



# EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### OVERVIEW

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funded program authorized by the McKinney-Vento Act of 1987 to supplement and expand the ongoing work of local social service organizations, both non-profit and governmental, to provide shelter, food, and supportive services to individuals and families who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness or hunger.

Annually appropriated funding is open to all organizations helping hungry and homeless people, as well as organizations that support those at risk of becoming hungry or homeless due to economic hardships.

### OVERARCHING EFSP QUESTIONS

#### **Q: Who makes up the EFSP National Board?**

**A:** The National Board is composed of seven national organization representatives. FEMA chairs the National Board, and the six national non-profit organizations represented on the board are 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.

#### **Q: What is a Local Board?**

**A:** A Local Board is the governing body for the EFSP in the jurisdiction (county or city). Composition of the Local Board mirrors that of the National Board, but they are encouraged to expand their representatives to include greater community involvement, diversity, and geographic representation. The highest-ranking government official or his/her designee in the jurisdiction replaces FEMA on the Local Board. The Local Board sets their own funding criteria, assesses community needs, advertises funding availability, reports on the funded agencies to the National Board, and monitors expenditures and program compliance.

#### **Q: What is a State Set-Aside Committee?**

**A:** The National Board created the State Set-Aside (SSA) Committee as a safeguard that ensures greater flexibility in selection of jurisdictions in need, particularly for jurisdictions that did not meet the minimum level of unemployment or poverty to qualify for funding under the National Board's annual formula criteria. SSA Committees are generally comprised of the state level affiliates of the National Board member agencies, with the Governor or his/her representative replacing the FEMA member.

In determining jurisdictions to fund, the SSA Committee is directed to fund areas of highest need in their state based upon indicators of need they choose.

**Q: How do organizations contact their Local Board?**

**A:** Organizations may obtain Local Board contact information by accessing the National Board's website, [efsp.unitedway.org](http://efsp.unitedway.org). On the homepage select [Supplemental Funding Info](#), then click on [Local Board Contact \(Individual Search\)](#), and select the appropriate state and jurisdiction. Organizations may also send an email to [suppfund@uww.unitedway.org](mailto:suppfund@uww.unitedway.org) or call the National Board staff at United Way Worldwide for the EFSP at 703-706-9660 to obtain Local Board contact information.

**Q: What is a Local Recipient Organization?**

**A:** A Local Recipient Organization (LRO) is any local social service organization, non-profit, faith-based, or governmental, that has been awarded EFSP funds, regardless of current or former EFSP participation.

**Q: Where does a potential applicant seek assistance to questions related to a funding opportunity?**

**A:** Potential applicants may seek assistance about a funding opportunity by contacting:

- Local Boards
- EFSP website
- National Board staff at [suppfund@uww.unitedway.org](mailto:suppfund@uww.unitedway.org) or 703-706-9660

**Q: Where can an applicant find information on trusted experts/organizations who could support nonprofit organizations in the application process?**

**A:** Organizations who may need assistance with the application process can contact their Local Board. To find the Local Board in your jurisdiction, please visit the National Board's website, [efsp.unitedway.org](http://efsp.unitedway.org). On the homepage select [Supplemental Funding Info](#), then click on [Local Board Contact \(Individual Search\)](#), and select the appropriate state and jurisdiction. Organizations may also send an email to [suppfund@uww.unitedway.org](mailto:suppfund@uww.unitedway.org) or call the National Board staff at United Way Worldwide for the EFSP at 703-706-9660 to obtain Local Board contact information.

**Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance (SAHA) and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019**

**Q: What is the Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance grant?**

**A:** On July 1, 2019, the President signed into law the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act (SAHA), 2019 (Public Law No: 116-26). Under SAHA, FEMA received \$30 million to be disbursed to the EFSP National Board for providing assistance to jurisdictions and local recipient organizations (including non-profit, faith-based, and governmental organizations) helping a significant influx of southern border migrants released from the custody of DHS.

Of the \$30 million in funding, the National Board has awarded over \$25 million in two application periods to 144 nonprofit, faith-based, and governmental organizations. The National Board is now making the approximately \$4.1 million remaining SAHA funds available in a third application period.

**Q: Who is eligible to apply for Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance grant funding?**

**A:** Eligible organizations must have been awarded funds in either of the two previous application periods and provided services to migrants from the southwest border from January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.

For the approximately \$4.1 million remaining for award, the National Board has implemented a funds-delivery method based on the submission of Supplemental Funding Requests (SFRs) to expedite the reimbursement of eligible costs incurred by nonprofit, faith-based, and governmental organizations assisting migrants. The Special Funding Request (SFR) method for awarding the funds is only available to the states of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. Local Boards and State Set-Aside (SSAs) Committees may submit SFRs to the National Board for expenses incurred by eligible service organizations.

**Q: What expenses are eligible for Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance grant funding?**

**A:** Eligible expenses will be considered and prioritized for reimbursement according to sheltering, feeding, transportation, basic health and first aid, and other supportive services. The allowable time period for eligible expenditures to be submitted is provided in the [Round 3 Guidance](#) posted on the [EFSP website](#) under the [Supplemental Funding Info](#) tab.

