



Year in Review 2021

Since 1979, Florida Impact to End Hunger has been dedicated to advancing health equity by ending hunger for all Floridians. We mobilize communities to maximize access to federal, state, and local food and nutrition programs with a focus on Florida's most vulnerable populations.

End of the Year Message



As 2021 draws to a close and I move toward year one as President/CEO I want to take the opportunity to look back on a year that turned out much differently than anyone could have imagined. While it was certainly challenging in many ways, it also showed how strong we are as an organization– despite the ongoing effects and obstacles of Covid-19.

We can take pride in the fact that when the pandemic brought the world to a halt and forced us to keep our distance from family, friends and one another, the work we have done over the course of this year has helped the many children, adults, families and communities that we serve in our state.

It was no easy task overseeing all aspects of this great organization, going through an audit, managing staff, starting new projects, maintaining partnerships, creating new partnerships, writing grants, and many other tasks– while making sure we stayed committed to our mission.

The dedication of our staff and board members defines us. We rose to the challenge. We created new opportunities, established new relationships, stepped into new spaces, and proved that Florida Impact to End Hunger “might be small but is mighty”.

It is our goal to be impactful and continue the work of assisting those who struggle with food insecurity and to change, create programs, establish policies that will help with getting at the root causes of hunger.

So, I want to thank you all for the hard work and commitment you’ve shown over the past year. Our combined strength and dedication to not give up is what makes us special.

I hope that when you’re celebrating the holidays with friends and family that you look back on the year with the same sense of accomplishment that I feel.

I wish you and your families all a happy holiday season.

Kim M. Johnson

President/CEO

Florida Impact to End Hunger

CENTRAL FLORIDA ALLIANCE TO END HUNGER

We have been asked to co-lead the Central Florida Alliance to End Hunger in which several organizations in Central Florida come together monthly to discuss ways to bridge the gaps on the local level to ensure the health and wellbeing of those who are struggling with food insecurity and are in need of other resources to help them move beyond their current situation.



COMMUNITY SNAP ENGAGEMENT (CSE)

With funding through a grant from the Center for Science in the Public Interest and some fantastic statewide partnerships which included Florida Policy Institute, Central Florida Alliance to End Hunger, Concerned African Women Inc., Tampa Baby Network to End Hunger, and Whole Child Leon, we led the statewide Community SNAP Engagement (CSE) project. Our mission is to reach individuals and families who could benefit from SNAP and research ways to improve access to nutritious food via SNAP. In the early fall of 2021, as part of this effort, we came together with community partners around the state to create a comprehensive trilingual survey for SNAP recipients. Hundreds of responses were collected. Then several regional focus groups were hosted to get more in-depth responses. Then in November, we hosted the 2021 Community SNAP Engagement Forum.

FARM TO LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS

With a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm to School grant and plethora of amazing community partners, we successfully implemented a Farm to Leon County Schools program at Fort Braden Elementary School in Tallahassee. By bridging the gap between local farmers and school cafeterias, we aim to tackle rising obesity rates and ensure that school meals benefit children, schools, and local farmers. Visit www.farmtolcs.org to learn more.

FINDING INSPIRATION TOGETHER (FIT)

We started the Finding Inspiration Together (FIT) project, which aims to provide free virtual courses on nutrition, exercise, and mindful activities to kids who are out of school. During the summer of 2021, we produced 30 videos covering various topics, such as MyPlate.gov, nutritious recipes, strength training, how to read food labels, the benefits of meditation, water safety, the importance of breakfast, nature walks, food hygiene, and much more. The videos were shared in groups (or "modules") each week so that kids could follow along and pace themselves. We want to continue creating and marketing this content. Visit www.floridaimpact.org/fit to learn more.

FLORIDA ADVOCACY DAYS

Working with the Florida United Methodist Church and African Methodist Episcopal Church, 11th district, we organized year-round, statewide Florida Advocacy Days training events aimed to amplify the voices of community advocates in our state legislature. Visit www.flumc.org/floridaadvocacyday to learn more.

FLORIDA HEALTHY RETAIL

We continued increasing access to fresh, healthy foods in Miami Gardens and surrounding communities with the City of Miami Gardens and the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant from the CDC. This year, as part of FHR, we expanded our mission with the Homestead Food Access Coalition and Healthy Checkout. More on those two programs below. Visit www.floridahealthyretail.org to learn more.

HEALTHY CHECKOUT

As part of Florida Healthy Retail, this year we helped introduce the Miami Gardens Healthy Checkout project. This addresses the lack of nutritious choices in the checkout line. Research shows that in-store marketing induces impulse buys, and we think large retailers should take on the responsibility to shift that marketing to healthier choices. Healthy Checkout policies seek to improve nutritional quality in the checkout areas of large retail stores. This holds stores accountable for the health and wellbeing of customers. It is almost impossible to avoid or ignore the overabundance of unhealthy choices in store checkout lanes. This product placement unfairly targets individuals who have no choice but to stand in line surrounded by these food and beverage choices, especially those shopping with children. This campaign seeks not to restrict individual choice, but rather to level the playing field between retailers/food corporations and shoppers' health.



