

The Almost Monthly Epic-Cure® Newsletter

April 2026

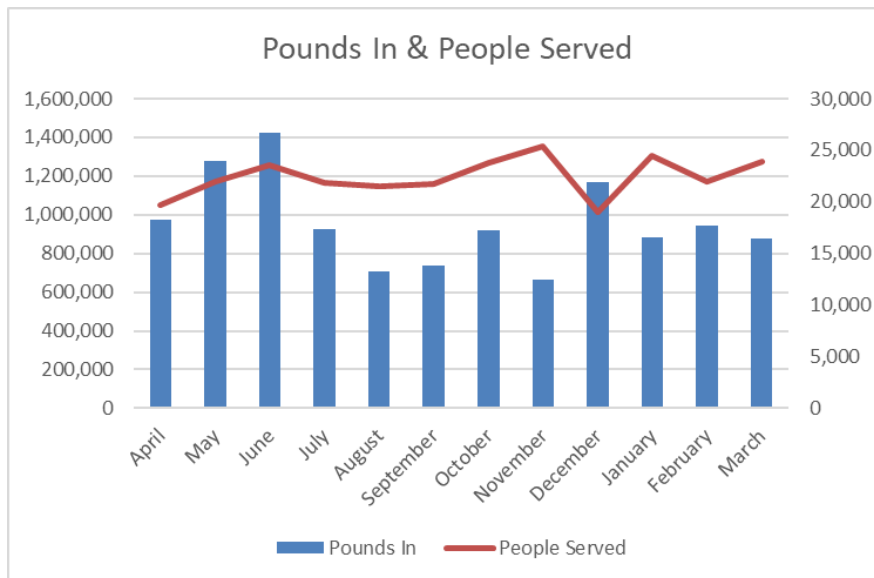
The Report Card

The Epic-Cure *Report Card* as of March 31, 2026

Life to Date *(since May 24, 2019)*

Pounds In/Out	44,022,611	
Wholesale Value of Food Distributed	\$90,053,038	
Pounds of Food per Family:	89.49	<i>Average pounds per family per visit</i>
Equivalent Meals Served:	36,685,509	<i>Assumes 1.2 pounds per meal</i>
Families Served		
Number of Families Served this month:	8,380	<i>in Month of March 2026</i>
Number of Distributions this month:	70	<i>in Month of March 2026</i>
Pounds of Food/Household Goods		
Total Pounds In / Out:	877,244	<i>in Month of March 2026</i>
Total Pounds In / Out:	998,647	<i>Average of 3 prior months</i>
Operating Efficiency		
Wholesale value of food distributed for each \$1.00 spent on Operations since inception:		\$46.61
Wholesale value of food distributed for each \$1.00 spent on Operations in March:		\$79.03

Here is our PIPS (Pounds In & People Served) Graph



Notes on the graph:

2 major winter freezes severely affected Florida's crops. Winter Storm Ezra, December 30, 2025 - January 1, 2026 and Winter Storm Gianna, January 26 - February 4, 2026.



