related to utility assistance, housing assistance and food assistance. Callers to 211, the county's information and referral service, were most often referred to the Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County and the Salvation Army. At 211, someone is available 24 hours, 7 days a week to connect people to resources.

At the convening meeting, more than 40 representatives from 20 community groups were present. Table 2 lists resources that are available in the community, and Map 5 shows their distribution. People can also visit http://communityaction.wix.com/accaa\#!2-1-1-ashtabulacounty/cnte for resources. Additionally, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank’s Help Center can also help connect people to resources. People can reach the Help Center Mondays - Fridays from 8 AM to 5 PM at 216-738-2067, or toll free at 855-738-2067. The convening meeting gave people the opportunity to learn about a variety of organizations and services that are available.

Judith Barris provided an overview of the health and nutrition services that the Ashtabula County Community Action Agency provides. These services include WIC, breastfeeding education, congregate meal sites for seniors, Meals on Wheels, and speech and hearing services. Additional information about the Ashtabula County Community Action Agency can be found at communityaction.wix.com/accaa.

Harry Corbissero spoke about Goodwill Industries' work with people who have barriers and disabilities. People get referred to Goodwill from Job and Family Services and other rehabilitation programs. Participants in Goodwill's programming get work experience through Goodwill stores, and the profit from the stores helps to fund Goodwill's programming. More information about Goodwill can be found at goodwillreadytowork.org.

Jeff Seth, from Ashtabula County Technical \& Career Campus (A-Tech), provided an overview of A-Tech's wealth of programming, which includes high school, evening and adult education programs, literacy classes, and the youth opportunities program. Since transportation to programming can be a barrier, A-Tech offers services throughout Ashtabula County. More information about A-Tech can be found at atech.edu.

Lynn Zalewski spoke about the housing assistance that Catholic Charities provides. These services include mortgage delinquency assistance, rent assistance, and financial literacy. Self-sufficiency is the goal for everyone who is served. For more information about the programs of Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County, visit ccdoy.org/locations/catholic-charities-of-ashtabula-county/.

## Greater Cleveland Food Bank

During the final portion of the convening meeting, Country Neighbor's Barb Klingensmith moderated a discussion about the additional programs that are needed. There was some conversation about how to reach people that can't get to the service. It is very important to identify the isolated individual and get assistance to them. The conversation included children, as well as seniors. Barb challenged people to think outside the box to figure out how to get to people.

## Next Steps

Before the meeting concluded, Barb also challenged people to make sure that the conversations about connecting food insecure residents to programs and services that will help them become more self-sufficient continue to move forward. A realistic next step is for Country Neighbor to collect different materials about available resources. Diane Bradbury will then distribute these resources to Country Neighbor's partners to make sure that these programs have information on site to distribute to the people coming for food assistance.

In addition, it will be important for all pantry programs to start using PantryTrak for client intake. Continued data analysis can help to identify areas where additional food assistance programs are needed. The Food Bank and Country Neighbor can continue to work together to identify programs and services that will assist Ashtabula's residents on the path to increased self-sufficiency.

## Map 1. Hunger Relief Programs in Ashtabula County, 1999

Number of Programs

- 1 (15 locations)

2 (3 locations)

- 3 (1 location)
\% Eligible for Hunger Relief

|  | Less than $20 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | 20 to $29 \%$ |
| 30 to $39 \%$ |  |
| $40 \%$ and Over |  |

Types of Programs:
Hot Meals: 4
Other Programs: 5
Pantries: 12
Partner Distribution Organizations: 1

Notes:

1. Poverty data are mapped for census tracts and are from Census 2000.
2. $200 \%$ of poverty is the USDA pantry eligibility criteria to receive assistance from hunger relief programs.
3. A Domestic Violence Shelter is not shown on the map.
4. Programs are subject to change.
5. Map prepared by Kristen Mikelbank, the Greater


## Map 2. Hunger Relief Programs in Ashtabula County, 2009

| Number of Programs | \% Eligibile for Hunger Relief |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 (11 locations) | 20 to $29 \%$ |
| 2 (4 locations) | 30 to $39 \%$ |
| 3 (3 locations) |  |

## Types of Programs:

## Notes:

1. Poverty data are mapped for census tracts and are estimates from the 2005-2009 American Community Survey.
2. $200 \%$ of poverty is the USDA pantry eligibility criteria to receive assistance from hunger relief programs.
3. A Domestic Violence Shelter is not shown on the map.


## Map 3. Hunger Relief Programs in Ashtabula County, 2016

Number of Programs

- 1 (16 locations)

\% Eligible for Hunger Relief
$\square$ 20 to $29 \%$ 30 to $39 \%$ $40 \%$ and Over

Types of Programs:
BackPack Programs: 1 Partner Distribution Organizations: 1
Daycare Programs: 1 School Pantries: 1
Hot Meals: 4
Mobile Pantries: 7
Pantries: 16

Senior Programs: 1
Shelters: 2
Total Programs: 34

Notes:

1. Poverty data are mapped for census tracts and are estimates from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey.
2. $200 \%$ of poverty is the USDA pantry eligibility criteria to receive assistance from hunger relief programs.
3. A Domestic Violence Shelter is not shown on the map.
4. Programs are subject to change.
5. Map prepared by Kristen Mikelbank, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.


