



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-01021

Agenda Date: 12/10/2025

Agenda Item Name:

Food Assistance Update and Food System Initiatives

Presenter:

Bailey McClellan, Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator
Alachua County Tourism & Economic Development

Description:

Joint Board Update on the shared emergency food assistance efforts and updates on Alachua County's food system initiatives.

Recommended Action:

Hear presentation.

Prior Board Motions:

At the Alachua County Commission's December 2, 2025 Special Meeting, **Commissioner Prizzia moved** the following:

1. To expand eligibility from SNAP recipients to persons experiencing food insecurity.
2. Authorize the purchase of coolers for any of the resource centers that wish to use the commercial units with a cap of \$5,000.
3. Extend the December 31, 2025, deadline to allow the expenditure of the total amount of funds available.

2nd Commissioner Alford

The motion carried 5-0.

At the Regular Alachua County Commission Meeting on November 4, 2025, **Commissioner Prizzia moved** the following:

1. To authorize \$100,000.00 to Bread of the Almighty right now to supplement their emergency food assistance program buying healthy staple food products for a balanced diet. Not sugary beverages and candy but rice, pasta, beans and canned vegetables.
2. To authorize \$100,000.00 to the farmer's markets for their SNAP Voucher Programs that are able to stand up fresh food voucher programs for SNAP eligible recipients and our family resource centers providing fresh fruit and vegetables that they can then get out into the community to supplement the emergency food assistance that they are that is shelf stable. The resource centers could get infrastructure such as coolers and then purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. These centers are in Micanopy, High Springs, Hawthorne, SWAG, and One Community Resource Center. There are at least 6 centers.
3. Authorize a Chair Letter to the City of Gainesville to match the Bread of the Almighty Food Bank

funding and the Children's Trust of Alachua County to match the fresh fruits and vegetables funding. 4. The funding is to come from Revenue Recovery Funds and ask staff to come forward as soon as possible with additional recommendations on food assistance opportunities.

2nd Commissioner Alford

The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Prizzia moved to give authority to the County Manager to spend the \$200,000.00 previously authorized for food programs which exceeds her usual authority of \$50,000.00. The motion carried 5-0

2nd Commissioner Alford

Fiscal Note:

\$200,000 in Unallocated Revenue Recovery Funds are being used for emergency food assistance.

Revenue Recovery Fund: 052.00.0064.564.83.00 – Grants and Aids

Strategic Guide:

Social and Economic Opportunity

Background:

Executive Summary: Food Assistance Update and Food System Initiatives

This presentation provides an update on the County's **\$200,000 emergency food assistance program** authorized by the BOCC in November 2025. The initial funding was split to allocate \$100,000 for healthy staple foods distributed by Bread of the Mighty Food Bank and \$100,000 for acquiring fresh produce through local farms (Frog Song Organics) and supporting SNAP voucher programs at local farmers markets.

Following December 2, 2025, County Special Meeting motion, the program was expanded to include **all people experiencing food insecurity** and authorized funding for infrastructure improvements, including **coolers for Family Resource Centers**, with the expenditure deadline removed to ensure the full utilization of available funds.

Beyond this emergency relief, staff will also provide updates on Alachua County's efforts to strengthen the local food system. Key initiatives include the **Fresh Food Pathways Project (Food Hub Feasibility Study)** aimed at connecting small farms to institutional buyers, the **Alachua County Small Farmer Grant Program** (supporting 79 farms since FY21), and **Workforce Development** supporting food entrepreneurs. These and other strategic projects leverage the County's position as a regional leader in farm growth, emphasizing agricultural land conservation and collaborative efforts with partners with UF/IFAS Alachua County Extension to build a resilient food economy.