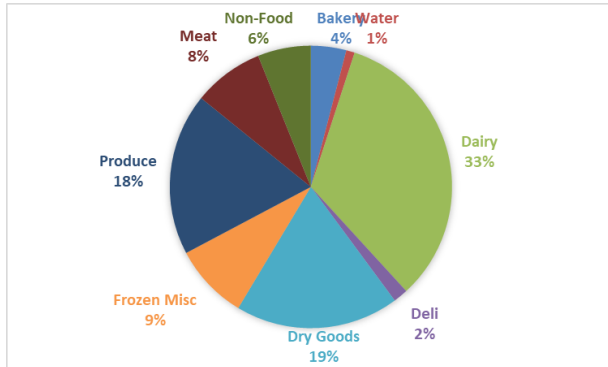
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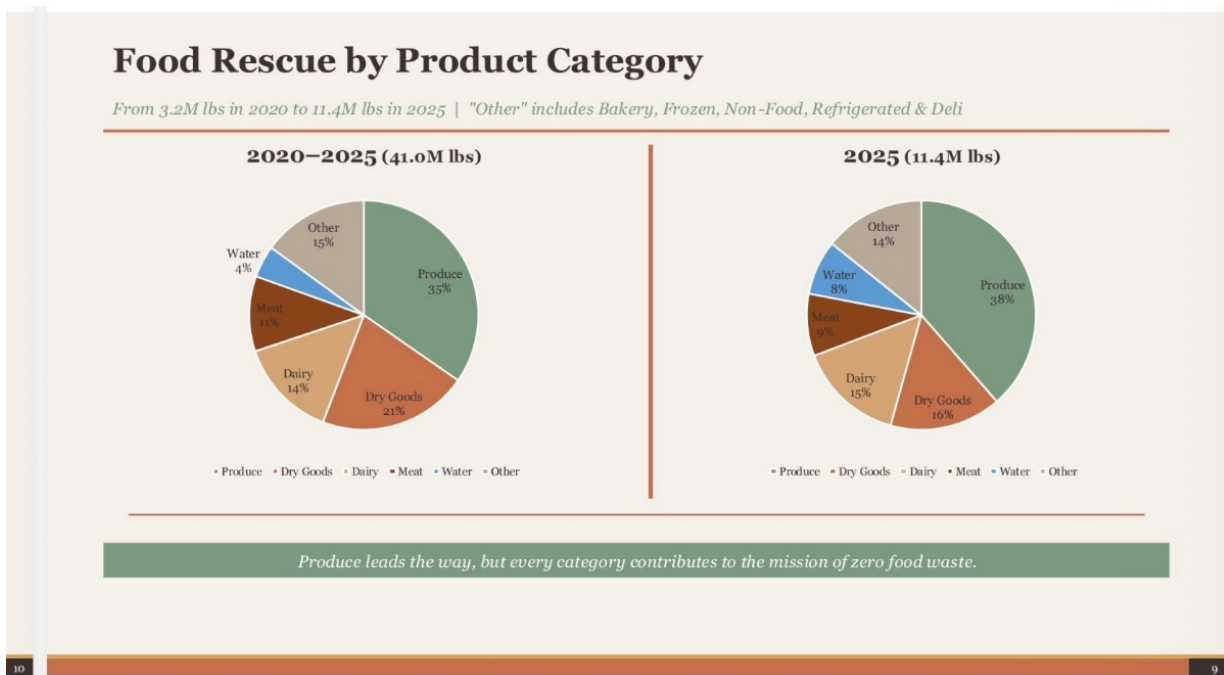
Operations

The freezes in Florida have caused our produce share of rescued food to drop from 38% in 2025 to just 18.6% in March. Based on the 877,244 pounds of food we received in March, that means we rescued 163,081 pounds of produce. If we had maintained the 38% produce rate from 2025, we would have rescued 333,353 pounds of produce from that same volume. As a result, the freezes left us 170,272 pounds short on produce for the month.

March 2026 Chart



From 2025 Annual Report



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Here are the key per-crop damage percentages from the official FDACS preliminary report (as of February 2026):

- **Strawberries:** ~80% of the remaining harvest lost (16,200 acres affected).
- **Blueberries:** ~90% of the crop lost (6,400 acres affected).
- **Sweet corn:** 100% production loss (45,000 acres).
- **Tomatoes:** 80% production loss (27,900 acres).
- **Bell peppers:** 80% production loss (11,900 acres).
- **Potatoes:** 75% production loss (17,700 acres).
- **Squash:** 90% production loss (6,900 acres).
- **Watermelons:** 33% production loss (25,700 acres).
- **Cabbage:** 40% production loss (6,900 acres).
- **Sugarcane** (largest dollar impact): 35% production loss across ~401,000 acres (\$1.15 billion total, including future seasons).
- **Citrus:** 80% of total citrus acreage significantly affected; 15% tree loss in impacted areas (plus infrastructure and fruit damage), leading to a projected multi-year average productivity loss of 27% per year (\$675 million total).

SNAP Work Requirements: What Has Changed and Why It Matters

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has long included work requirements, but recent changes are reshaping who qualifies – and who may fall through the cracks.

Then:

Historically, SNAP work requirements focused on a narrower group known as “Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents” (ABAWDs). These were adults ages 18–54 who, without meeting work or volunteer requirements, could only receive benefits for three months in a three-year period.

However, there were important safeguards. Parents with children under 18 were exempt. Many vulnerable populations, including veterans and individuals experiencing homelessness, were not subject to the same requirements. States also had flexibility to waive rules in areas with limited job opportunities.

In short, while work was encouraged, the system allowed room for real-life challenges.

Now:

Recent federal policy changes have expanded those requirements significantly. Today, the age range has been extended up to 64, bringing thousands of older adults into the requirement pool for the first time.

To maintain benefits, most individuals must document at least 80 hours per month of work, job training, or volunteer service. At the same time, exemptions have narrowed. Parents may now only qualify for exemption if their youngest child is under 14, and fewer groups automatically qualify for exceptions.

States also have less flexibility to waive these rules, even in communities where stable employment is harder to find.



