

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(4)


TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 4, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to identify and allocate up to \$1,000,000.00 in legally available funding to certain organizations for the provision of food assistance during the 2026 fiscal year federal government shutdown; and requiring a report

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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(Revised)

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Please note any items checked.

- “3-Day Rule” for committees applicable if raised**
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
- Budget required**
- Statement of fiscal impact required**
- Statement of social equity required**
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor’s report for public hearing**
- No committee review**
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3’s present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5’s ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) to approve**
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(4)
11-4-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO IDENTIFY AND ALLOCATE UP TO \$1,000,000.00 IN LEGALLY AVAILABLE FUNDING TO CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE DURING THE 2026 FISCAL YEAR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN; AND REQUIRING A REPORT

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2025, the federal government entered a shutdown when the U.S. Congress failed to pass an appropriations bill to fund the operations of the federal government for the 2026 fiscal year or a temporary continuing resolution that would extend the deadline for passing said bill; and

WHEREAS, with no signs of resolution, the shutdown continues through the present day and is now the second longest shutdown in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, reports estimate that between 670,000 to 750,000 federal employees have been furloughed and approximately 730,000 essential employees are working without pay because of the shutdown; and

WHEREAS, *whitehouse.gov* reports that there are approximately 155,000 federal workers in the State of Florida, or about 1.6 percent of its workforce; and

WHEREAS, in addition to federal employees, because many federal contracts are suspended and payments paused, the shutdown is also impacting federal contractors and their employees; and

WHEREAS, making matters worse, individuals who rely on the federal government for nutrition assistance will also be adversely impacted by the ongoing shutdown; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, whose responsibilities include administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (“WIC”) is among the federal agencies affected by the shutdown; and

WHEREAS, many SNAP beneficiaries have incomes below the poverty line; and

WHEREAS, on or about October 21, 2025, the Florida Department of Children and Families issued a statement that provided “[i]f the federal government shutdown continues into November, SNAP benefits for November will not be issued until the federal funding is restored”; and

WHEREAS, as a result, starting November 1, 2025, SNAP benefits will not be available to nearly 3 million recipients in the State of Florida and, according to 2023 U.S. Census Bureau’s Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates data, that is approximately 1.15 million households in Miami-Dade County, about 13.5 percent of the households Countywide; and

WHEREAS, even if a deal to end the shutdown is reached before November 1st, benefits are projected to be delayed due to the time needed to process and make them available for recipients; and

WHEREAS, further, according to the Florida Department of Health, approximately 70,000 families in Miami-Dade County including pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children under five receive WIC benefits; and

WHEREAS, WIC funding is expected to be depleted during the second week of November 2025; and

WHEREAS, before the shutdown food banks and meal programs such as Curly’s House of Style, Inc., Farm Share, Inc., Feeding South Florida Inc., MJD Wellness and Community Center,

Inc., and Victory for Youth, Inc. (Share Your Heart), which are funded by the County, provided food assistance to individuals who experienced food insecurity or hunger; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2025, Feeding South Florida organized a food distribution event at Miami International Airport to assist federal employees during the shutdown; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200 families received about a week's worth of groceries at the event; and

WHEREAS, the demand for food assistance will likely grow exponentially if SNAP benefits are suspended and the shutdown continues; and

WHEREAS, SNAP is a major safety net to some of the County's most vulnerable populations including children and older persons; and

WHEREAS, according to an article in the *Miami Herald*, Miami-Dade County has the highest share of households in the U.S. receiving SNAP benefits where at least one member is over the age of 60; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to support SNAP and WIC beneficiaries, including children, veterans, and older persons, federal government employees, and employees of federal contractors, this Board wishes to provide additional resources to certain food assistance organizations in Miami-Dade County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to identify and allocate a total amount up to \$1,000,000.00 in legally available funding to organizations such as food banks and meal programs that provide food assistance to residents of Miami-Dade County during the federal government's fiscal year 2026 shutdown, which

commenced on October 1, 2025, if the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits are suspended. Funding shall be disbursed to identified organizations as quickly as possible. If SNAP or WIC benefits are not suspended, no funding shall be disbursed.

Section 2. This Board further directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to provide a report that shall: (a) identify the organizations funded; (b) specify the amount of funding disbursed to each organization; and (c) include the number of individuals served or meals provided with said funding, or, in the event funding is unavailable, directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to provide a report describing why such funding identified in section 1 is unavailable and the efforts taken to identify same.

Section 3. The report identified in section 2 shall be completed and placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the full Board and shall be placed on such agenda without committee review pursuant to Rule 5.06(j) of the Board’s Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman | |
| Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman | |
| Marleine Bastien | Juan Carlos Bermudez |
| Sen. René García | Oliver G. Gilbert, III |
| Roberto J. Gonzalez | Keon Hardemon |
| Danielle Cohen Higgins | Eileen Higgins |
| Natalie Milian Orbis | Raquel A. Regalado |
| Micky Steinberg | |

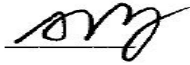
The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of November, 2025. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Shanika A. Graves
Anita Viciano Zapata