

Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Pittman and Gaffney, Jr.:

**ORDINANCE 2025-858-W**

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE "SNAP GAP RELIEF ACT";  
APPROPRIATING \$2,000,000, INCLUDING \$1,000,000  
FROM A SPECIAL COUNCIL RESERVE CONTINGENCY  
ACCOUNT CREATED BY ORDINANCE 2025-385-E AND  
\$1,000,000 FROM GENERAL FUND OPERATING RESERVES,  
TO THE FEEDING NORTHEAST FLORIDA - SUBSIDIES AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRIVATE ORG ACCOUNT, TO PROVIDE  
FUNDING TO REGIONAL FOOD BANK OF NORTHEAST  
FLORIDA, INC. D/B/A FEEDING NORTHEAST FLORIDA  
("FNEFL") FOR THE PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
FOOD TO DUVAL COUNTY RESIDENTS, SUBJECT TO  
CERTAIN CONDITIONS AS DESCRIBED HEREIN;  
PROVIDING FOR REVERTER; WAIVING SECTION 118.107  
(NONPROFITS TO RECEIVE FUNDING THROUGH A  
COMPETITIVE EVALUATED AWARD PROCESS; WAIVER AND  
DISCLOSURES), PART 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS),  
CHAPTER 118 (CITY GRANTS), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO  
ALLOW FOR A DIRECT CONTRACT WITH FNEFL;  
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO  
NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH FNEFL TO CARRY OUT  
THE PURPOSES OF THIS ORDINANCE AND FURTHER  
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HER DESIGNEE, AND THE  
CORPORATION SECRETARY TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ON  
BEHALF OF THE CITY A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AND FNEFL AS DESCRIBED  
HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR OVERSIGHT BY THE  
NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT; REQUESTING EMERGENCY

PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, more than 50,000 Duval County households rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits and similar federally funded food assistance programs to feed their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government shutdown has resulted in the suspension, partial suspension or delay of SNAP benefit and other food assistance payments, resulting in an immediate and significant rise in food insecurity among some of Duval County's most vulnerable populations and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation, entitled the "SNAP Gap Relief Act", is intended to make City funding available on an emergency basis for the purchase and distribution of nutritional foods to Duval County residents, with a particular focus on residents who are current SNAP recipients; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to make these funds available to ensure Jacksonville residents do not go hungry due to delays or reductions in federally administered food assistance programs while the United States Legislature and President continue to work toward a solution to end the shutdown; now therefore

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

**Section 1. Appropriation.** For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, within the City's budget, there is hereby appropriated the indicated sum(s) from the account(s) listed in subsection (a) to the account(s) listed in subsection (b):

(The account information is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated herein by this reference)

(a) Appropriated from:

See **Exhibit 1**

\$2,000,000

(b) Appropriated to:

See **Exhibit 1**

\$2,000,000

(c) Explanation of Appropriation:

The funding above is an appropriation of \$2,000,000, including \$1,000,000 from a Special Council Reserve Contingency account created by Ordinance 2025-385-E and \$1,000,000 from General Fund Operating Reserves, to the Feeding Northeast Florida - Subsidies and Contributions to Private Org account, to provide funding to Regional Food Bank of Northeast Florida, Inc. d/b/a Feeding Northeast Florida ("FNEFL") for the purchase and distribution of food to Duval County residents, subject to the conditions outlined herein.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of the appropriation in Section 1 is to provide City funding to FNEFL for the purchase and distribution of food to Duval County residents facing food insecurity. FNEFL shall be the sole entity authorized to purchase food (including costs for freight) for this initiative and to seek reimbursement from the City for such purchases, but FNEFL may partner with other entities for distribution of said food throughout Duval County.

FNEFL is authorized to retain a maximum of five percent (5%) of the funds reimbursed from the City to cover its administrative costs to oversee this initiative up to a maximum amount of \$100,000. Reimbursements may be requested in amounts of up to \$250,000 per request and there is no limit on the number of reimbursement requests FNEFL may submit. The City will reimburse a maximum of \$33,333 (inclusive of any funds retained for administrative costs as outlined above) per day for this initiative. The City funds appropriated herein will remain available for reimbursement for a period of 60 days from the effective date of this Ordinance or until the federal government shutdown has ceased, whichever occurs first.

1           **Section 3.           Reverter.** The funds appropriated herein shall  
2 remain available for the purposes described herein for a period of  
3 60 days from the effective date of this Ordinance at which time any  
4 funds remaining shall revert to the account(s) of origin. However,  
5 FNEFL shall have up to 120 days from the effective date of this  
6 Ordinance to submit requests for reimbursement as outlined herein.

7           **Section 4.           Waiver of Section 118.107, Ordinance Code.** The  
8 provisions of Section 118.107 (Nonprofits to receive funding through  
9 a competitive evaluated award process; waiver and disclosures), Part  
10 1 (General Provisions), Chapter 118 (City Grants), *Ordinance Code*,  
11 are hereby waived to allow for a direct contract with FNEFL. This  
12 waiver is justified because FNEFL has indicated it has the staff and  
13 processes in place to administer this initiative. FNEFL has provided  
14 the Affidavit of Disclosure required by subsection 118.107(b)(2),  
15 *Ordinance Code*, attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** and incorporated herein  
16 by this reference.

17           **Section 5.           Authorization to Negotiate and Execute.** The  
18 Mayor, or her designee, is hereby authorized to negotiate, execute  
19 and deliver on behalf of the City, and the Corporation Secretary is  
20 authorized to execute, a grant agreement with Regional Food Bank of  
21 Northeast Florida, Inc. d/b/a Feeding Northeast Florida, in an amount  
22 not-to-exceed \$2,000,000, subject to the conditions outlined in this  
23 Ordinance and the provisions of Chapter 118, Parts 1 through 5,  
24 *Ordinance Code*, and all other contracts and documents, including  
25 extensions, renewals and amendments to the agreement, and to otherwise  
26 take all action necessary to effectuate the intent of this Ordinance,  
27 subject to appropriate legal review and approval by the General  
28 Counsel, or his designee, and the City's Risk Management Division for  
29 appropriate insurance and indemnification requirements in accordance  
30 with Section 128.601, *Ordinance Code*.

31           **Section 6.           Oversight Department.** The Neighborhoods

Department shall oversee the project described herein.

**Section 7. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the emergency is that residents of Duval County who rely on SNAP and similar federal government funded food benefits are facing an immediate food shortage crisis arising from the federal government shutdown.

**Section 8. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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