



WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM?

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) was created, in 1983, by Congress to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States and its territories by allocating federal funds for the provision of food and shelter.

The program is governed by a National Board composed of representatives of the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide. The national board is chaired by a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Since inception, the national program has disbursed over \$4.4 billion to over 14,000 local providers in more than 2,500 counties and cities. Funds from EFSP are distributed to each county in the United States based on its current population size, unemployment rate, and poverty rate.

United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties facilitates a local board of community volunteers who decide how the funds from EFSP are distributed within Benton and Franklin Counties each year.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

	Phase 38
Benton County	\$102,686
Franklin County	\$47,041

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM?

Organizations must provide food and/or shelter services in Benton and/or Franklin Counties and meet the following criteria:

- Be a 501(c)(3) non-profit or agency in good standing with the IRS
- Be eligible to receive Federal funds
- Have an accounting system
- Have a valid Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)
- Have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number issued by Dun & Bradstreet
- Practice non-discrimination (agencies with a religious affiliation will not refuse service to a client based on religion, nor engage in religious proselytizing or religious counseling in any program receiving Federal funds)
- Have a board that meets at least quarterly

WHAT DOES THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM FUND?

Emergency Food and Shelter funds in Benton and Franklin Counties fund food, shelter, rent/mortgage assistance, and utility assistance.

Eligible items in food category:

- All purchased food items (e.g. food purchased by a food bank)
- Any food used in served meals (e.g. food purchased by a soup kitchen)
- Diapers and feminine hygiene products
- Gift cards/certificates to grocery stores

Frequently Asked Questions



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- Food vouchers
- Boxes and plastic storage bags used to store and deliver food
- Paper products (paper plates, towels, toilet tissue) used to serve meals
- Items and utensils used to prepare food
- Maintenance fees charged by food banks
- Transportation costs for pickup and delivery of food, and for transporting clients to food distribution sites

Eligibility in shelter category:

- Lodging charges from a hotel or motel
- Lodging charges from a nonprofit facility acting as a vendor
- Lodging stays up to a total of 30 days
- Local taxes added to the bill
- Certain transportation costs
- Supplies essential to shelter individuals in a mass shelter (cots, mattresses, soap, linens, blankets, cleaning supplies. Limited amounts of personal care products and first aid supplies)

Eligibility in rent/mortgage assistance:

- One month of past due balance of rent or mortgage per household per EFSP phase
- One month of current balance of rent or mortgage per household per EFSP phase
- One payment of first month's rent per household per EFSP phase

Eligibility in utility assistance:

- One past due utility bills or current utility bill per household per EFSP phase

HOW ARE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER FUNDS PAID?

Emergency Food and Shelter funds are paid on a **reimbursement** basis; Phase 38 covers expenses incurred between January 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021. Agencies awarded EFSP funding must keep accurate documentation of invoices and payments and must submit copies of all invoices and payments to United Way as part of the final year-end report.

HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION APPLY FOR EFSP FUNDING?

Agencies complete online applications through United Way's [e-Clmpact grant review system](#). Only completed applications, received through this online system, will be considered.

DO I NEED TO SUBMIT SEPARATE APPLICATIONS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES?

No. There is one application for both counties. However, applicants must specify if they are applying for funding in Benton County, Franklin County, or both. If applying for both counties, agencies must provide budget detail that clearly identifies expenses for each county.

WHAT DOES THE FUNDING DECISION MAKING PROCESS CONSIST OF?

Organizations can submit applications until January 6, 2021, at 11:59pm. After that deadline, members of the local board in Benton and Franklin Counties will review all applications. During this review period, United Way staff may contact agencies if the board requests clarification.

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United Way staff will contact you to schedule your organization’s 5-minute presentation, followed by a brief Q&A, with the local board at their meeting; this meeting will be held over *Microsoft Teams*. At the conclusion of presentations, the local board will determine Phase 38 funding for both counties.

WHEN WILL I BE NOTIFIED OF A FUNDING AWARD?

Agencies will be notified of funding awards no later than close of business on January 15, 2021.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR MORE QUESTIONS?

For questions or for technical assistance with the online application, please contact United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties by emailing grants@uwbfc.org or calling (509) 581 – 3939.