



# **A Reality Check: It's Time for Leadership!! Rally to Protect Funding for Basic Needs!!**

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 12 noon

Statehouse Lawn, downtown Columbus

## **NOW IS THE TIME TO HAVE YOUR VOICES HEARD!**

Basic services – Food, Child Care, Health Care, After School programs, Financial Aid Programs for College – are about to be cut from the State Budget. Ohio's most vulnerable populations have lost their jobs, their homes, and now they might lose even more!

### **IT'S TIME TO TAKE A STAND AND DEMAND A FAIR BUDGET FROM OUR LEGISLATORS!**

- Growing numbers of Ohioans are standing in line at a food pantry for the first time in their lives.
- Over the last year the demand for food at Ohio food pantries has increased 29%. Demand for basic services are at record levels.
- At the same time, 10% of food charities have had to close their doors. Many more are teetering on the edge, while others are rationing food to hungry families.
- Ohio will not survive if it allows hunger to grow at rates that limits a child's ability to learn and hinders an adult's ability to earn.

**The Ohio Senate may REMOVE all the health and human services funding in the recently passed House Bill 1, the 2010/2011 State Budget Bill.**

#### **What's at stake?**

- **Emergency food assistance programs for all Ohioans**
- **Health care for uninsured adults**
- **Health care for Ohio's children**
- **Reduced financial aid and scholarship programs for college students**
- **Child care services for children**
- **After-school programs for school-aged children**
- **Kinship supportive services for children**
- **Care for uninsured adults at community health centers**
- **Services for abused and neglected children**
- **Home nurse visits for at-risk infants**
- **Services for people with mental illnesses**
- **Community services for senior citizens**
- **Waiver slots for persons with developmental disabilities**

**You support increasing revenues to protect health and human services from further cuts as well as restoring critical funding to these programs. Ohioans are counting on Legislators to lead us through this crisis by making smart choices and putting revenue ideas on the table during these budget debates to lay the groundwork for a better economic future.**

For more, contact: <http://www.protectohio.org/> or <http://www.oashf.org>. The Campaign to Protect Ohio's Future is a coalition of health, human services, education organizations seeking to protect Ohio's most vulnerable citizens by restoring or adequately funding vital services through a responsible budget that has as its primary priority to meet basic human needs and provide sufficient funds to invest in Ohio's future.