[^0]June 2016

## Map 4. Households Served by Programs Using PantryTrak, May 2015 - April 2016

$\diamond$ Households Served
\% Eligible for Hunger Relief
$\square$ 20 to $29 \%$ 30 to $39 \%$ $40 \%$ and Over

## Notes:

1. Poverty data are mapped for census tracts and are estimates from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey.
2. $200 \%$ of poverty is the USDA pantry eligibility criteria

In the last 12 months, 3,172 unduplicated households ( 8,982 people) living in
Ashtabula County were served by 60 partner programs in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake Counties.



| Table 2. Selected Resources in Ashtabula County |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (sorted by Name) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Name | Address | City | ZIP | Phone | Category |
| Ashtabula County Technical and Career Campus (A-Tech) | 1565 State Route 167 | Jefferson | 44047 | 440-576-6015 | Multiple |
| Ashtabula County Transportation System | 2924 Donahoe Drive | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-1110 | Other |
| Ashtabula County VA Clinic | 2044 Lambros Lane | Ashtabula | 44004 | 866-463-0912 | Health Care |
| Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission | 1212 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-964-8429 | Multiple |
| Ashtabula County WIC Program | 3225 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-7515 | Health Care |
| Ashtabula County YMCA | 263 West Prospect Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-997-5321 | Other |
| Ashtabula Dream Center | 604 West 57th Street | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-3732 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Ashtabula Foundation | 4510 Collins Boulevard | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-6818 | Other |
| Ashtabula Head Start | 4510 Main Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-993-7716 | Other |
| Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority | 3526 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-3156 | Housing |
| Ashtabula Regional Home Health Services | 3949 Jefferson Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-942-4663 | Health Care |
| Ashtabula Senior Center (Council on Aging) | 4632 Main Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-6750 | Multiple |
| Ashtabula Towers | 325 West 48th Street | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-6661 | Housing |
| Bair Foundation | 5021 State Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-1453 | Other |
| Beatitude House | 3404 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-0265 | Housing |
| Burns Kid College | 4314 Main Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-993-1121 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Carington Park (Nursing Home) | 2217 West Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-964-8446 | Health Care |
| Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County | 4200 Park Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-2121 | Multiple |
| City of Geneva Fair Housing Program | 44 North Forest Street | Geneva | 44041 | 440-466-4675 | Housing |
| Cleveland Clinic - Ashtabula County Medical Center | 2420 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-997-2262 | Health Care |
| Community Action - Austinburg Road | 6920 Austinburg Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-997-1721 | Multiple |
| Community Action - Donahoe | 2900 C Court | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-536-4176 | Multiple |
| Community Action - Lake Avenue | 3225 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-997-5957 | Multiple |
| Community Action - Main Avenue | 4510 Main Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-993-7716 | Multiple |
| Community Action - Mall | 3315 North Ridge Road East | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-261-9721 | Multiple |
| Community Counseling Center of Ashtabula County | 2801 C Court | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-4210 | Health Care |
| Conneaut Apartments | 232 Harbor Street | Conneaut | 44030 | 440-593-6338 | Housing |



| Table 2. Selected Resources in Ashtabula County |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (sorted by Name) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Name | Address | City | ZIP | Phone | Category |
| Infinity Resources | 225 Broad Street | Conneaut | 44030 | 440-599-8333 | Employment |
| Infinity Resources | 2608 West Prospect Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-6515 | Employment |
| Infinity Resources | 34 S Chestnut Street | Jefferson | 44047 | 440-994-9600 | Employment |
| Jefferson Community Center | 11 Jefferson Street | Jefferson | 44047 | 440-576-9052 | Multiple |
| Jefferson WIC Clinics | 125 East Jefferson Street | Jefferson | 44047 | 440-576-6911 | Health Care |
| Kelly Services | 4538 Main Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-2189 | Employment |
| Kent State University - Ashtabula | 3300 Lake Road West | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-964-3322 | Other |
| Lake Area Recovery Center | 2801 C Court | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-0722 | Health Care |
| Legal Aid Society of Cleveland - Jefferson Office | 121 East Walnut Street | Jefferson | 44047 | 440-576-3021 | Other |
| Lend a Hand Food Pantry | 615 West Prospect | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-9392 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Lighthouse Harvest | 2710 State Road North | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-7813 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Manna Project | 89 East Satin Street | Jefferson | 44047 | 440-576-0931 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Mary's Kitchen (at Conneaut Human Resources Center) | 327 Mill Street | Conneaut | 44030 | 440-593-5273 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Mature Services (serves Ashtabula, Cuyahoga (east side), Geauga, Lake and Portage Counties) | 415 South Portage Path | Akron | 44320 | 330-253-4597 | Employment |
| Minute Men Staffing Services - Conneaut | 1370 Chamberlain Road | Conneaut | 44030 | 440-593-8161 | Employment |
| Net Staff | 3705 State Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-0440 | Employment |
| Ohio Benefit Bank - Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County | 4200 Park Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-2121 | Multiple |
| Ohio Means Jobs Ashtabula County | 2247 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-994-1234 | Employment |
| OSU Extension - Ashtabula County | 39 Wall Street | Jefferson | 44047 | 440-576-9008 | Multiple |
| Our Lady of Peace (St. Vincent de Paul) | 3312 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-0330 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Pierpont Presbyterian Church | 71 State Route 7 South | Pierpont | 44082 | 440-577-1218 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Plymouth United Methodist Church | 970 Plymouth Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-0260 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Pymatuning Community Church | 6459 State Route 7 | Andover | 44003 | 440-293-7878 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Rae-Ann STNA Training Program | 839 West Main Street | Geneva | 44041 | 440-466-5733 | Employment |
| Ridgeview Terrace | 2400 East 38th Street | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-2400 | Housing |
| Samaritan House | 4125 Station Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-3178 | Housing |


