

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## TWIN-COUNTIES AWARDED FUNDS UNDER NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

(Nash/Edgecombe Counties, NC- January 31, 2023) - United Way Tar River Region is pleased to announce the continuation of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) in our community. For Phase 40, Congress has appropriated \$3,663,221 for North Carolina to supplement and expand emergency food and shelter programs. Of this amount, **Nash and Edgecombe Counties have been awarded \$79,695 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in our area.**

The source of funding is a federal appropriation from Congress to the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. The National Board selects jurisdictions (cities or counties) for funding, *not specific agencies*. The federal department responsible for this program is the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These are not state, county government, or United Way funds.

The National Board has chosen United Way as the Secretariat to carry out the administrative responsibilities. United Way Tar River Region is responsible for organizing a Local Emergency Food and Shelter Board to recommend and oversee agencies receiving funds under the EFSP for the twin-counties. Chaired by Warren Stephenson, the local EFSP Board is comprised of citizens from Edgecombe and Nash Counties who are representatives of the National Board member agencies, such as American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, The Salvation Army, United Way, and the National Council of the Churches of Christ. In addition, local boards must include a homeless, formerly homeless, or homeless advocate in their membership.

"Administering the Emergency Food and Shelter Program is extremely important for our community, especially as we focus on ensuring our community members have, at minimum, their basic needs met," says United Way executive director, Ginny Mohrbutter. "These funds are essential for our local voluntary agencies to provide needed emergency food and shelter options for our citizens who are experiencing challenging times. We encourage qualified agencies to apply for the funding and help us meet the needs of our local neighbors."

**To be considered for funding**, an organization must: Be nonprofit or an agency of government; Not be debarred or suspended from receiving Federal funding; Have a checking account and sign up for EFT (cash payments are not allowed); Have an accounting system or fiscal agent approved by the Local Board; Have a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN); Have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and provide along with other required associated information; Have a valid email address for program communication and electronic signature processes; Be providing services and using its other resources in the area in which they are seeking funding; Practice nondiscrimination (those agencies with a religious affiliation wishing to participate in the program must not refuse services to an applicant based on religion or require attendance at religious services as a condition of assistance, nor will such groups engage in any religious proselytizing in any program receiving EFSP funds); Have a voluntary board if private, not-for-profit; and, To the extent practicable, involve homeless individuals and families, through employment, volunteer programs, etc., in providing emergency food and shelter services.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program Funds must meet above criteria and also complete an online application. For more information or to complete an application, please visit: [www.unitedwaytrr.org/phase40](http://www.unitedwaytrr.org/phase40). **THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS FOR PHASE 40 is TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023 by 5:00PM.** For any questions, please email [ginnymohrbutter@unitedwaytrr.org](mailto:ginnymohrbutter@unitedwaytrr.org) or call 252-937-2213 Ext. 203.

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