**Q: How will funds be distributed or awarded?**

**A:** The National Board has implemented a funds-delivery method based on the submission of Special Funding Requests (SFRs) to expedite the reimbursement of these remaining funds for eligible costs incurred by nonprofit and governmental organizations assisting this specified population of vulnerable people. Service organizations will submit requests for reimbursement to their Local Board or State Set-Aside (SSA) Committee (acting as a Local Board). Local Boards and SSA Committees (acting as Local Boards) will review the requests before they submit SFRs with recommendations via the EFSP website. The National Board will review the submissions to make determinations and disburse the approved funds to the Fiscal Agent selected by the Local Board or SSA Committee (acting as a Local Board). Funds may be disbursed directly to the service organizations, if requested in the SFRs and approved by the National Board. Submission of SFRs began on April 1, 2021 and will be accepted until further notice.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) OF 2021, Humanitarian Relief  
(\$110 Million)**

**Q: What is the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the EFSP?**

**A:** On March 11, 2021, the President signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (Public Law No: 117-2). This legislation provided a total of \$510 million in supplemental funding to the EFSP, with \$110 million to support local service organizations for continued humanitarian relief to families and individuals encountered by DHS, and \$400 million in additional funding to award funds to local service organizations providing continued emergency food and shelter assistance to communities across the country due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Q: What is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Humanitarian Relief, grant?**

**A:** The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides \$110 million in supplemental funds to eligible local nonprofit, faith-based, and governmental organizations, and state governmental facilities, that have provided, or will provide humanitarian relief to families and individuals encountered by DHS.

**Q: Who is eligible to apply for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Humanitarian Relief, grant?**

**A:** Local nonprofit, faith-based, and governmental organizations that have provided, or will provide, humanitarian relief to families and individuals encountered by DHS with shelter, food, transportation, basic health and first aid, COVID-19 testing and associated medical care needed during quarantine and isolation, and other supportive services are eligible to apply.

**Q: What is the application period for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Humanitarian Relief, grant?**

**A:** The National Board for the EFSP opened the first application period on April 19, 2021 for funds made available under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the purposes of providing humanitarian relief to families and individuals encountered by DHS. The first application will remain open through April 30, 2021.

There are four application periods for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to allow service organizations to submit applications for funding. No application received after an application period closes will be considered for funding. The application periods are listed below.

- April 19, 2021 through April 30, 2021
- July 15, 2021 through July 30, 2021
- October 15, 2021 through October 31, 2021
- January 15, 2022 through January 31, 2022

**Q: What expenses are eligible under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Humanitarian Relief, grant?**

**A:** Shelter, food, transportation, basic health and first aid, COVID-19 testing and associated medical care needed during quarantine and isolation, and other supportive services are eligible expenses. [American Rescue Plan Act Guidance](#) is posted on the EFSP website, [www.efsp.unitedway.org](http://www.efsp.unitedway.org), under the [Supplemental Funding Info](#) tab, to provide additional details about eligible expenses, the application period, and the timespan for eligible expenditures.

**Q: Who makes the award determinations for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Humanitarian Relief, funding to local social service organizations?**

**A:** Unlike the annual appropriations, supplemental funding provided for humanitarian relief will not be allocated by formula to the Local Boards or State Set-Aside (SSA) Committees. The National Board will determine which eligible organizations will be awarded funds and make the funding disbursements directly to the organizations.

**Q: How will the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Humanitarian Relief, grant be disbursed?**

**A:** The National Board will determine which local service organizations' applications are approved for funding and will disburse the funds directly to those organizations.

**Q: Is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Humanitarian Relief, funding for reimbursement only or can subgrantees apply for future costs?**

**A:** Awards to eligible organizations will be for reimbursement of services rendered during rolling spend periods, as well as prospective funding for approved projects and activities. Timeframes are provided in the [American Rescue Plan Act Guidance](#) posted to the EFSP website, [efsp.unitedway.org](http://efsp.unitedway.org), under the [Supplemental Funding Info](#) tab.

**Q: How do organizations apply for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Humanitarian Relief, grant?**

**A:** The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) humanitarian relief application, and Special Funding Request (SFR) award method is available on the EFSP website. Local social service organizations will submit their applications directly via the EFSP website, [www.efsp.unitedway.org](http://www.efsp.unitedway.org), under the [Supplemental Funding Info](#) tab, by clicking on **Start Supplemental Funding LRO Application**. Interested organizations may also reach out to the Local Board contact of record for their jurisdiction (county or city) for guidance or to ask questions. Local social service organizations that are in counties or cities where no Local Board exists will submit their applications on the EFSP website for their State Set-Aside (SSA) Committee (acting as a Local Board) to review and submit, with any recommendations, to the National Board for award determination. Additionally, any State facility seeking funding will submit its application on the EFSP website to the National Board through its SSA Committee.

### **For More Information**

Additional information can be found on the [EFSP Website](#) under the [Supplemental Funding Info](#) tab.