

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 18, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to take affirmative measures to increase state participation in the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program ("Summer EBT") and expand access to the Non-Congregate Summer Meals program by extending eligibility to urban and suburban areas; and urging Governor Ronald D. DeSantis and the Florida Legislature to opt into the Summer EBT program and implement expansive non-congregate meal services to maximize the number of children reached and meals served during the summer months

Resolution No. R-557-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Marleine Bastien.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 18, 2024

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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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 ____, 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) ____, or 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. 11(A)(5)
6-18-24

RESOLUTION NO. R-557-24

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE AFFIRMATIVE MEASURES TO INCREASE STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER PROGRAM (“SUMMER EBT”) AND EXPAND ACCESS TO THE NON-CONGREGATE SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM BY EXTENDING ELIGIBILITY TO URBAN AND SUBURBAN AREAS; AND URGING GOVERNOR RONALD D. DESANTIS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPT INTO THE SUMMER EBT PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENT EXPANSIVE NON-CONGREGATE MEAL SERVICES TO MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN REACHED AND MEALS SERVED DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

WHEREAS, many children in South Florida and across the United States experience hunger or food-insecurity, particularly during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, numerous families struggle to make up for the lack of school meals and food insecurity tends to increase during summer months; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Education, 53 percent of school-aged children—or 30 million children in total—qualify for free or reduced-price school meals; and

WHEREAS, despite qualifying for free or reduced-price meals in school, the above-mentioned students do not receive these free or discounted meals when school is out for the summer; and

WHEREAS, children who experience food insecurity may be more prone to miss school, perform worse academically, experience social, emotional, and mental health challenges, forego healthcare, and develop chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program, which are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by state agencies, play a vital role in helping children from low-income and food-insecure households get the nutrition they need during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, the Summer EBT and Non-Congregate Summer Meals programs are relatively new programs aimed at reducing food insecurity during the summer months, and their implementation is a historic opportunity to reduce summer hunger; and

WHEREAS, Summer EBT, which is available to states nationwide this year, complements other summer meal programs by providing \$120.00 per child, per summer, in grocery-buying benefits to families with children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and likewise alleviates food insecurity and improves child nutrition; and

WHEREAS, Summer EBT is expected to reach millions of children and provide billions of dollars in grocery benefits in states implementing the program this summer; and

WHEREAS, around 30 million children across America could benefit from Summer EBT if the program is fully implemented in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida did not apply for the 2024 Summer EBT program, turning down over \$250,000,000.00 in nutritional aid, according to the Florida Policy Institute; and

WHEREAS, Florida's lack of participation in 2024 does not preclude the State from participating in the Summer EBT program in future years; and

WHEREAS, since 2023, the rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals program has allowed programs in certain rural areas to distribute grab-and-go or delivered meals to kids outside of the typically required group settings and permitted summer meals to be eaten off-site; and

WHEREAS, non-congregate meals are packaged meals and snacks that are not provided or eaten in group settings as opposed to congregate meals which are eaten on-site; and

WHEREAS, non-congregate meals can be provided in various and flexible ways which ensure that hungry children are provided with meals they are entitled to; and

WHEREAS, the Non-Congregate Summer Meals service helps close the summer hunger gap in rural areas, which have high rates of food insecurity, more limited resources compared to populous areas, and unique access and transportation barriers; and

WHEREAS, millions of children living in rural areas across the country could benefit from Non-Congregate Summer Meals, but many of those children live in areas not currently served by a non-congregate site; and

WHEREAS, the Non-Congregate Summer Meals program is currently limited to rural areas; and

WHEREAS, expanding the Non-Congregate Summer Meals service to children and families in urban and suburban communities could promote equitable access to nutritious meals for millions of children, better meet families' diverse needs, and further reduce summer food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes that no child should face lack of access to nutritious meals during the summer months, and children should not be denied resources because of their household's economic status or zip code,

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

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to take affirmative measures to increase state participation in the Summer EBT program and expand access to the Non-Congregate Summer Meals program by extending eligibility to urban and suburban areas.

Section 2. Urges Governor Ronald D. DeSantis and the Florida Legislature to opt into the Summer EBT program and implement expansive non-congregate meal services to maximize the number of children reached and meals served during the summer months.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the United States President, United States Senate Majority Leader, the United States House Speaker, Governor Ronald D. DeSantis, the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Florida Senate President, the Florida House Speaker, and the Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 4. Directs the County’s federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in Sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to: (a) amend the 2024 Federal Legislative Package to include this item; and (b) include this item in the 2025 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board; and (c) include this item in the 2025 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Marleine Bastien. It was offered by Commissioner **Anthony Rodriguez** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Eileen Higgins** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman		aye	
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman		aye	
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	absent
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	absent	Eileen Higgins	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of June, 2024. 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: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CJF", written over a horizontal line.

Christian J. Fernandez-Andes