

Presentation to
City of Gainesville, City Commissioners
October 15, 2009

Gainesville – Alachua County Hunger Abatement Plan (HAP)

- **Thank you for your support of the development of the HAP. Now we ask for your support for implementing the HAP.**
- **Who developed the HAP?** Six Committees, created at Hunger Summit I in September 2008, worked for nine months to develop the HAP which was presented to the community on June 3, 2009. The committees represented state and local governments, local non-profit and faith based agencies, local citizens receiving nutrition assistance, and members of the general public.
- **What are the recommendations in the HAP?** There are 90 separate recommendations divided among 5 major Goals (identified on page One in the Table of Contents of the HAP). In summary, the recommendations can be categorized thus:
 1. Recommendations that address state and federal actions that need to occur to improve access to the various federally funded nutrition assistance programs,
 2. Recommendations that address state and federal actions to increase benefits provided by the various federally funded programs,
 3. Recommendations that address local non-profit agencies and faith based organizations that would improve coordination, collaboration, and effectiveness in the procurement and use of local resources, and
 4. Recommendations that address local government actions that if implemented, would promote access to programs, and encourage state and federal actions recommended within 1 and 2 above.
- **How will the recommendations be implemented?**
 1. Recommendations that address actions by local non-profits and faith based organizations will be implemented by the Alachua County Nutrition Alliance. A provisional board of directors is currently working to establish the Association, whose membership will be the agencies that provide nutrition assistance within Alachua County.

The “Kickoff” meeting of the Alachua County Nutrition Alliance was held on September 21, 2009. Membership is open to all public and private agencies that provide food and nutrition assistance, and all interested citizens who wish to participate in implementing the HAP.

2. Recommendations that require state and federal actions will be implemented by those parties consequent to local government (Alachua County, City of Gainesville, rural municipalities, and School Board of Alachua County) efforts to educate legislative delegations and state and federal administrators about the need for action. The HAP recommends concerted local government lobbying efforts to gain state and federal attention and action. In some cases, simple administrative actions can accomplish the recommended action. In other cases, legislation will be required to improve ease of access as well as increase benefit levels.
3. Recommendations that request direct City of Gainesville and Alachua County and/or School Board of Alachua County actions are being submitted to the respective local governments and administrations for review and determination of the feasibility of the recommendations. Ultimately, local elected officials (with input from responsible administrators) will determine which recommendations will be implemented.

➤ **Within the HAP, what specific actions are recommended to the City of Gainesville for their implementation?**

There are several recommendations that involve City government. The following list identifies these recommendations within the HAP.

1. Goal Two; Objective 10; Strategy One; Page 30 of HAP: Use Government Access COX Channel 12 and other communications resources, in collaboration with Alachua County and the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition program (WIC) to disseminate information about and encourage participation in the local WIC program.
2. Goal Two; Objective 13; Strategy One; Page 36 of HAP: Include in the City's Legislative Agenda for Washington D.C. (as implemented by the City's lobbying consultant firm) a request to reauthorize, increase funding for, and make both programs 'entitlement' programs for both the WIC Farmers Market program (use of WIC Coupons at local farmers markets) and the Senior Farmers Market program to stabilize local farmers' incomes and expand access to locally grown nutritious and economical food.
3. Goal Two; Objective 17; Strategy One; Page 40 of HAP: Use City's Legislative Agenda to encourage 'streamlining' of excessive and duplicative federal paperwork requirements of the USDA for its programs, ranging from SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) to School Meals, WIC, Child and Adult Care Food Programs. Etc.
4. Goal Two, Objective 17; Strategy Two; Page 40 of HAP: Support through City's Legislative Agenda or any other means increases in state and federal funding for transportation expenses needed to provide access of children to Summer Meals programs, especially for needy residents in rural areas of the county.
5. Goal Two; Objective 18; Strategy One: Page 41 of HAP: Regarding the School District's Free and Reduced Meals programs, the City should use its Legislative Agenda to request that in the upcoming federal reauthorization of the program, low income families below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level be eligible for Free meals.
6. Goal Two; Objective 18; Strategy Two; Page 41 of HAP: Regarding the inadequate federal meal reimbursement rates provided to the local school district to operate the

- program, the City should use its Legislative Agenda to request an increase in such rates, so that the School District can purchase better quality local fresh produce, dairy and grain products to serve more nutritious and attractive breakfasts and lunches.
7. Goal Two; Objective 18; Strategy Three; Page 42 of the HAP: Regarding the federal reauthorization of the Free and Reduced Meals program, it is requested that the City use its Legislative Agenda to lobby for the addition of breakfast commodities. Currently, only the School Lunches include funding for commodities. This would make for more nutritious and appealing breakfast meals.
 8. Goal Two; Objective 18; Strategy Four; page 42: Regarding being able to provide nutrition education services, it was recommended that the City use its legislative Agenda to lobby for inclusion of funding for such education. This would allow children at all stages of growth and development to have information about healthy choices, especially regarding obesity and diabetes problems associated with diet.
- **What action is being requested from the City Commission?** Adopt the HAP, direct the Manager to facilitate efforts to implement the recommendations directed to state and federal governments, and direct the Manager to make recommendations to the City Commission within 60 days regarding the recommendations directed to City of Gainesville Government, as outlined above.
- **Will the School Board of Alachua County, Board of County Commissioners, City of Hawthorne Commission and DCF also be asked to adopt the HAP and work towards its implementation?** Yes.