

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Impacts to The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program

Prepared for the Governor's Office and the AARA Recovery Team
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May 20, 2009

Executive Summary

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). The purpose is to "supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food and supportive services" for the nation's hungry and homeless, and people in economic crisis.

The ARRA has provided additional dollars to the *Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program* to assist individuals and families in Wyoming. **The total of these dollars is \$67,210.**

Annually, the State receives approximately \$176,000 in EFSP funds. A state board, chaired by the Department of Family Services, determines local allocations based on need. The Board's members represent the faith community and local agencies including the Salvation Army and United Way. The Board's funding recommendations are made to the National Board which makes payment directly to the local agencies. The board operates on the following operating principles:

- Fast response
- Allocations to neediest areas
- Public/private sector cooperation
- Minimum, but accountable reporting
- Local decision-making

Policy and Implementation Issues

A recommendation from the State Board is due to the National Board on May 29, 2009. Therefore, time is of the essence.