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Why This Matters:

These changes are expected to reduce SNAP participation, not necessarily because fewer people need help, but because more people may struggle to meet the new requirements or navigate the reporting process.

For organizations like Epic-Cure, this shift will be felt soon (see Florida roll out timeline). When access to food assistance becomes more complicated, more families turn to community-based support to fill the gap.

Our Role:

At Epic-Cure, we meet people where they are: no paperwork, no barriers, no judgment. As policies evolve, our mission remains the same: ensuring that good food reaches people who need it, especially when other systems become harder to access.

Because at the end of the day, hunger does not wait for policy changes. Neither do we.

In Florida, the rollout of the new SNAP work requirements did not happen all at once. It came in phases tied to the federal law. Here is the clear timeline:

1. Federal law passed
 - The changes come from the 2025 federal law (often called the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”), signed July 4, 2025.
2. Initial implementation (late 2025)
 - States, including Florida, began putting the new rules in place in fall 2025, with many provisions active by November 2025.
3. Full rollout / enforcement (early 2026)
 - Most states were required to comply with the updated work requirements by February 1, 2026.
 - This is when people newly subject to the rules (like adults 55–64 or parents with older children) began facing enforcement.
 - You will see this reflected in Florida reporting as the point when requirements were “in effect” and people could start losing benefits if they did not meet them.
4. Ongoing enforcement throughout 2026
 - Enforcement continues to ramp up during 2026 as:
 - Recertifications happen.
 - Case reviews are completed.
 - Participants are required to document work hours .

The Bottom line for Florida:

- Effective start: Late 2025 (policy change).
- Real impact / enforcement: February 2026 onward.



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Our Farm Partners Are Part of the Key to Achieving Zero Food Waste

These photos are from Dog Gone Ranch, a working hobby farm that rescues and cares for pigs, goats, cows, emus, chickens, and other livestock. They travel over 120 miles to pick up food for their animals, and receiving full pallets makes a meaningful difference in helping offset their feed costs. It is a win-win. Having trusted partners like Dog Gone Ranch gives us a reliable outlet for large donations, like semi truckloads of produce that may no longer be suitable for people but are still perfectly usable as animal feed. That flexibility allows us to confidently say yes to more donations, strengthening our relationships with donors and ultimately increasing the amount of food we can keep out of landfills.



[Farm Animal Video](#)



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Publix is an incredible partner. In addition to donating food from 12 stores, including two new locations this year, they also provide generous financial support and contribute through in-store food drives.



Ameical Logistics Aid Network (ALAN) is a nonprofit dedicated to connecting donated equipment and surplus goods with the organizations and communities that need them most. By tapping into a nationwide network of corporate partners, logistics providers, and fellow nonprofits, ALAN helps move high-value items, like warehouse equipment and essential supplies, that might otherwise go unused. Their model reduces waste while lowering the cost and complexity of moving large-scale donations, enabling nonprofits to access high-value equipment and deliver greater impact in both domestic and international humanitarian efforts.

As Epic-Cure® continues to grow, our need for power pallet jacks is constant. In March, ALAN identified a donor in Illinois with four available units. However, because they contain lithium-ion batteries, they are classified as hazardous materials, which made shipping a challenge. While we likely could have worked out a solution over time, the need in our warehouse was immediate.

That is when two of our incredible volunteers, Army and Indy, stepped in. They borrowed a trailer from another volunteer and made a 48-hour round-trip drive to pick them up themselves. It is hard to overstate how meaningful that kind of commitment is. Acts like this are what keep Epic-Cure® moving forward every day.



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And how do you thank people who show up in such a big way? You celebrate them. We welcomed them back with a well-deserved thank-you party, just a small token of appreciation for an extraordinary act of service.



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Each winter, Mike Fish comes to Florida and gives back in a big way. He volunteers most Tuesdays at the St. Augustine warehouse and even takes it upon himself to replace the wheels on all of our carts and pallet jacks at both warehouses. It is a perfect example of how individual contributions of time and talent help make Epic-Cure® possible.

Epic-Med is always in the background having a big impact at home and abroad. Thank you again to the donors that stepped up to make this happen...

A Clear Vision: Eyeglasses Arrive at Our Palatka Warehouse

We had an exciting day at our Palatka warehouse when a truck carrying 10 pallets of donated prescription eyeglasses pulled up to our loading ramp. Thanks to the generosity of a donor who provided the glasses and the many supporters who stepped forward to fund the transportation, this incredible resource has officially arrived.

