

The Almost Monthly Epic-Cure® Newsletter

November 2025

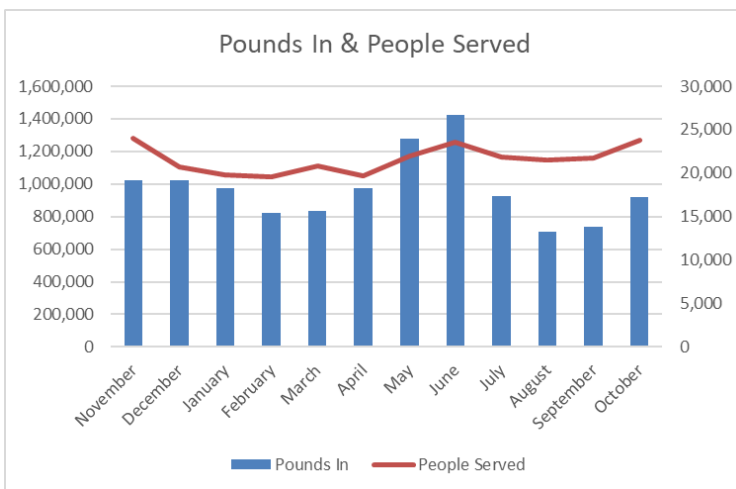
The Report Card

The Epic-Cure *Report Card* as of October 31, 2025

Life to Date (since May 24, 2019)

Pounds In/Out	39,485,351	
Wholesale Value of Food Distributed	\$80,385,456	
Pounds of Food per Family:	88.86	<i>Average pounds per family per visit</i>
Equivalent Meals Served:	32,904,459	<i>Assumes 1.2 pounds per meal</i>
Families Served		
Number of Families Served this month:	8,277	<i>in Month of October 2025</i>
Number of Distributions this month:	80	<i>in Month of October 2025</i>
Pounds of Food/Household Goods		
Total Pounds In / Out:	919,814	<i>in Month of October 2025</i>
Total Pounds In / Out:	780,691	<i>Average of 3 prior months</i>
Operating Efficiency		
Wholesale value of food distributed for each \$1.00 spent on Operations since inception:	\$46.50	
Wholesale value of food distributed for each \$1.00 spent on Operations in October:	\$65.54	

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



Notes on the graph:

We continue to see increases in bulk donations.

Of the 919,814 pounds received in October 167,000 pounds were bananas. About 80,000 pounds were farm food when we received them, and we found farms to take them all. Every pound was put to good use feeding families, feeding animals, and helping other non-profits meet increased need instead of going to waste.



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Operations

First, we will catch you up on what is new at Epic-Cure, and then take a look at the bigger picture of what is happening across the food bank world.

Thank You for Making the Shine A Light 5K a Success!

A heartfelt thank-you to all of the **sponsors, runners, and volunteers** who made our Shine A Light 5K such a wonderful event. Thanks to your energy, generosity, and community spirit, we raised **\$14,486** to support Epic-Cure's mission to fight hunger and food waste.

More videos...

[St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church Distribution - Lincolnville](#) – This distribution occurs every other Wednesday morning.

[Oyster Creek Apartments Distribution in West St. Augustine](#) – Formerly named Woodlawn Terrace and before that Flagler Village. This distribution occurs every other Saturday morning. This was the very first mobile distribution location we set up back in the summer of 2019.

[Palatka Pop Up Distribution 11/8](#) – When we evaluated our inventory on 11/6 we knew with a little help we would be able to pull off a pop up distribution to provide emergency relief to families in Putnam County. Our friends at Feeding Northeast Florida answered the call for help by providing emergency relief dry goods boxes which one of our volunteer drivers picked up on 11/7. Together we were able to served almost 400 families on 11/8.

Epic-Med

Together, we are making a difference where it is needed most.

On a recent mission trip, 150 pounds of medical supplies were delivered to Eastern Ukraine, where medics and patients face unimaginable challenges.

1. 140 patients received care
2. Frontline medics got the supplies they urgently need
3. Over 300 hospitals destroyed and 1,000 damaged — yet hope persists.
4. And two more pallets of medical aid are already on their way!

Thank you to everyone helping us bring healing, hope, and humanity to those in great need.

[Epic-Med - Ukraine](#) – video from mission trip.



A different and interesting upcoming fundraiser:



Talk to your teenagers (or 20 year old son) and they can help you pick a character to be.

That's what we did.



Federal Cuts

The federal cuts to the USDA's commodity program took full effect on October 1, drastically reducing the amount of food available to our communities through the USDA's The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). In both St. Johns and Putnam counties, our USDA orders are down to just 17% of previous levels.

To put that in perspective, where we once received 30 cases of staples like spaghetti sauce, black beans, red beans, and rice weekly, we now receive only five. These are the shelf-stable foods that provide the foundation of many family meals, so the impact is significant.

