

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Food and Shelter Program Applications Sought By Northern Berkshire United Way

North Adams – The National Board has awarded Berkshire County \$47,458 in Phase 37(FY19) Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) assistance and \$67,662 in PHASE CARES ACT (FY20) funding. There will be two application forms: one for Phase 37(FY19), and one for PHASE CARES, while both funds will run concurrently. An application must be completed for each Phase organizations want to apply for. Northern Berkshire United Way, local administrator of the program, is urging qualifying organizations located throughout Berkshire County that want to submit an application for supplemental emergency food and shelter to obtain it at this link: <https://www.nbunitedway.org/emergency-food-and-shelteprogram>.

Local organizations chosen to receive funds must be private voluntary non-profits (with a Voluntary board) or units of government; have an accounting system; practice non-discrimination; and have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs. Applicants must submit their application by email only by midnight on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 to: Christa Collier at ccollier@nbunitedway.org. Paper applications will not be accepted.

The funding award is made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consists of representatives from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, The Jewish Federations of North America, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and United Way Worldwide. Funds pass directly from FEMA's EFSP program to the local agencies that are awarded funding, and a sub-committee of the local board made up of representatives of organizations that are not requesting or receiving funds determines the actual organizations that receive funding.

For Phase 36, FEMA awarded \$63,887 which local representatives distributed to ten Berkshire County organizations: Berkshire Community Action Council, the Berkshire Food Project, the Cheshire Pantry, Child Care of the Berkshires, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Louison House, Northern Berkshire Interfaith Action Initiative, the Salvation Army in North Adams, the Salvation Army in Pittsfield and ServiceNet.