

News Release
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Application Deadline for Emergency Food and Shelter Funds

SALEM, OR (December 15, 2010) – Applications are now being accepted for Emergency Food and Shelter (EFSF) funds for the Marion and Polk counties. Deadline for submission is January 14, 2011.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program began in 1983 when Congress voted to set aside funds to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people by allocating federal dollars for the provision of food and shelter. Locally, the program is administered by a board composed of representatives from various agencies such as the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities, USA, to name a few. Each board is chaired by a local government official. Local boards may also have additional members and, since 1993, have been required to include a homeless or formerly homeless person as a member.

“With one-in-three seeking help in our community, the influx of dollars to help with basic needs is both timely and welcome,” stated Kate Decarlo, community impact coordinator. “I encourage qualifying agencies to submit their applications as soon as possible.”

Under the terms of the program, local agencies must meet the following criteria: be a private voluntary non-profit organization or unit of government; have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter services; have an accounting system; practice non-discrimination; and if a voluntary organization, must have a voluntary board.

Agencies meeting the aforementioned requirements are encouraged to apply by the January 14th deadline and should be prepared to make a brief (5-7 minutes) presentation to the local board during the last week in January.

The grant amount, which is based upon a formula involving population, poverty, and unemployment data, will be announced in early January; with funds being allocated in early February, following the application process. The United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley serves as the local administrator of these funds.

Qualifying agencies can download applications, instructions, forms and reference materials at: www.unitedwaymwv.org, under the News & Events section. For more information and/or to schedule a presentation, contact Kate Decarlo at (503) 363-1651, or: kdecarlo@uwmv.org

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About the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley

The United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley was established in 1937 and remains committed to supporting the Marion, Polk, and Yamhill communities through the allocation of dollars devoted to local agencies and essential services programs. With the help of corporate, employee, and individual donations, the United Way impacts one-in-three lives through programs that focus on urgent human and social services needs: helping children, youth, and adults achieve their potential; promoting financial stability and independence, and improving people’s health and independence. The United Way also oversees the HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley initiative—a volunteer action center that works to create change in the community through civic engagement. As well as the Gifts in Kind program, Salem Area Transit Bus Pass program and the Yamhill 2-1-1 helpline. For more information about the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley call: (503) 363-1651 or visit: unitedwaymwv.org