County receives FEMA funding for food, shelter programs

Meredith Egan

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VERO BEACH -- United Way has been notified that Indian River County was awarded federal funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFSP) program.

Phase 37 has been awarded $52,745 and Phase CARES has been awarded $75,199. Totaling $127,944, these awards are based upon unemployment and poverty rates at the national average and will be used to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

“The next step in the process for receiving the Phase 37 monies is for the local board to solicit funding requests from local organizations,” said Meredith Egan, local EFSP board chair, “funds will not be available directly to individuals.” Applications must be submitted online no later 5 p.m. on May 19, 2020 to be considered for funding for Phase 37 and Phase CARES. Late applications will not be accepted.

Under the terms of this grant, organizations chosen to receive EFSP funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) use funds to supplement and extend existing services and programs, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice non-discrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a volunteer board and 7) comply with all EFSP regulations.

Qualifying organizations interested in applying for funds should submit requests to Meredith Egan at Meredith.Egan@unitedwayirc.org.

The decision to provide funds to Indian River County was made by a National Board chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The National Board consists of representatives from The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities, U.S.A., National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and United Way of America which will provide the administrative staff and function as fiscal agent.

The Local EFSP board made up of representatives from government, religious and human service agencies will be convened to determine how the funds will be awarded among the local emergency food and shelter programs.

For additional information, contact Meredith Egan at Meredith. Egan@unitedwayirc.org or call 772-567-8900 ext. 125.