

Emergency Food and Shelter Program – Olmsted County and Goodhue-Wabasha-Rice Counties, Minnesota

Frequently Asked Questions

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.

The River Valleys Continuum of Care facilitates a local board of community volunteers who decide how the funds from EFSP are distributed within Olmsted and Goodhue-Rice-Wabasha Counties each year.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

	Phase 37	CARES
Olmsted County	\$28,360	\$57,184
Goodhue-Rice-Wabasha Counties	\$25,187	\$50,753

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

Organizations must provide services in the one of the above service areas 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)
- Currently deliver emergency food or shelter programs
- Have a board that meets at least quarterly

WHAT DOES THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM FUND?

The local board for Olmsted County and Goodhue-Rice-Wabasha Counties has decided to fund food and temporary shelter. EFSP funds are meant to supplement existing direct service programs for food or shelter to meet current emergency (non-disaster related) needs.

Eligible items in Food:

- Served Meals/Mass Feeding – Food, food preparation utensils, paper products, pickup/delivery costs
- Other Food – Food vouchers, diapers and feminine hygiene products
- Personal Protective Equipment for staff and residents
- Supplies and Equipment – items necessary to provide food, limited eligible costs

Eligible items in Shelter:

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- Mass Shelter – On site housing (5+ beds) for up to 30 days
- Other Shelter – Hotel/motel based shelter for up to 30 days
- Rent/Mortgage Assistance – One month of assistance
- Personal Protective Equipment for staff and residents
- Supplies and Equipment – items necessary to provide shelter, limited eligible costs

HOW ARE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER FUNDS PAID?

Emergency Food and Shelter funds are paid on a reimbursement basis. Agencies awarded EFSP funding must keep accurate documentation of invoices and payments and must submit copies of all invoices and payments to Three Rivers Community Action (the fiscal host of River Valleys Continuum of Care) as part of the final year-end report. All Phase 37 and Phase CARES funds must be spent and reported by April 30, 2021.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PHASE 37 AND PHASE CARES?

Phase 37 is the annual EFSP award made to Olmsted County and Goodhue-Rice-Wabasha Counties for Federal Fiscal Year 2019. Phase CARES is part of the U.S. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide COVID-19 resources. Applications for both phases are now open and will be awarded and administered simultaneously.

HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION APPLY FOR EFSP FUNDING?

Agencies must submit their application materials by email to jprins@threeriverscap.org. Only completed applications, received through required methods, will be considered.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR BOTH PHASES OF EFSP FUNDING?

Applications are available by request to jprins@threeriverscap.org. Agencies interested in applying for both phases of funding will only be required to submit one application. However, agencies must specify which phase or phases of funding that they are applying for, as well as in which county or counties.

DO I NEED TO SUBMIT SEPARATE APPLICATIONS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN OLMSTED AND GOODHUE-RICE-WABASHA COUNTIES?

No. There is one application for both areas. However, applicants must specify if they are applying for funding in Olmsted County, Goodhue-Rice-Wabasha Counties, or both. If applying for both area, agencies must provide budget detail that clearly identifies expenses for each area. Up to one eligible organization per eligible funding type (food or shelter) per geographic area (Olmsted County or Goodhue-Rice-Wabasha Counties) will be selected.

WHAT DOES THE FUNDING DECISION MAKING PROCESS CONSIST OF?

Organizations can submit applications until September 29, 2020 at 4:00pm. After that deadline, members of the local board will review all applications. During this review period, staff may contact agencies if the board requests clarification. Once any clarifications are received, the local board will determine funding for both phases and both areas.

WHEN WILL I BE NOTIFIED OF A FUNDING AWARD?

Agencies will be notified of funding awards no later than close of business on October 15, 2020.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR MORE QUESTIONS?

For questions or for technical assistance with the online application, please contact Continuum of Care Coordinator Jennifer Prins by emailing jprins@threeriverscap.org or calling 507-322-3850.