



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3055

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

For a \$23M Food Bank facility renovation (106,000 sq. ft.) that will near-double the size of Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL), the regional food bank, a new 125 foot X 60 foot cooler and freezer (ea. 7,500 sq. ft.) will offer storage for 600 pallets (equal to 30 semi-truckloads: produce, juice, frozen meat, prepared foods, etc.), for distributions to 325+ local food pantries and feeding programs, and will increase our capacity as a Disaster First Responder (food, water) during hurricanes and emergencies. Two (2) smaller warehouses (45,000 sq. ft.) will be replaced: 1) an aging cold storage facility (costly/hazardous ammonia plant); and, 2) warehouse w/ small cooler ONLY that is dependent on costly leased outdoor freezer trailers. Serving 254,000 people spread across 12 Florida counties, FNEFL seeks this appropriation to help us grow to meet increased food insecurity within our Florida service area (8,300 square miles).

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

| Type of Funding | Amount |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Operations | 0 |
| Fixed Capital Outlay | 2,000,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested | 2,000,000 |

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

| Type of Funding | Amount | Percentage |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Total State Funds Requested (from question #6) | 2,000,000 | 100% |
| Matching Funds | | |
| Federal | 0 | 0% |
| State (excluding the amount of this request) | 0 | 0% |
| Local | 0 | 0% |
| Other | 0 | 0% |
| Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 | 2,000,000 | 100% |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

| Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy) | Amount | | Specific Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|--------|
| | Recurring | Nonrecurring | | |
| | | | | |

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



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The regional food bank would need the assistance of major gift donors, who are few in number and, for the most part, have already provided generous donations to help expand the food bank. As the cooler-freezer represents a critical need in feeding the 254,000 food insecure children, adults, and seniors in our 12-county service area, and as all building and renovations must be completed in early 2024 such that we can quickly take occupancy, we are requesting Senate approval of this appropriation.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Yes - the PPP loan received 4/16/2020 for \$341,052.00 would have been used to help cover staff wages, salaries, and benefits compensation during the pandemic.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

President and CEO Susan King is a former Finance/Audit Chair, serving on the Board for 5 years, who was voted by the Board into the executive position in 2019. She was the Executive Director of the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry, a community food bank, which produced and conducted client-select food pantries for the first time in Northeast Florida, utilizing Registered Dietitians on-staff. She also has work experience in accounting and commercial real estate.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

| Spending Category | Description | Amount |
|---|-------------|--------|
| Administrative Costs: | | |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits | | 0 |
| Other Salary and Benefits | | 0 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | | 0 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | | 0 |
| Operational Costs: Other | | |
| Salary and Benefits | | 0 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | | 0 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | | 0 |
| Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation: | | |



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| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering | Funds will purchase and see fully installed a regional food bank warehouse cold dock (50' L X 60' W); a cooler (125' L X 60' W X 18'9" H); and, a freezer (125' X 60' X 18'9"). Parts and equipment will include panels (450 - 5" urethane panels); refrigeration equipment including 2 condensing units, 4 cooler evaporators, 2 freezer evaporators, and 6 electronic thermostats; concrete pads for equipment; a concrete freezer floor (5-inches thick, 4,000 lbs.); equipment heaters for the insulated floors; | 2,000,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6) | | 2,000,000 |

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

As part of a \$23M regional Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL) facility renovation (106,000 sq. ft.) of a former 120,000 sq. ft. window factory in Jac (Duval), Florida, a new 125' X 60' cooler and freezer (ea. 7,500 sq. ft.) will near double our size. Able to receive and deliver 600 pallets (equal to 30 semi-truckloads of food) for distributions serving 400+ food pantries and hunger programs in 12 counties, the food bank is also a disaster first responder, providing food and water to counties impacted by hurricanes and emergencies. FNEFL also ships food to our remote food bank warehouse in Gainesville.

This renovation will close 2 smaller food warehouses (65,000 sq. ft.), replacing antiquated refrigeration that is too costly to operate and maintain: 1) a 20,000 sq. ft. warehouse with only a small cooler and no freezer dependent on 3 leased outdoor freezer trailers; and, 2) an aging cold storage facility relying on an outdated, costly, and potentially hazardous ammonia plant.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Supporting 254,000 food insecure people, Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL) food source will bring in increased produce, deli, frozen meat/proteins, milk, juice, prepared foods/meals, etc. donated through retail and farm partnerships to take advantage of this combined 250' X 60' dedicated cooler/freezer space, supplementing a 250' X 60' space for canned/dry foods, to increase both our standard food distributions and emergency distributions as a disaster first responder. The two massive forklift accessible 125' X 60' cooler and freezer spaces will connect directly by cold dock to expedite our food handling speed in receiving and loading box trucks and tractor trailers to fill food pantry orders, stock our own corner market trailers and mobile pantries, and stock refrigerated box trucks and tractor trailers that will transport product to our branch Bread of the Mighty Food Bank warehouse in Gainesville as more food is needed to support Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union counties.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The cooler and freezer will increase the capacity of the food bank to receive and store refrigerated and frozen foods donated by big box stores, supermarket chains, farms, and coops that would otherwise expire and go to landfill. These foods are then distributed to feed many tens of thousands of food insecure people who depend on our partnering food pantries and the clients they serve. The data supports that people want more refrigerated and frozen foods over dry/canned foods. Refrigerated foods can include fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables, dairy, deli meats, orange juice, milk, etc. Frozen foods can include beef, chicken, seafood, and prepared dinners/meals. With the food bank granting coolers and freezers to food pantries to increase their capacity, they can then receive and distribute more cooler and freezer foods directly to the public. Similarly, our own corner markets and mobile pantries deliver refrigerated/frozen foods directly to low-income food desert neighborhoods.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Serving 12 counties (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Levy, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, and Union) in northeast and central Florida, the target population of people to be served including children, adults, seniors on low fixed incomes, active duty military (18%) and veteran households, the unemployed, low income single moms (24%) and dads (16%), and the disabled (15%) or homebound, who are facing meal gaps and designated as food insecure, totals 254,000. They come from all walks of life, with most working one or more jobs, but who remain financially unable to make ends meet due to inflation and rising costs of food, rent, utilities, transportation, medications and other rising costs of living. For retired seniors, veterans, or the disabled living on low fixed incomes, a 3.2% increase in social security for 2024 is not enough to meet the high costs of living. Often forced to reduce their food budgets to meet other needs, meal gaps lead to greater health risks.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will



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be measured?

With a larger cooler and freezer, the food bank can increase the donated food pounds from the facility distributed to feed those children, adults, and seniors in need. Everything for us is measured in pounds of food moving in and out of the facility. The increased food storage capacity and greater food handling efficiencies (more staff, more trucks) the larger facility provides will lead to greater numbers of low income, food insecure people who are fed and able to transition back to food security and better health. The new cooler/freezer will see the equivalent of 30 tractor trailers of food regularly moving in and out of the 250' X 60' X 18' 9" compartments, supporting the hungry. Food will be fresher and taste better, providing more nutrients to support good health. Every pound moving in and out of Feeding Northeast Florida's facility will be tracked through our NetSuite Inventory Database and WAERlinx Warehouse Management system.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

The Food Bank cannot operate without the inclusion of the refrigeration and freezer compartments. They will be constructed and operational with the grand opening of the building in early to mid-2024.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

For Profit Entity

Non Profit 501(c)(3)

Non Profit 501(c)(4)

Local Entity

University or College

Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name



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c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number