



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM
Deputy County Administrator /
Community Services

Date: September 29, 2023
To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Thru: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator
Cindy Emerson, Community Services Director
From: Leigh Anne Uribe, Human Services Program Coordinator
Subject: United Against Poverty, Inc., Memorandum of Understanding

BACKGROUND:

The Human Services Division manages vital County assistance programs to improve residents' social and economic well-being. Our services include emergency financial aid for rent, utilities, indigent cremations, and access to essential prescription medications. Food assistance is also available at a remote site in Wabasso through a partnership with the Treasure Coast Food Bank and County Health Department.

Until June of this year, we operated an on-site food pantry at the County Health Department alongside our local division offices. Due to Human Services restructuring and space limitations, we temporarily suspended this program to explore a more sustainable solution aligning with community needs to address food insecurity.

At this site, we are now transitioning from the food pantry model to provide food assistance through vouchers issued for United Against Poverty (UAP). This change reflects our commitment to efficiently combat food insecurity while adapting to our department's evolving landscape. Importantly, we'll continue to support our community's food needs by reimbursing the Treasure Coast Food Bank for its services as well.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

United Against Poverty (UAP) is a well-established nonprofit organization that offers a comprehensive range of social services akin to those provided by Human Services. UAP collaborates with local organizations to address the immediate needs of families facing adversity, tackle health-related challenges, and connect families with essential resources. Among the valuable services offered by UAP is the Member Share Grocery Program, which serves families

living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. This program empowers individuals to access food at a substantial cost savings while preserving their dignity throughout the process.

In light of the above, our staff is proposing a strategic partnership with UAP. This collaboration entails providing clients with food vouchers, enabling them to access and benefit from the Member Share Grocery Program's offerings as outlined in the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

FUNDING:

Funding for food vouchers will come from the Community Services/Human Services/Food & Dietary Account, account number 00121161-035280, which has a total budget of \$7,500 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Account Number	Account Description	FY 23/24 Budget
00121164 – 035280	Community Services/Human Services/Food & Dietary	\$7,500

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners approve the Memorandum of Understanding with United Against Poverty for the Human Services Food Voucher Program and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement after review and approval by the County Attorney for legal sufficiency.

ATTACHEMENTS:

Memorandum of Understanding for Food Voucher Program with United Against Poverty