

PRESS RELEASE

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FAMU is prepared to support students and the local community throughout the holiday season

Tallahassee, FL. - The Florida A&M University's food pantry has been serving students and the local community since 2008. The pantry has maintained partnerships with several local and state grocers, who provide truckloads of various food and drinks at least twice a week. As the year-end holidays approach, many students and families are concerned about their food storage to provide sufficient meals to sustain themselves over the holidays. The discourse arose as a result of the recent government shutdown, which lasted a historic 43 days and has left many families without the necessary government supplemental benefits to get by. However, FAMU's food pantry is ready and prepared to help combat this issue.

"Our mission is to serve our student population. We want them to be well fed," said the pantry's director of student health services, Yen Lam.

As Thanksgiving approaches, students are gearing up to return home and spend the holiday break with their families. Yet, for those who will remain in Tallahassee, the pantry has planned to provide meal kits and other resources for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Just a week shy of Thanksgiving break, the University's food pantry has partnered with the local Salvation Army to provide a meal to students during a college Thanksgiving dinner party, hosted on November 19, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the organization's storefront, located at 2410 Allen Rd, Tallahassee, FL. Sonny's Bar-B-Q will cater the collaborative meal event. To attend the event, a QR code for registration is provided and shared via email for students and the pantry's Instagram page.

Miami Gardens native and third-year pre-journalism (Broadcast) major Kareen Williams said, "My friend told me about it my freshman year, and I started coming. I come about every other week."

Leading up to the week of Thanksgiving, students are also welcome to stop by the University's food pantry during special hours to pick up meal kits to prepare their own meals during the first holiday break. In addition to being open to students, the pantry also welcomes local families and is prepared to host and serve them. During the week of Thanksgiving, the pantry will be open only on Monday and Tuesday, and again the following Sunday before entering the month of December.

"It impacts students because they can focus more on their schooling, on their mental health, and not have to worry about the last time they had a meal," said Ms. Everlena Baulkmon, FAMU's food pantry coordinator.

Students and local citizens should refer to and follow the pantry's Instagram page, "@famufoodpantry," for further updates, holiday hours, information regarding meals and food for the upcoming Christmas holiday, and general updates.

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