



FY 2026 ADVOCACY AGENDA

Who We Are (Brief)

Waste Not Want Not is the **only hunger-alleviation organization in Northeast Florida dedicated exclusively to food rescue**. We fight hunger and poverty by recovering surplus food that would otherwise go to waste. We do **not** purchase food and do **not** receive government-subsidized food commodities.

Waste Not Want Not is a bona fide **501(c)(3)** nonprofit organization, active and in good standing in the State of Florida. We:

- Employ a dedicated team of **6 staff members (3.5 FTE)**, led by **Dr. Kathleen N. Spears, PhD, MHA**, an experienced nonprofit executive with more than a decade of leadership in advocacy, community health, and systems-level approaches to hunger relief.
- **Rescue nearly 2 million pounds of food annually** with the support of more than **200 volunteers**.
- Are governed by a **Board of Directors** comprised of community leaders, corporate executives, and committed volunteers.
- Serve **more than 200,000 food-insecure children, working families, seniors, veterans, and unhoused individuals** across **14 counties in Northeast Florida**.
- Partner with **dozens of nonprofit organizations** and **eight Title I schools** to ensure rescued food reaches those with the greatest need.
- Are headquartered in **Orange Park, Florida**, in Clay County.

Our Mission

To fight hunger and poverty every day by rescuing food and other essential items.

Our Vision

No food goes wasted. No person goes hungry.

OUR ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Federal Policy Priorities

1. Protect the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act

Maintain and strengthen the **federal liability protections** that enable businesses, farms, and institutions to donate surplus food in good faith. Any erosion of these protections would significantly reduce food donations nationwide.

Ask: Oppose amendments that weaken donor protections; support continued enforcement and education around the Act.

2. Include Food Rescue Organizations in Federal Policy Discussions

Food rescue organizations must be recognized as **essential infrastructure** in conversations around:

- Hunger and food insecurity
- Nutrition policy
- Food loss and waste reduction
- Environmental sustainability

Ask: Ensure food rescue organizations are included in stakeholder engagement and advisory processes.

3. Safeguard the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)

While Waste Not Want Not does not receive federal funds directly, we feel the impact when EFSP-funded partners experience cuts—reducing food access for our shared clients.

Ask: Protect and fully fund EFSP as a critical emergency response tool during economic downturns, disasters, and public health crises.

4. Invest in Food Recovery Infrastructure


Food rescue is a cost effective strategy that advances hunger relief and environmental goals.

Ask: Support federal funding streams and pilot programs that invest in food recovery logistics, transportation, cold storage, and data collection.

Contact:

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