As the truck doors opened, our team and volunteers began unloading pallet after pallet of boxes filled with eyeglasses. What might look like ordinary boxes actually hold something extraordinary—the ability for thousands of people to see clearly again.

For many of us, putting on a pair of glasses is a simple part of daily life. But in many of the communities we serve, access to vision care is extremely limited or simply unavailable. Without proper glasses, children struggle in school, adults cannot perform their work effectively, and everyday tasks like reading or sewing become nearly impossible.

That is why this donation is so meaningful.

Over the coming weeks, our team will carefully sort and organize the glasses at our warehouse. Each pair will then be prepared for shipment to our trusted partners serving communities in Ukraine, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Haiti. Through medical outreaches and community programs, these partners will place the glasses directly into the hands of people who need them most.



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This moment, watching the pallets being unloaded, was a powerful reminder of how generosity travels. A donor provided the glasses. Supporters helped cover the transportation. Volunteers unloaded and will sort them. And soon, thousands of people across the globe will experience the life-changing gift of clear vision.

To everyone who helped make this possible: *thank you for turning a generous donation into restored sight and renewed opportunity for people around the world.*

Each box has 120 glasses that will be sorted and then shipped out.



A Massive Shipment of Hope is Headed to Clinica Betania!

We have just tallied the manifest for our latest mission, and thanks to our incredible donors, we are sending a comprehensive "clinic-in-a-box" to our partners in Honduras. This shipment contains thousands of individual items that will directly support surgeries, daily patient care, and specialized needs for those with limited resources.

What is Inside the Shipment:

- Comprehensive Wound Care & Surgical Prep: Hundreds of dressings (Tegaderm, Mepilex, Aquacel), gauze, surgical sponges, and localized wound kits to manage everything from minor injuries to post-operative recovery.
- Specialized Patient Care: 15 boxes of ostomy supplies, over 100 urinary catheters and leg bags, and Foley kits, critical items that are often expensive or impossible for local patients to find.
- Diagnostic & Lab Essentials: Cases of vacutainers, specimen bags, and drug screen kits to help the clinic accurately diagnose and treat patients.



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- Safety & PPE: A full restock of isolation gowns, N95 and surgical masks, face shields, and sterile gloves to keep the Clinica Betania medical team safe.
- Clinic Hardware & Mobility: From walkers and nebulizers to blood collection needles and IV start kits, we are ensuring the clinic has the tools to function at its highest capacity.

Every single item on this list represents a person who will receive better care, a cleaner recovery, and the dignity of being treated with high-quality medical supplies.

At Epic-Med, we believe that "surplus" should not mean "waste." It should mean "mission." Thank you for helping us get these supplies where they are needed most.

[Video of Supplies Being Loaded and Shipped Out](#)

Advocacy for the Food Date Labeling Act – Zero Food Waste Coalition Fly-In for “Hill Days”

The Food Date Labeling Act aims to standardize food date labels, such as “Best if Used By” for quality and “Use By” for safety, to reduce consumer confusion and prevent unnecessary food waste.



In two days we had 35 meetings, primarily with members of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP).



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Turning the Tide: How Epic-Cure® Is Helping Extend Landfill Life in Florida and Beyond

Every day, trucks across Florida haul thousands of tons of waste to landfills that are filling faster than ever. While the state still has remaining landfill capacity, the reality on the ground is more urgent: many regions are running out of space far sooner than expected. Rapid population growth, storm debris, and limited options for new landfill sites (Not In My Back Yard – “NIMBY”) are putting increasing pressure on an already strained system.

In some parts of Florida, landfills are projected to reach capacity within just a few years. Counties are being forced to expand vertically, transport waste longer distances, or invest heavily in alternatives like incineration. These solutions come with significant financial and environmental costs. And yet, a substantial portion of what is filling these landfills does not need to be there at all.

Food waste remains one of the largest contributors to landfill volume. Nationally, an estimated 30-40% of the food supply goes uneaten, and much of it ends up in landfills where it generates methane gas, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide. Reducing food waste is one of the most immediate and impactful ways to extend landfill life.

That is where Epic-Cure® comes in.

By rescuing surplus food from farms, distributors, and retailers, Epic-Cure® diverts large volumes of edible and usable food away from landfills and into the community. Every pallet recovered is more than a meal. *It is space saved in a landfill, fuel conserved from avoided disposal, and methane emissions prevented.*

Our work also creates a critical secondary benefit: it allows the broader food system to function more efficiently. When growers and distributors know there are reliable outlets for surplus, they are more willing to donate large quantities rather than discard them. Even food that is not suitable for human consumption can be redirected to farms and animal rescues, ensuring that nothing goes to waste if it can still serve a purpose.

