

# Board of County Commissioners

## Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: September 7, 2010

Date Submitted: August 24, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator  
Timothy P. Barden, Assistant County Administrator  
Doug Jones, Public Services Director  
Eva Thorpe, OMB Analyst  
Scott Jackson, Director Agricultural Extension Service  
Shelley Swenson, Family Consumer Sciences Agent, UF/IFAS Wakulla  
County Extension Service  
Ken Gambill, UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension Volunteer

Subject: Request Board Approval to Submit a Grant Application to the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and Authorize the Chairman to Execute a Letter of Support

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests Board approval to submit a grant application to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and authorize the Chairman to execute a letter of support.

### **Background:**

The Board has indicated in workshops, meetings, and retreats that grants are essential to funding many of the project needs of Wakulla County. Staff has been engaged in researching grant opportunities to meet the needs of the County. As such, there is currently a grant opportunity of which staff is requesting Board approval to apply. In the past, the County has applied for or utilized various grant funding sources to provide additional opportunities for the County to address various activities that are specific to the source based on eligibility criteria and funding levels.

The Hunger Free Communities Model II Implementation Grant (CFDA #10.583) Application is for a multi-year partnership grant between Wakulla County and the USDA to learn more effective strategies to reduce hunger in Wakulla County.

The grant deadline submission of the proposal is October 1, 2010. Funding will be announced late 2010 and project implementation will follow (date has not been announced) and can continue up to 24 months. Eligible budget items include: personnel expenses, travel, contract or sub-contract expenses, consultant services, and supplies and materials (items less than \$5,000) that are necessary and related to the project.

Agenda Request: Request Board Approval to Submit a Grant Application to the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and Authorize the Chairman to Execute a Letter of Support

September 7, 2010

Page 2

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Grant awards for areas with less than 50,000 residents will be up to \$1 million. A non-federal minimum match contribution of 20% is required. Match can be in the form of in-kind or cash. In addition, staff has already identified in-kind match to support this grant.

***Recommended Project: Hunger Free Wakulla County***

The Hunger Free Wakulla County Project will facilitate the following things:

1. Enhance the Wakulla County community-based emergency food network.
2. Assess the frequency of food insecurity of County citizens and determine strategies for responding to unmet needs.
3. Monitor responsiveness of existing services and address underlying causes and factors relating to hunger.
4. Integrate public and private resources and local citizen participation to alleviate food insecurity.
5. Continue to up-date the Wakulla County Resource Directory to reflect additional information relating to public and private services related to food insecurity.
6. Develop creative food resources such as community gardens, buying clubs, Farm Share™, food cooperatives, and farmers' markets.
7. Identify and market food services available to high-risk populations.
8. Develop adequate methods to transport and distribute food from all sources.
9. Coordinate food services with parks and recreation programs and other community-based outlets through which Wakulla County residents participate.
10. Develop nutrition education and related consumer education programs for low-income citizens to enhance good food purchasing and food preparation skills to heighten awareness of the connection between diet and health and wise use of other resources.

This is not a routine item that comes before the Board each year. This grant application opportunity has not previously been brought before the Board.

*Meetings held with others to discuss food insecurity in Wakulla County:*

- Wakulla County has a committee called Feeding Wakulla County through which members have addressed food insecurity issues for over 2 years.
- We have discussed these issues on numerous occasions with the Wakulla County Board of Commissioners to familiarize them with the issues facing Wakulla County citizens.
- A meeting was held with Doug Jones, Eva Thorpe, Scott Jackson, and Commissioner Lynn Artz to determine the feasibility of pursuing this grant.
- The summer feeding program committee has met periodically to try to find ways to expand the number of sites and children reached.
- The feasibility of this grant was discussed with the Director of the Wakulla County Senior Citizens to seek his endorsement and pursue statistical data related to senior

Agenda Request: Request Board Approval to Submit a Grant Application to the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and Authorize the Chairman to Execute a Letter of Support

September 7, 2010

Page 3

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citizens.

- Florida Impact and Workforce Plus have been involved in the discussion to confirm the level of food insecurity in Wakulla County.
- The Wakulla Coalition for Youth members periodically discuss the need to insure that all aspects of children's well-being is met.

**Analysis:**

*What are the issues and how have they come about?*

- Tough economic times facing all Americans.
- Gulf Oil spill
- Increased food costs

These factors have led to more Wakulla County citizens facing food insecurity.

*Impacts or Concerns:*

- Increasing food insecurity in the future.
- Slow recovery from oil spill

The funding source to be pursued, if funded, will allow Wakulla County to address the necessary changes within County activities and programs to lesson these issues. If the funding sources are pursued and are not funded, isolated and uncoordinated attempts will continue leading to a fragmented approach to ending food insecurity.

*Does this item have a cost associated with it?*

Yes, the grant requires a minimum match of 20% which will primarily be provided through volunteer hours. A County staff member will assume the role of Project Director and another will assume the role of financial account for the grant.

*Is the county receiving any state or federal funds?*

Yes, the federal grant can be up to \$1 million.

**Summary:**

At a time of severely constrained financial resources, diligent efforts to make application for opportunities that become available are a must. Staff recognizes this and is making every effort to pursue these opportunities. These efforts will continue if staff members are allowed to actively seek the submission to Food and Nutrition Service of the United State Department of Agriculture.

Agenda Request: Request Board Approval to Submit a Grant Application to the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and Authorize the Chairman to Execute a Letter of Support

September 7, 2010

Page 4

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At this time, staff is requesting the Board approve submitting this grant application for consideration. If this request is approved, the Board will have additional opportunities to review the project when the grant is brought back to the Board for acceptance at a future meeting.

**Options:**

1. Approve staff to submit a grant application to the USDA Hunger Free Communities Grant (CFDA #10.583) and authorize the Chairman to execute the letter of support.
2. Do not approve staff to submit a grant application to USDA Hunger Free Communities Grant (CFDA #10.583).
3. Board Direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1

**Attachment(s):**

1. USDA Hunger Free Communities Grant (CFDA #10.583) Request for Proposal
2. Grant Submission Date Extension Notification
3. Letter of Support