Fortunately, fresh produce allocations have remained steady so far, possibly thanks to the Farmers Feeding Florida initiative. This state program helps offset reductions in the federal Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program by supporting the purchase and distribution of Florida-grown fruits and vegetables.

What's Behind the Cuts

For Fiscal Year 2025, the USDA implemented a \$500 million national reduction in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funding for TEFAP commodities. This effectively eliminated all planned additional support that was to be distributed to states. Florida's share of that funding, formerly expected to be about \$65 million, has been reduced to zero.

It is important to note that this does not affect Florida's separate TEFAP entitlement commodity allocation, which remains at roughly \$17 million (based on the standard federal formula that accounts for poverty and unemployment levels).

Florida's State Response

Florida's FY 2025–26 state budget does not include new funding to replace the lost federal support. The state continues to fund the Emergency Food Distribution Program—which administers TEFAP—at about \$33.2 million from general revenue. This funding covers operations and distribution costs, but it does not make up for the loss in federal food purchases.

Meanwhile, \$28 million has been allocated for the Farmers Feeding Florida program, designed to purchase and distribute fresh produce to food banks, helping bridge the gap left by the federal LFPA cuts. Other related funding includes \$10.9 million in federal emergency feeding funds and \$10 million for food bank infrastructure, which strengthen overall capacity but don't directly replace lost TEFAP commodities.



Government Shutdown – SNAP Benefits

For SNAP benefits, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 (the “Act”) expands work requirements for able-bodied adults aged 18-64, removing exemptions for veterans, homeless individuals, and former foster youth while narrowing caregiver exemptions; eliminates eligibility for many legal immigrants, including refugees and asylees; limits Thrifty Food Plan reevaluations, potentially curbing benefit increases; reduces federal administrative cost sharing to 25%; ends SNAP nutrition education funding; and requires states to fund portions of benefits for high error rates. These facets of the Act signaled reductions in food assistance that would force food insecurity higher.

Since the implementation of the Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 and its spending cuts, Epic-Cure has seen a large increase in need, as evidenced in the following table which shows that, in just a few weeks, attendance at our open to the public food distributions has grown by almost a third.

Location	September Distribution Average	October Distribution Average	Last week	Last Week Increase Compared to September
Awaken City Church	85	83	169	99%
Gamble Rogers	106	106	112	6%
Summer Breeze	41	45	59	44%
Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church	88	101	140	59%
Beulah Baptist	219	225	242	11%
The Refuge	186	214	235	26%
Total	725	774	957	32%

The Act is projected to increase food insecurity rates by approximately 5% nationwide and in Northeast Florida, based on anticipated reductions in SNAP participation and benefits. Here is a quick summary of the Northeast Florida regional Impact:

- **Current food insecurity rate: 11.6% (affecting over 270,000 individuals).**
- **Estimated percentage increase due to the Act: 5%.**
Source: Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, University of Pennsylvania, “Even When SNAP Payments Resume, More Food Cuts Will Affect Millions of Americans,” by Nancy Stedman, November 3, 2025.
- **Projected food insecurity rate: 12.2% (potentially adding 13,500 food insecure individuals).**
 - **Total estimated food insecure individuals in NE Florida: 283,500.**

These statistics, and Epic-Cure’s experience on the front lines of food insecurity in NE Florida, strongly suggest a crisis, one that is inflamed by the Government shutdown. Many government employees, including military personnel, are experiencing interrupted pay, raising food insecurity rates. As we write this note, the impact of the shutdown is just beginning to be felt. The SNAP benefit reduction has made itself known.

We intend to expand our capacity to meet the surge in need brought about by the extraordinary circumstances. We have significant access to food sources beyond those backed by Federal government funding (primarily, the USDA, though the indirect funding impact on food banks has also meant that their operations have been – or will be – rationalized and sized to new resources and priorities). While we have seen our average monthly USDA



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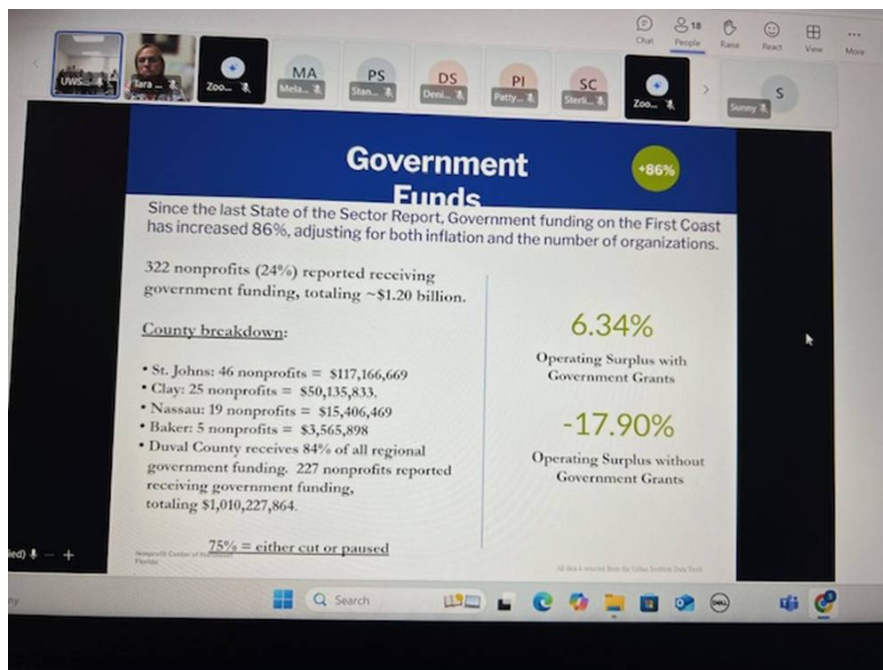
donations drop, we continue to collect 750,000+ pounds of food monthly (note: our recent peak in June 2025 was 1.4 million pounds) from the following sources:

