



## Legislation Text

---

**File #:** 001399, **Version:** 0

---

### ConnectFREE Pilot Program (B)

ConnectFREE is a pilot program to provide funding for low-income neighborhoods that want to convert homes from untreated well water to the GRU potable water supply system. The program also covers extension costs, connection fees, meter charges, and on-site plumbing costs. Funding for this program is being made available through the Alachua County SHIP Program.

Neighborhoods located outside the corporate limits of Gainesville, but within the GRU service area, may be eligible for ConnectFREE. The selection of participating neighborhoods will depend on the number of families that qualify for SHIP funding based on total family income and the availability of SHIP funds.

Once an interested family's application is approved, conversion will occur at no cost to the property owner. The household will receive a monthly water bill, once the family begins using GRU water.

Only owner occupied homes are eligible for the program. Total family income must fall within state low and very low-income criteria to be eligible for ConnectFREE.

The City Commission authorize the Mayor or his designee to execute a contract with the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners to provide water service to low to very low income families residing on SE 49th Drive, bordered by East University Avenue to the north and SE 4th Avenue to the south, for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

Funding for this pilot project in the amount of \$75,000 will be provided through an Alachua County SHIP Single Family Housing Development Program Subrecipient Agreement. There is not fiscal impact to GRU.

Prepared by: Albert E. White, Community Relations Consultant

Submitted by: Michael L. Kurtz, General Manager