



IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE
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Tompkins County Emergency Food and Shelter Program Now Accepting Funding Applications

Tompkins County has 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.

Tompkins County has been chosen to receive \$36,606 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

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 National 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 representatives from the Tompkins County, City of Ithaca, Human Services Coalition, United Way, service providers, faith community, and others will determine how the funds awarded to Tompkins 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 made 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, 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.

Tompkins County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with the Advocacy Center, Catholic Charities, Child Development Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension-Tompkins County, Family & Children's Service, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, Loaves and Fishes, Salvation Army, Tompkins Community Action, and Tompkins County Food Distribution Network most recently participating. These agencies were responsible for providing meals, pantry food, formula, shelter, and rental/utility assistance for county residents.

Private voluntary non-profits or units of government interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact John Mazzello, Human Services Coalition, 607-252-7214 or jmazzello@hsctc.org for an application. Information is also available at www.hsctc.org/efsp. The deadline for applications to be received is February 1, 2021.

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