The impact adds up quickly. Each truckload of food recovered represents thousands of pounds that never enter the waste stream. Over time, these efforts help slow the rate at which landfills fill, buying valuable time for communities that are struggling to keep up with demand.

Zooming out, Florida’s situation reflects a broader national trend. Across the United States, landfill capacity is becoming more constrained, especially in fast-growing regions. While the country still has overall landfill space, it is unevenly distributed, and many states rely on transporting waste across long distances. This increases costs, emissions, and vulnerability in the system.

At the same time, the U.S. continues to waste an enormous amount of food, making food recovery one of the most practical, scalable solutions available today. Unlike large infrastructure projects, food rescue delivers immediate results. It reduces waste, supports communities with food insecure people, and eases pressure on landfills all at once.

At Epic-Cure®, we see this phenomenon every day. What might have been discarded becomes nourishment. What might have taken up space becomes an opportunity to serve.

As landfill capacity tightens in Florida and across the country, solutions like food recovery are not just helpful. They are essential. And thanks to your support, we are not just responding to the problem. We are actively helping to solve it.



What Else Goes Into Landfills? Plastics!

Every time we toss a piece of plastic into a bin, there is an assumption: *it is being handled responsibly*. But the reality is far more complicated, and it is directly connected to the growing strain on landfills here in Florida and across the United States.

The uncomfortable truth about plastic waste

In the U.S., plastic does not follow the path most people expect:

- Only about 8 - 9% is recycled.
- Around 16% is burned.
- And roughly 75 - 80% ends up in landfills.

That means the vast majority of plastic we use every day is simply buried—taking up space that we are rapidly running out of.

The “hidden” fourth category: exporting our waste

What many people do not realize is that a portion of U.S. plastic waste does not stay here at all.

For decades, the U.S. has exported large volumes of plastic waste overseas:

- In 2016 alone, the U.S. exported nearly 2 million metric tons of plastic waste to 89 countries.
- Even today, hundreds of thousands of tons per year are still shipped abroad.

Where does it go?

Historically, China was the primary destination (until its 2018 ban). Today, exports are primarily sent to:

- Canada and Mexico (largest share).
- India, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

About 30% of exports are now sent to non-OECD (often developing) countries.

What happens to plastic overseas?

This is where the story becomes more concerning.

While exported plastic is often labeled as “recycling,” the reality varies widely:

- Some is reprocessed into new materials
- But a significant portion is:
 - Landfilled,
 - Open burned, and
 - Illegally dumped.



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Research shows that over 88% of U.S. exported plastic went to countries with high rates of inadequate waste management. In many of these regions:

- Waste infrastructure is limited,
- Environmental protections are weaker, and
- Communities bear the burden of pollution.

In short, a meaningful share of what leaves the U.S. does not get recycled at all. It just gets moved.

As global markets tighten and countries refuse foreign waste. The U.S. is increasingly forced to deal with its own plastic domestically. That means more material staying in-state. Ultimately, that puts more pressure on landfills.

All of these problems make landfill space a finite and increasingly troubled resource.

Our work intersects with broader waste and recycling challenges in a few important ways:

- Reduces landfill pressure – we keep tons of material out of landfills every year.
- Limits environmental impact – fewer materials wasted means fewer emissions and less resource depletion.
- Supports community resilience – rescued food and products help families, shelters, and local programs thrive.

While we are not an upstream prevention organization, our approach complements the broader push for better recycling, innovative reuse technologies, and smarter packaging solutions. Every rescued pallet, bottle, or case is a small victory against a wasteful system.

Did you know in 2025 alone, we rescued 879,325 pounds of single-use plastic water bottles, all of which were already produced.



Instead of sitting in a landfill (full of water!) or being shipped overseas, these bottles were put to use in our distributions, helping families in need and keeping that material in the economy.

It is a simple but powerful principle:

- Use what already exists, and
- Do not let it go to waste.



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Awareness:

An easy, impactful way that you can help us is to please ...

Save and Drop Off Your Grocery Store Plastic Bags

You will help reduce waste by allowing us to re-use them. You will save us money by reducing the number we have to purchase.

Transparency:

Anyone who wishes to see ***Epic-Cure's financial statements*** need only ask.

Our CPA-Audited financial statements and tax returns for fiscal years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 have been released and are available upon request.

- Also available on our website.
- Click here to view: [Epic-Cure's Financial Statements](#)

Please email your requests to our Ken Mulford: ken.mulford@epic-cure.org

