



FEMA



American Red Cross



Jewish Federations of North America



EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

Notification of Program Status (as of May 2026)

PROGRAM STATUS

Greetings from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) National Board. Over the past 16 months, there has been little communication with program participants regarding the status of the program. This notification is to share that EFSP continues to operate and that the program was awarded funds in Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, \$117 million for each grant. For the FY2024 grant, awards were made to qualifying jurisdictions (counties and cities) and State Set-Aside (SSA) Committees and they have been posted on the EFSP website, www.efsp.unitedway.org, under [FY2021/ARPAR/2022/2023/2024 Funding](#), then select [Phase 42 \(FY2024\) Allocations](#). In the recent Homeland Security and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026, EFSP was awarded \$123.5 million. As you may know, during the partial Federal Government shutdown, funding to the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were on hiatus, which impacted the EFSP. Since the end of the shutdown and passing of the DHS funding appropriation, FEMA has resumed their work on EFSP. As quickly as possible, the National Board will meet and decisions regarding allocations will be made so that funds can be awarded to Local Boards and SSA Committees expeditiously. Notice will be sent to all qualifying Local Boards and SSA Committees, and it will be posted on the EFSP website. **It is important to note that implementing this year's grant will require significant changes to the EFSP program approvals and payment processes. We will communicate more about these adjustments in a separate message.**

In the interim, EFSP staff continue to perform to ensure work of the program progresses. The following are a few of the activities staff focused on, and notifications with more details will be shared with program participants in the near future. Please read carefully and as necessary, respond when EFSP sends the notifications via email to Local Boards, SSA Committees, and Local Recipient Organizations (LROs). There will be instructions included in each of the notifications regarding requests and responses that may be necessary.

ACTION REQUIRED: UPDATE INFORMATION ON THE EFSP WEBSITE

To ensure there is no delay in receipt of notifications from the National Board, the point of contact for each Local Board, SSA Committee, and LROs should sign into the EFSP website as soon as possible using their user ID and password to verify and update their information.

1. For **Local Boards and SSA Committees**, please verify the following:
 - a. **Local Board Members' Information** – After signing into the website, select **Manage LB Members** to make any necessary changes.
 - b. **Email Addresses** – Verify and update, as needed, email addresses for both the Local Board Chair and point of contact for the Local Board or SSA Committee and other members, as necessary.
 - c. **LROs' Contact Information** – Update point of contact information for agencies participating in the program in the jurisdiction. Please note that LROs also have the ability to update this information via the website.

2. For **LROs**, please verify the following:
 - a. **LROs' Contact Information** – Update point of contact information, including name, address, phone, and email address, for your agency in all jurisdictions that you were funded in and plan to request funds in the future.

- b. **Bank Information** – Ensure bank information is accurate. If it has changed, please submit an updated Electronic Funds Transfer Form (EFT Form), available on the website after logging in with user ID and password, along with the appropriate support documents to the EFSP National Board via U.S. Postal Service, fax to 703-706-9677, or email at documentstoefsp@uww.unitedway.org. It is recommended that agencies encrypt any sensitive documents sent to EFSP via email for privacy and protection of data. Accurate banking information helps to prevent the delay in receipt of funds to LROs. All EFSP payments to LROs are made via EFT.
- c. **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** – All agencies participating in the EFSP must have a UEI. To obtain a UEI, please go to sam.gov. Instructions are provided for agencies who may need to get a UEI on the sam.gov homepage. Agencies may view a video for guidance on the website. All agencies participating in the EFSP must have a UEI registered with sam.gov. The National Board staff will provide guidance to agencies and Local Boards to provide their UEI to the National Board as needed.
- d. **Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)** – All agencies participating in the EFSP must have a FEIN. If you already have a FEIN, you should check to ensure it has not changed for your organization. If there are changes to the agency’s FEIN, the appropriate proof of change must be sent to EFSP at documentstoefsp@uww.unitedway.org for processing.

FINAL REPORTS

Phases 37, 38 and CARES Final Reports – Phases 37, 38 and CARES Final Reports were due to the National Board on January 31, 2022. If agencies in a jurisdiction received funds in any of these phases but the Local Board has not submitted the Final Reports, all of the agencies in the jurisdiction will be given compliance holds. Funding cannot be released to agencies if the Final Reports from previous phases have not been submitted to the National Board for review and approval. Training and guidance to complete and submit Final Reports to the National Board are available on the EFSP website in the [Training Workshops section](#) after logging in with your user ID and password. Local Boards and SSA Committees must submit the Final Reports to prevent compliance holds from being placed on the agencies by the EFSP staff. EFSP will send an initial notification to affected Local Boards, State Set-Aside Committees and LROs by May 31, 2026.

It is important to note that agencies with outstanding compliance holds in any past phases cannot be paid funds until those issues have been resolved. If an agency needs to submit documentation to the National Board to address outstanding compliance holds, they can send it via email to documentstoefsp@uww.unitedway.org or fax to 703.706.9677. Please use only one of the options to prevent the submission of duplicate material, which will require additional time to review and possible delays in staff response. All documentation submissions to respond to compliance holds must include a copy of the compliance letter that was sent to the agency from the EFSP office.

Phases 39, ARPAN, 40 and 41 Final Reports – Final Reports for Phases 39, ARPAN, 40 and 41 will be made available to Local Boards and LROs no later than June 15, 2026. Local Boards and agencies who are ready to submit their reports will be able to access the Final Reports for each of the phases via the EFSP website, after logging in with their user ID and password. Instructions will be provided in the updated materials that will be posted on the EFSP website. An initial email will be sent to all Local Board chairs and contacts to advise that Final Reports will be made available on the date to be determined.

MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

EFSP will add two security features to the website used by program participants. In June 2026, EFSP will add Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and Session Timeout to the website. The upgrades will help to protect users’ data on the EFSP website and prevent unauthorized access. Staff will provide instructional materials and offer opportunities for program participants to attend webinars and office-hour conversations to respond to any questions or concerns about these security enhancements. An email notification will be sent to Local Boards, SSA

Committees, and Local Recipient Organizations (LROs) when the schedules are made available on the EFSP website. More communications will be shared with Local Boards, SSA Committees, and LROs regarding these new security features prior to the launch of the features.

CLOSING

The continued participation and support of EFSP by Local Boards, State Set-Aside Committees and LROs is critical and appreciated. Since 1983, your partnership in this work has allowed EFSP funding to be used to provide food and shelter services to millions throughout the country and territories. To date, EFSP funds have been used to provide the following:

- 2.5 billion meals
- 5 million rent/mortgage payments
- 273 million nights of shelter (hotel/motel and congregate shelter)
- 6.8 million utility payments for individuals and families

Now that the partial government shutdown has ended, the National Board will return to business, while staff focus on the work to keep the program moving forward. EFSP staff will share program updates via email, and they will be posted on the website, as needed, under *Latest News* on the homepage.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please reach out to EFSP staff via email at efsp@uww.unitedway.org or phone at 703.706.9660.