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For Immediate Release
June 4, 2026



PRESS RELEASE

Clay County Food Insecurity Task Force to Host First-Ever Hunger & Food Access Summit

CLAY COUNTY, FL – The Clay County Food Insecurity Task Force (CFIT), convened by Waste Not Want Not, will host the inaugural Clay County Hunger & Food Access Summit on Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Baptist Medical Center Clay Auditorium, 1771 Baptist Clay Drive, Fleming Island, FL 32003.

The summit will bring together community leaders, nonprofit partners, and stakeholders to take stock of CFIT's progress and chart a path forward for addressing food insecurity across Clay County. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the goals, tactics, and insights compiled by the task force since its founding in summer 2025, connect with organizations working to improve food access, and participate in shaping collaborative community-driven solutions.

Featured speakers include Ed Hubel, President of Baptist Medical Center Clay; Jennifer Knight, Vice President of The Kitchen of Clay County; Alexandra Reinhardt, Project Manager at Baptist Health System; and Kathleen N. Spears, PhD, Executive Director of Waste Not Want Not.

CFIT was established to bring together the many organizations already doing critical work on food insecurity so that, collectively, they can accomplish more. The task force operates through three subcommittees: Food Access, Systemic Change, and Self-Sufficiency, and has already undertaken a SNAP training event at the Orange Park Library to equip more community members to help neighbors navigate food assistance programs.

The summit is open to nonprofits, faith communities, government agencies, and social service organizations working in Clay County. Space is limited.

RSVP by June 23, 2026 to Avery Cecere at avery@wastenotflorida.org.

EVENT DETAILS

What: Clay County Hunger & Food Access Summit

When: Thursday, June 25, 2026 | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: Baptist Medical Center Clay Auditorium 1771 Baptist Clay Drive, Fleming Island, FL 32003

About CFIT

The Clay County Food Insecurity Task Force (CFIT) is a coalition of nonprofits, community leaders, faith communities, and food assistance organizations convened by Waste Not Want Not in summer 2025. CFIT's founding members include Waste Not Want Not, Baptist Medical Center Clay, the Florida Department of Health, the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida, Challenge Enterprises, Impact Clay, Clay County Rescue Mission, The Kitchen of Clay County, Mission of the Dirt Road, and Celebration Church. CFIT is actively growing its membership and welcomes organizations working in Clay County to get involved. For more information, contact Avery Cecere at avery@wastenotflorida.org.

About Waste Not Want Not

Waste Not Want Not is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty and to reducing food waste across 14 counties in Northeast Florida. As the region's only hunger alleviation organization solely committed to food rescue, *Waste Not Want Not* does not purchase food or operate as a traditional food bank. Instead, *Waste Not* bridges the gap between surplus food and hungry people—recovering high-quality, excess food from retailers, distributors, and other partners and redirecting it to nonprofit agencies serving individuals and families facing food insecurity.

Powered by hundreds of dedicated volunteers and supported by generous food donors and community partners, *Waste Not Want Not* ensures that wholesome food feeds people—not landfills. Each week, as a result of *Waste Not's* efforts, more than 15,000 neighbors receive nourishment made possible through rescued food that would otherwise go to waste.

To learn more, volunteer, or support the mission, visit www.wastenotflorida.org.