| Table 2. Selected Resources in Ashtabula County |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (sorted by Name) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Name | Address | City | ZIP | Phone | Category |
| Senior Employment Center - Division of Mature Services | 3441 North Ridge Road West | Ashtabula | 44004 | 855-237-3174 | Employment |
| Senior Veterans Housing | 2111 West Prospect Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-8787 | Housing |
| Signature Health - Ashtabula | 4726 Main Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-8552 | Health Care |
| South Ridge Village | 5778 Dibble Road | Kingsville Township | 44048 | 440-992-3156 | Housing |
| Spherion | 2055 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-997-0000 | Employment |
| SPIDERWEB | 133 East Jefferson Street | Jefferson | 44047 | 440-576-4547 | Other |
| St. Joseph Emergency and Diagnostic Center | 476 South Main Street | Andover | 44003 | 440-293-6111 | Health Care |
| St. Peter's Episcopal Church | 4901 Main Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-8100 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Supported Employment Service - Ashtabula County of Developmental Disabilities | 5959 Green Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-335-1671 | Employment |
| Terra Quest | 2400 East 38th Street | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-2400 | Housing |
| The ARC of Ohio - Ashtabula County (Development Disabilities) | 350 West Prospect Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-997-3026 | Employment |
| The Reserves Network | 2311 West Prospect Road | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-3605 | Employment |
| The Reserves Network | 768 S Broadway | Geneva | 44041 | 440-998-3605 | Employment |
| The Salvation Army | 3527 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-0276 | Multiple |
| United Way of Ashtabula County | 2801 C Court | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-998-4141 | Multiple |
| University Hospitals - Ashtabula Health Center | 2131 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-992-0759 | Health Care |
| University Hospitals - Conneaut Medical Center | 158 West Main Road | Conneaut | 44030 | 440-593-1131 | Health Care |
| University Hospitals - Geneva Medical Center | 870 West Main Street | Geneva | 44041 | 440-466-1141 | Health Care |
| University Hospitals - Jefferson Primary Care | 38 Dorset Road | Jefferson | 44047 | 440-576-4455 | Health Care |
| Veterans Affairs Ashtabula Clinic | 1230 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula | 44004 | 866-463-0912 | Health Care |
| Vocational Guidance Services | 1 Victoria Square | Painesville | 44077 | 440-350-7256 | Employment |
| Volunteers of Geneva (St. John's Lutheran Church) | 811 South Broadway Avenue | Geneva | 44041 | 440-466-2473 | Hunger Relief Partner |
| Wellness and Total Learning Center | 715 West 30th Street | Ashtabula | 44004 | 440-997-5353 | Health Care |

## Map 5. Poverty \& Selected Resources in Ashtabula County

| H | Health Care (24) | $\bigcirc$ | Hunger Relief Partner (16) |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- |
| A | Employment (24) | 米 | Multiple Services (27) |
| $\square$ | Housing (22) | $\searrow$ | Other Services (9) |

\% Eligible for Hunger Relief
$\square$ 20 to $29 \%$
30 to $39 \%$
$40 \%$ and Over
Notes:

1. Poverty data are mapped for census tracts and are estimates from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey.
2. $200 \%$ of poverty is the USDA pantry eligibility criteria to receive assistance from hunger relief programs.
3. Resources are listed in the related table and are subject to change.
4. Three resources are located outside Ashtabula County and are not shown on the map, along with a Domestic Violence Shelter and 2 sites with a PO Box for an address.
5. Map prepared by Kristen Mikelbank, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.


[^0]:    Greater Cleveland Food Bank

