



## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM?

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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 Southwest Louisiana facilitates a local board of community volunteers who decide how the funds from EFSP are distributed within Calcasieu Parish each year.

### HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

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	Phase 37	CARES
Calcasieu	\$93,370	\$133,118

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

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Organizations must provide services in Calcasieu Parish 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 the capacity to deliver emergency food programs
- Have a board that meets at least quarterly

### WHAT DOES THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM FUND?

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Priority for funding will be given to those agencies serving individuals directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Eligible items in Food:

- All food items
- Diapers
- Gift cards/certificates
- Food vouchers
- Boxes and plastic storage bags
- Maintenance fees charged by food banks
- Transportation costs for pickup and delivery of food, and for transporting clients to food distribution sites

## Emergency Food and Shelter Program – Calcasieu Parish Frequently Asked Questions

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### Eligibility in Shelter includes:

- 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

### HOW ARE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER FUNDS PAID?

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Emergency Food and Shelter funds are paid on a reimbursement basis through ACH. 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 interim and final reports or upon request.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PHASE 37 AND PHASE CARES?

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Phase 37 is the annual EFSP award made to Calcasieu Parish 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?

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Agencies complete fillable applications through United Way. Only completed applications, received by deadline, will be considered.

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR BOTH PHASES OF EFSP FUNDING?

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Agencies interested in applying for both phases of funding will only be required to submit one application found at <https://unitedwayswla.org/efsp>. However, agencies must specify which phase or phases of funding that they are applying for.

### WHAT DOES THE FUNDING DECISION MAKING PROCESS CONSIST OF?

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Organizations can submit applications until May 22, 2020 at 4 pm. After that deadline, members of the local board in Calcasieu Parish will review all applications. During this review period, United Way staff may contact agencies if the board requests clarification.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the local board will determine funding for both phases.

### WHEN WILL I BE NOTIFIED OF A FUNDING AWARD?

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Agencies will be notified of funding awards no later than close of business on May 29, 2020.

### WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR MORE QUESTIONS?

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For questions or for technical assistance with the online application, please contact United Way of Southwest Louisiana at 337.433.1088 or [lmartin@unitedwayswla.org](mailto:lmartin@unitedwayswla.org).