

For immediate release

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### **Sign-ups planned for federal food program for seniors**

Senior citizens currently participating in the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in the Hamilton area have an opportunity to apply for another year of assistance.

The annual sign-up for seniors living in Hamilton, Fairfield, New Miami, West Chester and surrounding areas will be held Wednesday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the lobby of the Chaco Credit Union office at Third and Court Streets in downtown Hamilton.

“We currently have about 600 seniors in the greater Hamilton area who receive a 35-pound box of federal commodities each month, but they’re required to re-apply every March to continue participating in CSFP,” said Steve Cox, who coordinates the program for Shared Harvest Foodbank in Fairfield.

The program is open to senior citizens age 60 and over whose income is at or below 130% of the poverty level. The monthly box of nutritious food is designed to supplement their normal grocery shopping.

Cox said while the signups on March 25 involve people currently participating in CSFP, other seniors are welcome to apply to determine eligibility for the program, “However, we currently have a waiting list of about 100 people in Butler County,” Cox added.

In 2008, CSFP served 1,236 seniors each month in Butler, Warren and Preble Counties, providing nearly 415,000 pounds of federal commodities. The program enters its seventh year in 2009.