

Resolution No. 457-2025

By Council Members Polensek, Griffin, Jones, Bishop, McCormack, Gray, Starr, Howse-Jones, Conwell, Hairston, Kelly, Maurer, Harsh, Santana, Spencer, Kazy, Slife

FOR ADOPTION
March 31, 2025

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
Opposing the United States Department of Agriculture’s cuts and proposed state budget cuts to food assistance programs impacting the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and urging the federal government and the Ohio legislature to restore those dollars in order to adequately fund critical nutrition programs for people and families in need.

WHEREAS, on, March 25, 2025, the federal government cancelled twenty shipments from the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) program to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB) that were scheduled for delivery between April and July of this year; and

WHEREAS, that means that the federal government cancelled 553,000 pounds of food—valued at \$1 million dollars—leaving families in need without food assistance and putting additional strain on GCFB’s distribution efforts; and

WHEREAS, in FY24, the GCFB received 3.7 million pounds of food through the CCC; however, additional CCC support in FY25 and beyond seems unlikely, making it increasingly difficult for the GCFB to meet the growing needs across its northeast Ohio service area; and

WHEREAS, a few weeks ago the USDA informed food banks that the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program, which allows food banks to buy nutritious, locally grown food from small farmers, will end on June 30, 2025, resulting in the loss of nearly 1 million pounds of food for distribution by the GCFB —much of it fresh produce and healthy proteins that families rely on; and

WHEREAS, last year GCFB and its network of 1,000+ agency partners served 424,000 individuals, of which nearly 25% were seeking food assistance for the first time; the combined impact of losing LFPA and CCC food comes at a time when more people than ever are turning to GCFB for help; and

WHEREAS, further complicating and impacting GCFB’s ability to meet the needs of Cleveland-area residents is the proposed \$7.5 million – or 25% - reduction in funding for Ohio food programs in the state budget; and

WHEREAS, together with the federal reductions, if dollars are not restored to Ohio’s Food and Agricultural Clearance programs in the state budget, GCFB anticipates a loss of 3.9 million pounds of food in 2025 and another 5.1 million pounds of food in 2026; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council opposes the United States Department of Agriculture’s cuts and proposed Ohio state budget cuts to food assistance programs impacting the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Section 2. That this Council urges the federal government and the Ohio legislature to restore those dollars in order to adequately fund critical nutrition programs for people and families in need.

Section 3. That the Clerk of Council is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Ohio Congressional delegation, all members of the Ohio State legislature, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, and Kristin S. Warzocha, President and CEO, Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Section 4. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

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REPORT
after second Reading

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READ FIRST TIME
and referred to

REPORTS

READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on MARCH 31, 2025

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR