



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON**  
*President*

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Senate Passes Farmers Feeding Florida Proposal To Help Families Facing Food Insecurity**  
*Funding connects Florida farmers to families in need of fresh food*

**Tallahassee**— The Florida Senate today passed Senate Bill (SB 2500), the General Appropriations Act, a balanced budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The budget includes \$50 million in key funding to address food insecurity and support Florida farmers, both key priorities of Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula).

“As I travel the state, attacking food insecurity unites Floridians like nothing else can. Food matters. The fact is no matter how prosperous our state is, unexpected and unplanned things happen that can cause food insecurity for families. That reality resonates with people from all walks and at every stage of life. No one wants their neighbor, especially a child or senior, to go to bed hungry,” said President Albritton. “This initiative is about connecting hungry families with farmers who produce fresh, wholesome food – a much-needed hand-up for families when it matters most.”

“Food insecurity can be an unanticipated and time-sensitive challenge for a family. It’s important that we have resources available in our communities so families know where they can go for help during a tough time,” said President Pro Tempore Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, who authored the initiative in his committee. “With this funding we can identify underserved areas, especially in rural areas, and expand distribution and transportation routes.”

“Florida’s farmers have a deep connection to our state and its people, going back in many cases for generations. Rain or shine, they are responsible for putting food on grocery shelves across the state and are our first and best line of defense against food insecurity,” said Commissioner Simpson. “Expanding our food bank infrastructure will help connect more families across Florida with fresh, healthy, seasonal crops and produce grown right here in the Sunshine State.”

**Food Bank Infrastructure Expansion Grants**

The Senate’s proposed budget funds \$12 million to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to administer a grant program to expand food banks and pantries designed to serve food insecure Floridians who are currently disadvantaged by proximity to services.

The department will work with Feeding Florida to identify underserved areas, including a focus on rural areas of opportunity, for expansion. The funds may be used to equip new locations, expand distribution routes, purchase transportation equipment, or provide necessary training to onboard pantry staff.

### **Food Bank Operational Grants**

The Senate budget proposal includes \$38 million in for DACS to administer a competitive grant program to provide fresh food products grown or produced in Florida.

Grants are restricted to charitable purposes for hunger relief and may not re-enter the wholesale, retail or secondary market. Grant recipients must submit monthly reports to the department that include the amount of food purchased by commodity type, purchase location, purchase date, delivery date, and distribution location.

Grants may be provided to associations that coordinate and distribute fresh food products to distribution locations around the state. Any association receiving a grant must also provide a quarterly report to the department that includes a breakout of types and varieties of fresh commodities purchased and distributed to families, food purchase receipts, donation receipts, reports of new partners food entities, and community partners.

SB 2500 is a fiscally responsible, balanced budget that reduces state spending, lowers per capita spending, and reduces the growth of state bureaucracy. The budget authorizes early payoff of state debt, accounts for significant, broad-based tax relief, and maintains historic state reserves for emergencies. New reporting requirements throughout the budget safeguard taxpayer dollars, improving accountability, transparency, and oversight of government spending.

For more information, please visit [www.FLSenate.gov](http://www.FLSenate.gov).

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