

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – TIME SENSITIVE
June 4, 2009**

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Additional Federal Funds Now Available for Food and Shelter Program in Rockingham & Strafford Counties: Applications Sought for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Funds -
Deadline Noon, June 22, 2009

Portsmouth, NH – Additional funds for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program have been awarded to Rockingham and Strafford County through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). \$49,600 in federal funds is available for Rockingham County and \$34,511 for Strafford County, New Hampshire. Programs funded include food pantries, homeless shelters, meals-on-wheels programs, emergency rent/mortgage/utility payment programs and other emergency programs for people in need. Applications for EFSP funding for these programs are now being accepted.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, private voluntary organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board.

Local agencies qualifying are encouraged to apply for these funds. Individuals are not eligible to receive EFSP funds. All applications must be submitted via e-mail to JoAnn Alessi at jalessi@uwgs.org by Noon on June 22, 2009.

A National Board chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consisting of representatives from The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Council of Jewish Federations, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and United Way of America selected United Way of the Greater Seacoast as the administrator of funds to provide the administrative staff and function as fiscal agent. The National Board distributes funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

United Way of the Greater Seacoast oversees a local Board made up of area representatives who determine how the funds awarded are to be distributed among emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations. The local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

For further information and applications visit the United Way's web site by selecting "investments" on the "our work" page: http://www.uwgs.org/11_work_sol_investments.cfm, or contact JoAnn Alessi, United Way of the Greater Seacoast, Pease International Tradeport, 112 Corporate Drive, Unit 3, Portsmouth, NH, 03801, telephone: (603) 436-5554 ext. 110, or jalessi@uwgs.org.

United Way of the Greater Seacoast (UWGS) is a locally governed nonprofit organization working to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks for a good life – education, income and health. UWGS develops, supports and works in groundbreaking partnerships in the Greater Seacoast region of NH and Southern Maine to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place and create opportunities for a better life for all. For more information, visit www.uwgs.org.