



United Way of  
Benton & Franklin Counties

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: MaryAnne Wuennecke, 509-581-3945 or  
[mwuennecke@uwbfc.org](mailto:mwuennecke@uwbfc.org)

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### **United Way announces nearly \$400,000 to fight hunger and homelessness**

*Local agencies providing food and temporary shelter receive funding through federal program*

KENNEWICK, Wash—United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties has announced that local agencies will receive nearly \$400,000 in funding through the federal Emergency Food & Shelter program. The program is administered by FEMA to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people across the country and our United Way coordinates processes for the bi-county region.

The local EFSP board has allocated \$29,445 for temporary shelter to Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties. This supports short-term hotel stays for survivors of domestic violence until more permanent, safe housing is available.

There has been an increase in domestic violence due to the COVID-19 situation. “Domestic violence is aggravated by being isolated together, and by the stress of loss of income and an uncertain future,” said Janet Wildenborg from DVS. “We are seeing an increased need for the basics of food and safe shelter and are grateful for the funding to be able to provide that for our clients.”

Additionally, the EFSP board allocated \$367,625 for food, diapers, and transporting food to distribution locations to the following agencies:

- ) Boys and Girls Club, delivered food boxes: \$22,500
- ) Catholic Charities, delivered food boxes: \$4,400
- ) Central Church, School-age Mentoring Program, delivered food boxes: \$3,500
- ) Children's Developmental Center, delivered food boxes: \$21,200
- ) Columbia Industries, Opportunity Kitchen: \$43,500
- ) Domestic Violence Services Food Pantry: \$32,000
- ) Grace Clinic Food Pantry: \$24,550
- ) Riverview Church Food Bank: \$12,000
- ) Safe Harbor Crisis Nursery Food Pantry: \$19,000
- ) Second Harvest: \$58,696
- ) Tri-Cities Food Bank: \$62,283
- ) Senior Life Resources NW, Meals on Wheels: \$24,996
- ) St Vincent de Paul Society Food Bank: \$39,000

“Food and shelter are always among the areas of greatest need in our community,” said United Way president, Dr. LoAnn Ayers. “We are pleased to serve our community by facilitating the strategic placement of funds so we can get the highest benefit to local individuals and families.”

The program distributes funds on a reimbursement basis. Agencies must keep accurate documentation of invoices and payments and submit copies of all invoices and payments to United Way as part of the final year-end report.

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**About [United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties](#)**

United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties strives for a community where all individuals and families achieve their potential through education, financial stability and healthy lives. We partner with local nonprofits, businesses, and government and social service agencies to address our community's greatest needs and build pathways for individuals and families to independence and happiness.