

June 3, 2025

Commissioner Julia Brim-Edwards, District 3

Commissioner Vince Jones-Dixon, District 4

Amendment: Culturally-Specific Meals

Having access to healthy meals each day is a challenge for many older adults, people with disabilities and Veterans. Limited income, functional impairment, and social isolation can be barriers to maintaining adequate nutrition. Lack of access to culturally appropriate foods can also be a barrier. Poor nutrition may lead to malnourishment, disease, and difficulty living independently at home.

The Nutrition Program helps support health, prevent disease, and reduce social isolation. Individuals either receive culturally appropriate home-delivered meals where staff are able to check on them or attend a congregate meal site where they can socialize in a community setting. This intervention ultimately helps participants remain independent in their homes. Staff also help connect participants to other services in the community.

In recent years, the need and cost for meals has grown as funding has plateaued and has been proposed to decrease.

Commissioners Brim-Edwards and Jones-Dixon propose an amendment that restores (\$135,012) and enhances (\$118,988 to deliver a target of 460,000 meals) culturally-specific meals through the Department of County Human Services for a total of \$254,000.

Offset by \$254,000 in ongoing funds from Chair's Revenue Amendment #5.