- Feeding Northeast Florida, FarmShare, USDA, Farmlink Project, Foodrecovery.org, Convoy of Hope, grocery stores, food manufacturers, food distributors, trucking and logistics companies, cold storage facilities, and local farms.

With scores of amazing and highly capable volunteers, Epic-Cure is dedicated to meeting the need of the good people of Northeast Florida. The work will be difficult. It will get done.

Other Cuts

This is a snapshot from a presentation put on by the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida in October.



At the Nonprofit Works Conference on October 16, 2025, the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida (NCNEFL) addressed the growing funding challenges facing nonprofits across the region. The event featured a keynote and panel discussion led by Diane Yentel, President & CEO of the National Council of Nonprofits, alongside Dawn Lockhart, CEO of NCNEFL, and representatives from the Florida Nonprofit Alliance.

Their discussion centered on the widespread fiscal disruptions affecting nonprofits at every level—federal, state, and local—as a result of the U.S. government shutdown that began on October 1, 2025, and became the longest shutdown on record by early November. These challenges compound earlier 2025 executive actions that froze or reduced federal grant programs vital to social service, food security, housing, and health organizations.

The economic impact of these cuts is significant. As seen in the snapshot above, nonprofits in our region are unsustainable without government funding. No nonprofit is sustainable in the long term when spending 17.9% more money than it takes in. Business rationalization (reductions of programs and personnel, for starters) must



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occur to correct for these operating losses, and it seems clear that not all nonprofits will survive. Keep in mind that 17.9% is a large operating loss, but it is just the average one. Some nonprofits surely had larger losses than that and will either cease operations or find partners that can absorb them or their missions.

The Scale of the Impact – Some Details

Nonprofits in Northeast Florida collectively rely on approximately \$1.2 billion in annual government grants, primarily federal. According to NCNEFL and its partners, about 75% of grant-funded organizations (an estimated 212 nonprofits in Duval County alone) are experiencing severe fiscal distress from grant pauses and delays.

The ripple effects are far-reaching. Nationally, the shutdown has stalled or suspended billions in federal grants, including programs such as SNAP, Head Start, and housing assistance. Northeast Florida alone faces an estimated \$900 million or more in disrupted federal funding flows each year. Earlier 2025 funding freezes stemming from January executive orders had already paused an estimated \$267 billion nationwide, and the October shutdown has further reduced or suspended 60–80% of federal nonprofit grants in key service sectors.

Temporary or Permanent?

While some funding disruptions may be resolved once the shutdown ends, others could become permanent cuts. Proposed federal budget reductions for fiscal year 2026 include a 43% decrease to the Social Services Block Grant. NCNEFL warned that unless funding is restored quickly, 20% to 30% of currently paused grants could be lost permanently through rescissions or reallocation.

Smaller Organizations at Risk

The nonprofits most at risk are smaller organizations with annual budgets under \$1 million, particularly those that rely on grants for half or more of their funding. NCNEFL estimates that one in five could be forced to close within six to twelve months without immediate relief through private donations or emergency local funding.

A recent analysis by Candid underscores the gravity of the situation: 39% of Florida nonprofits dependent on grant funding could reach a state of extreme financial distress within six months of sustained cuts



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How You Can Help

- **Make a Donation:** Every dollar goes toward fuel, electricity, insurance, and keeping our trucks running. [Link to Donate](#)

Interested in a behind-the-scenes look at what we do? Email support@epic-cure.org and one of our Board Members will be happy to schedule a warehouse tour or food rescue ride a long for you.

- **Share Ideas:** Have a suggestion or potential resource? We would love to hear it.
- **Hold a Fundraiser:** Do you like games of chance? Why not hold a Bingo night benefitting Epic-Cure? Do you like cookies and cakes? How about a bake sale? These are easy and fun ways to bring friends together, meet new people, and directly benefit our neighbors.
- **Hold a Turkey or Thanksgiving Dry Goods Food Drive**

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Epic-Cure – we could not do this without you.

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 Sunny Mulford: sunny.mulford@epic-cure.org