HOMESTEAD FOOD ACCESS COALITION

As part of the Florida Healthy Retail Program and with community partners, we established Homestead Food Access Coalition (HFAC), which is made up of local leaders in the Homestead area. The group regularly meets to share thoughts, concerns, and ideas around helping the local community have better access to affordable, nutritious food. These efforts will then be used to create recommendations for City and County leadership. We have a Madison county counterpart in North Florida as well called the Madison Food Access Coalition and hope to create more around the state. Visit www.floridahealthyretail.org/coalition to learn more.



MADISON FOOD ACCESS COALITION

We implemented the Madison Food Access Coalition (MFAC) with community partners, which is made up of local leaders in the Madison County area. The group regularly meets to share thoughts, concerns, and ideas around helping the local community have better access to affordable, nutritious food. These efforts will then be used to create recommendations for City and County leadership. We have a Homestead counterpart in South Florida as well called the Homestead Food Access Coalition and hope to create more around the state.

RETURNING CITIZENS SNAP BILL

We collaborated with Bread for the World, Florida Policy Institute, Operation New Hope and other community partners to support a new bill for returning citizens that would allow those with drug trafficking offenses to qualify for SNAP. HB 6079/SB 762 lifts the outdated 'War on Drugs' era state ban on SNAP and TANF for people who have served their time for past drug trafficking convictions. Rep. Vance Alopious and Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez have sponsored this legislation. The move would reduce these individuals' chances of reincarceration, help ensure a smoother transition into their communities, and save millions in taxpayers dollars.



SOUTHEAST HUNGER TALK

This summer we hosted the 2021 Southeast Florida Anti-Hunger Forum with Hunger Free America. Advocates from around the region came together for the virtual event to share successes and ideas for hunger solutions in their communities. CEO Joel Berg shared words of inspiration and encouragement and also shared what his organization was doing around the country to fight to end hunger. We also allowed an opportunity for attendees to share what their organizations were doing in their communities around hunger and advocating for those in need.

STATEWIDE FOOD RECOVERY PROJECT

We collaborated with MEANS Database, UF/IFAS, and other community partners to establish the Statewide Food Recovery Team. Together we look for edible food in communities from schools, hospitals, restaurants, and other places that would otherwise go to waste and redistribute to feed people in need in their community.

SUMMER BREAKSPOT EXPANSION

Using funding from No Kid Hungry and partnerships with Second Harvest of the Big Bend and local site leaders, we helped organize the operation and outreach for several summer feeding sites in rural Madison County. This led to nearly 13,000 children getting fed free, nutritious meals while school was out. Visit www.summerbreakspot.org to learn more about summer meals.

SECURE P-EBT FUNDING

When Florida Governor DeSantis was not opting in for the Summer Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program—leaving \$820 million in federal pandemic food assistance for over 2 million hungry children on the table—we joined forces with Florida Policy Institute, No Kid Hungry, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, and Feeding Tampa Bay to create a press release and a sign-on letter urging Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Department of Children and Families to stand up for Floridians. In addition, we helped organize three media events with Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Commissioner Nikki Fried, including a press conference with our President/CEO Kim M. Johnson. And it was a success! After a dozen or so media responses—including features from MSNBC, New York Times, and a letter from U.S. Representative Al Lawson Jr.—the state applied for the funding in October. Visit www.floridaimpact.org/post/summerpebt to learn more.





MOBILIZING FLORIDA FAMILIES AGAINST POVERTY SINCE 1979

WELCOMING OUR NEW PRESIDENT/CEO:
KIM JOHNSON



For more information about our organization, visit
WWW.FLORIDAIMPACT.ORG

And visit **WWW.FLORIDAIMPACT.ORG/OURFOCUS**
to learn more about the projects mentioned in this booklet

For all Floridians. We mobilize communities to maximize access to federal, state, and local food and nutrition programs with a focus on Florida's most vulnerable populations.

SEE THE PROGRAMS WE FOCUS ON

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

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Florida Impact
last Tuesday
New blog post alert! 🌟 In this one we share several healthy recipes perfect for a holiday meal 🍷🥗🥦
Check it out ↓
<https://www.floridaimpact.org/post/aholidaymenu>



FLORIDAIMPACT.ORG
A Healthier Holiday Menu



Floridians who have been incarcerated face numerous barriers to finding work. Plus, some are banned from EVER receiving food or cash assistance.
Legislation dubbed the "Food Security Upon Reentry Act" (HB 6079/SB 762) would lift this

@floridaimpact
Tue Dec 14 2021
New blog post alert! 🌟 In this one we share several healthy recipes perfect for a holiday meal 🍷🥗🥦
Check it out ↓
<https://t.co/LwH0pBOIU7>

