Item:

Emergency Food Initiative Update

Requested Action:

The Board is asked to receive update.

Background:

The Children's Trust of Alachua County has allocated $150,000 to support Alachua County families impacted by the recent lapse in SNAP benefits. Of this amount, $125,000 has been designated for emergency food distribution, and $25,000 has been reserved for additional Family Supports funding for Family Resource Center partners.

Food Distribution Support
Bread of the Mighty can receive up to $125,000 to supply CTAC Family Resource Center partners—including the City of Hawthorne; HARC (Hawthorne Area Resource Center); Deeper Purpose; Pleasant Street Civil Rights and Cultural Arts Center, Inc.; Partnership for Strong Families, Inc.; and Willie Mae Stokes Community Center, Inc.—with up to 150 large and/or medium food boxes per week for up to six weeks or until the emergency need concludes.

An initial payment of $20,000 will be issued to begin services. Following this payment, the Trust will assess ongoing need to determine whether additional funding is warranted.

This initiative has been launched, as evidenced by the fully executed contract.

Additional Family Supports Funding
An additional $25,000 has been set aside to allow Family Resource Center partners to request supplemental funds for the following approved Family Supports categories:

1. **Emergency Needs:** Financial assistance for participating families to address urgent, documented needs such as rent or utilities. Payments are made directly to vendors.
2. **Concrete Supports:** Immediate, tangible resources including food, clothing, hygiene items, baby supplies (e.g., diapers, car seats, specialized formula), and safe sleeping options for participating families.
3. **Employment/Education Needs:** Costs related to improving employment readiness or job stability for participating parents/guardians, particularly those who are unemployed or under-employed.

Fiscal Impact:

$150,000 Fund Balance

Recommendation:

Receive the information.