



PRESS RELEASE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APPLICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP) FUNDING NOW OPEN

(Bloomington, IL 2/27/2023) United Way of McLean County today announced McLean County has been awarded \$69,127 in funding from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. The local board entrusted with fund distribution is now accepting applications from qualified organizations.

“EFSP provides supplemental emergency food and shelter support to more than 12,000 nonprofit and public food banks, shelters, feeding programs, and homeless prevention organizations in nearly 2,500 counties throughout the country,” says United Way of McLean County President and CEO David Taylor. “A local board then distributes funds among organizations currently providing emergency food and shelter services in high-need areas around the county.”

The national EFSP board apportions funds by county based on calculations for unemployment and poverty rates in each area.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide. The McLean County EFSP board has representatives from government agencies, information and referral agencies, homeless and faith-based organizations, FEMA affiliates and United Way.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. As decided by the local board, funding will be provided to organizations that provide served meals, food, shelter, rent/mortgage assistance, and/or utility assistance to unserved and/or underserved populations. Qualified organizations are urged to apply.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds should call United Way at 309-828-7383 and ask for a copy of the application. The deadline for completed applications to be received is 4:30 pm on Monday, March 8, 2023.