@floridaimpact
Fri Sep 17 2021
Today is #HungerActionDay and Florida Impact to End Hunger is joining @FeedingAmerica to shine light on food insecurity and highlight our team's part in the goal of eradicating hunger. Visit <https://t.co/LwH0pBOIU7> to learn more about what you can do 🍷
<https://t.co/FEK7Ocj2j>

AFTERSCHOOL MEALS
The AfterSchool Meals Program (AMSP) is a federal nutrition program that offers reimbursement for nutrition meals and supports served at nonprofit afterschool activity sites in areas where families are experiencing economic hardship. Meals can be served to any child age 18 and under who lives in the children or teen program. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is administered in Florida by the Department of Health, Bureau of Child Care Food Programs (DCH BCCFP).
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COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION
The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a reimbursing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all unenrolled students without collecting household applications. Instead, schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students, comprehensively eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific reimbursement programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
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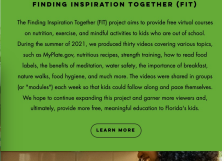
COMMUNITY SNAP ENGAGEMENT
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—formerly the Food Stamp Program—is a federal program which provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of qualifying low-income families and individuals on. Few can purchase enough food and, at times, money doesn't always stretch as well. And the program is proven to work. Come on Budget and Policy Priorities (BPP) that half of all participants who begin receiving SNAP leave the program within a year. We're looking for ways to help you and your family get the most out of SNAP. The goal of Community SNAP Engagement (CSE) in Florida is to reach individuals and families who could benefit from SNAP and research ways to improve access to nutrition food via SNAP. In the early fall of 2021, as part of this effort, we came together with community partners across the state to create a comprehensive strategic strategy for SNAP recipients. Hundreds of responses we collected. These shared regional focus groups were hosted to get more in-depth responses. We will continue this work with our wonderful partners and community for a healthier Florida.
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FARM TO LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS
Unfortunately, many children don't have access to proper food and nutrition education. Learning where your food comes from and how to eat healthy food can not only impact the wellness and outlook of children, but influence number decisions we see in their adult years. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers Farm to School grants for planning, implementing, and implementing farm to school projects in schools across the nation. With one of these planning grants and an amazing group of community partners, we're now able to bring that mission to Leon County. From working with students with local produce, to creating local school gardens, to teaching kids healthy recipes, to visiting local farms and getting some hands-on learning experience with farm-to-school products, we're so excited to make every elementary school and middle school meal benefit children, schools, and local farmers. Many kids only go to school meals on their only meal during weekdays. Let's make them count.
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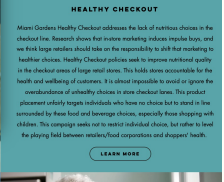
FINDING INSPIRATION TOGETHER (FIT)
The Finding Inspiration Together (FIT) project aims to provide live virtual content on nutrition, wellness, and mental activities to kids who are out of school. During the summer of 2021, we produced thirty videos covering various topics, with live challenges, nutrition activities, strength training, how to read food labels, the benefits of meditation, water safety, five importance of breakfast, nature walks, food hygiene, and much more. The videos were shared in groups for "finders" to watch and that kids could follow along and join themselves. We hope to continue expanding this project and gather more viewers and, ultimately, provide more fun, meaningful education to Florida's kids.
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HEALTHY CHECKOUT
Miami Children's Healthy Checkout addresses the lack of nutritious choices in the brick-and-mortar grocery stores that are more readily available. We know that we don't have enough nutritious options, and we know that we need to take on the responsibility to shift that narrative to healthier choices. Healthy Checkout policies seek to improve nutritional quality in the brick-and-mortar area of large retail stores. This initiative was developed for the health and well-being of customers. It is almost impossible to avoid or ignore the consequences of unhealthy choices in store checkouts. This product promotes healthy lifestyle choices for those who have no choice but to shop in the neighborhood by fresh food and beverage choices, especially from shopping with children. This campaign seeks not to restrict individual choice, but rather to level the playing field between nutritious food corporations and disempowered health.
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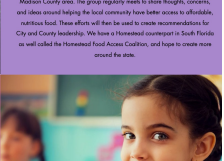
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SCHOOL BREAKFAST
The National School Breakfast Program (NSBP)—run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture—makes it possible for all school children in the United States to receive a nutritious breakfast every day at school. Beginning in a pilot in 1966 and expanded in 1975, NSBP provides reimbursement to public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services administers the program in Florida, and all public elementary schools are required to implement a school breakfast program. All school districts may opt-in or opt-out of the program in each school with 90 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students.
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STATEWIDE FOOD RECOVERY PROJECT
More information coming soon...
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SUMMER BREAKFAST
There are thousands of Summer Breakfast sites across the state that provide free meals and snacks to low-income children (18 and under) when school is out for the summer. Local governments, school districts, and nonprofits sponsor these free summer meal sites, which include schools, parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, housing projects, migrant centers, Native American reservations, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, houses of worship, summer camps and other sites. Most Summer Breakfast sites are open to all children who go to the site during their school year.
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CITY OF MIAMI
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