

Sponsor: Mayor Betterton

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA, that the attached Agreement for Project Help between the City of Florence and The Help Center is hereby approved, ratified and confirmed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Florence.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

CITY COUNCIL

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

MAYOR

ADOPTED & APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

CITY CLERK

AGREEMENT FOR PROJECT HELP

This agreement between The Help Center, hereinafter referred to as “THC”, and the City of Florence, Alabama, hereinafter referred to as “City”, does hereby define and continue a program called “Project Help”.

1. Project Help is intended to help meet the emergency energy-related needs of the elderly, persons with disabilities, and extreme hardship cases by giving City utilities customers an opportunity to contribute by increasing utilities bill payments each month by whatever whole-dollar amount the customer indicates through a signed statement to be sent to City. All amounts collected by City in any calendar month as contributions to Project Help will be paid to the THC for the Project Help fund no later than 27 days after the end of that month. Special gifts are acceptable but must be sent directly to the THC office for the Project Help fund.

2. Those eligible for assistance are those persons facing extreme hardship to the extent they are unable to be economically self-sufficient. Eligibility will be determined and verified solely by THC. Criteria may be changed in time, if gifts to Project Help are adequate or if community needs should change.

3. Assistance rendered under the program is intended to be for energy-related purposes. This includes gas, water, or electric service bills, cost of other fuels like propane or butane, wood or coal, weatherization, emergency repair of vital heating equipment or similar expenditures. However, the THC staff will have total discretion in determining when emergency needs exist and discretion in using available funds to meet those emergencies.

4. Overall oversight responsibility will be vested with the THC Board of Directors.

5. The program is not intended to replace or supplant any existing program or funding source, including those of any other public or private funds, but is to be a supplement to the presently available services.

6. Both City and THC will operate the program so all funds contributed to Project Help will go to ultimate beneficiaries without deduction of salaries, administrative costs, or other expenses.

7. The initial term of this agreement shall be January 1, 2025, through _____. Either party may discontinue its participation in Project Help by giving a 30 day written notice to the other party. All contributions remitted to City by its customers or other parties after City has withdrawn from participation will be turned over to THC.

8. Administration of the program will be through THC. THC will report annually to the City the income and grant awards of its administration activities. All records of Project Help will be open to the City at all times. THC will also provide, at its own expense, a certified audit report once yearly upon the income and grant awards of Project Help. A copy will be furnished to City.

9. City will, to the extent practicable, promote the program among its customers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement on this the _____ day of _____, 2025.

The Help Center

By: _____

Its: _____

CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA
a municipal corporation

By: _____

Its: Mayor