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## ***9th District Awarded \$583,625 in Federal Funds for Federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program***

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the 9th district has been awarded \$583,625 through the Department of Homeland Security’s Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program.

The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP) is a Federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and has been entrusted “to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food and supportive services” for the nation’s hungry, homeless, and people in economic crisis. The following counties in the 9th district have been selected to receive EFS funds:

- **Bedford County:** \$38,969
- **Blair County:** \$80,492
- **Cambria County:** \$103,833
- **Clearfield County:** \$65,471
- **Fayette County:** \$106,084
- **Fulton County:** \$14,288
- **Huntingdon County:** \$34,392
- **Indiana County:** \$60,034
- **Somerset County:** \$60,262

Additional counties in the 9th district may be selected at a later date by the EFS State Set-Aside Committee which has \$964,124 at its disposal.

The EFS National Board, chaired by the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and composed of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; and United Way of America, provides supplemental funding to shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks. One-month awards for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance are also available. The funds are used to help individuals and families with non-disaster, temporary emergency needs.

**\*\*More\*\***

In each funded jurisdiction, a Local Board advertises the availability of the funds, establishes local priorities, selects local non-profit and government agencies to receive supplemental funding, and monitors program compliance. The Local Board's composition mirrors the EFS Program National Board, with a local government official replacing FEMA and board members voting to select their chair.

The EFS Program has been in existence since 1983 and was authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. With the FY 2008 allocation, more than \$3.105 billion in federal aid will have been disbursed through the EFS Program since its inception to communities nationwide, and has accounted for millions of additional meals and nights of shelter to the hungry and homeless most in need across the nation.

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