



City Council Referral Request

Tracking Number
(Provided by Staff)

Click or tap
here to enter
text.

2025.57

Date of
Referral

11/6/2025

Requester Councilmember Jim Cooper,
Councilmember Clark
Gilman, and Mayor Dontae
Payne

Referral To Study Session

Staff

Community Livability & Public Safety

Land Use & Environment Committee

Work Session

Committee of the Chairs

Finance Committee

Advisory Committee (type here)

Problem Statement

A clear concise description of the issue(s) that need(s) to be addressed.

As a direct result of the ongoing federal government shutdown, the President of the United States has halted release of all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This action has left thousands of vulnerable residents in Olympia and throughout Thurston County without access to critical food assistance. The Thurston County Food Bank is facing an immediate and unsustainable surge in demand as families turn to local resources for help. To address this escalating crisis and prevent further harm to our community, we urgently request that \$50,000 be released from the Council Goal Fund (or other sources) to support the Food Bank's emergency response efforts.

Request

What is being requested to assist in addressing the issue described in the problem statement?

To allocate \$50,000 from the Council Goal Fund (or other sources) to the Thurston County Food Bank to support its emergency response to the denial of SNAP benefits.

Relationship to City Business or Proposed City Business/Services

Describe how this will enhance what is already offered and/or what it will provide that is not currently available. Why is this the City's issue to address? How will this create a more adaptive and resilient organization? How will this enhance the City's work to further equity, climate, and social justice?

This request directly supports the City of Olympia's commitment to equity, resilience, and social justice. The denial of SNAP benefits has created an urgent gap in basic services that disproportionately impacts children, low-income households, seniors, people with disabilities, and communities of color. By supporting the Thurston County Food Bank, the City is stepping in to help meet a critical need that aligns with its responsibility to protect public health and wellbeing.

This action enhances the City's existing work by providing immediate relief where federal systems have failed and strengthens our community's capacity to respond to future disruptions. It is a tangible expression of the City's values and a necessary step toward a more adaptive and equitable local government.

Connection to Comprehensive Plan

Choose all that apply.

Public Health and Safety

A safe and welcoming Community; reliable and responsive emergency services; a safe and reliable water supply; public infrastructure in the City is well-maintained; adequate food and shelter

Community Livability

A commitment to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community; access to affordable and stable housing; a safe transportation system with options for everyone; recreation opportunities for everyone; Connections to our culture and history

Downtown

Vibrant, attractive urban destination; a safe and welcoming downtown for all; a mix of urban housing options; a variety of businesses; connections to our cultural & historic fabric; engaging arts & entertainment experience

Economy

Abundant local products and services; a thriving arts and entertainment industry; sustainable quality infrastructure; a stable thriving economy

Environment

Clean water & air; a daily connection to nature; preserved quality natural areas; a toxin-free community; a waste free culture

Neighborhoods

Distinctive places & gathering spaces; nearby goods & services; neighborhoods that are engaged in community decision making; safe and welcoming places to live

Options

Describe proposed options for moving the idea or issue forward for the meeting body to consider.

1. Approve the allocation of \$50,000 from the Council Goal Fund to the Thurston County Food Bank; direct City Staff to coordinate with the Food Bank to address any capacity concerns and assess the broader scope of community need.
2. Issue a public call to the community, encouraging donations and volunteer support for the Food Bank to help meet the surge in demand.
3. Consider declaring a local food emergency, based on situational analysis which could enable the City to access additional resources, including reserve funds or the deployment of City staff to support food distribution efforts.

Timing

Is this issue time sensitive, are there other timing factors to consider?

Immediate action is needed due to the federal government's refusal to release SNAP benefits, which are typically distributed at the beginning of each month. Many households are already without access to food assistance. Timely support from the City is critical to prevent further harm and ensure the Thurston County Food Bank can continue responding to the growing level of community need.

Supporting Documentation (Work Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Parks Plan, etc)

Are there documents that support your request or that should be considered?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Councilmember Signatures

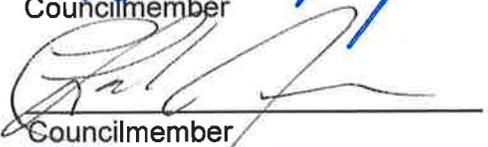
Two Councilmembers must support the request including the Chair of the Committee of referral. (Cannot be a committee quorum unless discussed at an open public meeting of the committee.)



 Sponsoring Councilmember

1. 

 Councilmember

2. 

 Councilmember

Staff Supplement

Staff will review the request to generate administrative impacts to be considered as part of proposal (staff to initial after their review):

Budget Impacts: Click or tap here to enter text.

Legal Review (to include regulatory authority): Click or tap here to enter text.

Policy implications: Click or tap here to enter text.

Implementation Considerations: Click or tap here to enter text.

Staff Liaison: Click or tap here to enter text.