

Oregon Housing and Community Services Department

Emergency Food and Shelter

Funding from ARRA

For More Information

U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development –
Portland Field Office
Phone: (971) 222-2600
Email: OR_Webmanager@hud.gov

Page 1 of 3

Program Overview

Oregon Housing and Community Services does not receive funding for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFS). The EFS Program is administered by a National Board of voluntary agencies chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Member agencies of the National Board include American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA; The Salvation Army; United Jewish Communities; and United Way of America.

The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program was created in 1983 to supplement the work of local social service organizations within the United States, both private and governmental, to help people in need of emergency assistance. This collaborative effort between the private and public sectors has disbursed more than \$2.3 billion in Federal funds during its 21-year history.

The McKinney-Vento Act of 1987 describes the program's purpose -- "To supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food and supportive services" for homeless and hungry individuals nationwide. The program is centered around quick response, public-private sector cooperation, local decision making and funds allocations to the neediest areas.

EFS funds were first authorized by Congress in 1983 and are currently appropriated annually under the McKinney-Vento homeless Assistance Act. The EFS program provides these funds to nearly 12,000 agencies for the prevention of homelessness and the provision of other food and shelter services.

The national board qualifies jurisdictions for annual EFS funding awards based on criteria involving current population, unemployment and poverty levels. (In Oregon, most counties are selected to receive awards - although in a given year, there may be some counties that do not receive awards.)

Grants are then awarded to non-profit community and government organizations that are chosen by local boards in the qualifying jurisdictions. (Generally in Oregon - the funds are allocated through local United Way organizations.) In addition to the direct funding awards, a state set-Aside is sometimes made for state grants to aid the needy in non-qualifying jurisdictions.

Continued –



Emergency Food and Shelter

Funding from ARRA

For More Information

U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development –
Portland Field Office
Phone: (971) 222-2600
Email: OR_Webmanager@hud.gov

Page 2 of 3

ARRA Funding

Nationally, ARRA provides \$150 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter program.

The totals for Oregon are not yet known.

Eligibility for Competitive Awards

The National Board is charged by Congress with the oversight of EFSP. The Board meets the first Friday of every month to decide issues such as overall programmatic goals, how funds are to be allocated, waivers of program rules, and any other issues which affect EFSP. The organizations they represent are invited by law to appoint representatives to the National Board, and the Board is allowed 1% of the overall Congressional allocation for administrative expenses, though it spends less.

The National Board uses a formula involving population, poverty, and unemployment data to determine the eligibility of a civil jurisdiction. There is no national application process. Poverty data is from the 2000 decennial census (source: U.S. Bureau of the Census); unemployment data is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Poverty figures from the 2000 census were used in Phase 27.

For fiscal year 2009 funding, jurisdictions qualify for funding if they meet one of the following criteria:

Number of unemployed: 13,000+ with a 4.3% rate of unemployment

Number of unemployed: 300-12,999 with a 6.3% rate of unemployment

Number of unemployed: 300 or more with an 11.0% rate of poverty

The actual award amounts are determined by dividing the available funds by the number of unemployed persons within each jurisdiction that qualifies. Jurisdictions that do not qualify under the formula and thus do not receive funding directly from the National Board may receive funds through the state set-aside process, and jurisdictions that do qualify may receive additional funding the same way.

ARRA Funding will be distributed under a similar formula.

Continued –



Oregon Housing and Community Services Department

Emergency Food and Shelter

Funding from ARRA

For More Information

U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development –

Portland Field Office

Phone: (971) 222-2600

Email: OR_Webmanager@hud.gov

Page 3 of 3

Other Requirements/Criteria – Formula Funding

Guidelines for EFSP ARRA funds have not yet been released.

Implementation Process/Steps

FEMA is planning to announce Congressional notifications of awards by March 31, 2009.

FEMA will issue a funding document to the National Board in June 2009. FEMA plans and progress are reported under the Homeland Security weekly reports at:

<http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/agency-weekly-reports>

OHCS is the state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for lower income Oregonians. The agency also administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless and energy assistance community service programs.



725 Summer St NE Suite B, Salem, Oregon 97301-1266 | www.oregon.gov/ohcs

TEL 503.986.2000 | FAX 503.986.2020 | TTY 503.986.2100

