

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Preliminary Funding Notices – Phase CARES

HIDLAGO AND STARR COUNTY HAVE BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)/FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM.

Hidalgo County was allocated \$678,701 and Starr County was allocated \$82,588 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A Local Board made up of Lilly Lopez - Killelea, United Way of South Texas; David Luna, American Red Cross; Lieutenant Adolph Aguirre, The Salvation Army; Libby Salinas, Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley; Jaime Longoria, Community Service Agency; Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan, The Temple Emanuel; Norma Pimentel, Catholic Social Services; Cynthia Fuentes, Starr County; Frank Llanas, Homeless Representative; Belinda F. Simons, Su Casa de Esperanza and Elizabeth Zamora, Calvary Baptist Church representative will determine how the funds awarded to Hidalgo County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system and conduct an annual audit, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Maria Flores, United Way of South Texas: 113 W. Pecan Blvd. McAllen, TX 78501-9584, or call (956)686-6331 for an application. The deadline for submitting applications to the United Way of South Texas **is Thursday, May 21, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.**