

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UW JACKSON COUNTY RECEIVES \$111,000 FEMA GRANT PROPOSALS SOUGHT TO PROVIDE FOOD AND SHELTER

JACKSON, MI (January 8, 2007) - United Way of Jackson County has been awarded \$110,725.00 in federal funds from the Emergency Food And Shelter National Board Program, better known as FEMA. The emergency funding is to help support the food and shelter programs in high need areas around the country. The grant acknowledges the continuing need for food and shelter among Jackson County residents.

Local governmental or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for these funds need to have proposals submitted to the Jackson County United Way office no later than Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

In order to be considered, applying organizations must:

- be non-profit
- have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter
- have an accounting system and conduct an annual audit, and
- practice nondiscrimination.

In addition, private non-profit organizations must have a voluntary board.

A local board of Jackson County residents will determine how the funds will be distributed. This board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program. The United Way of Jackson County provides the administrative staff and functions as fiscal agent.

“This funding makes a big difference to a lot of people in crisis,” said Ken Toll, Executive Director of the United Way of Jackson County. “Given all the other demands on FEMA recently, I was concerned that Jackson might face a steeper reduction this year.”

“It can be difficult to award these funds, because so many organizations submit very good requests,” said Margaret Grose, United Way’s administrator of this program and member of Jackson’s Emergency Needs Coalition. “We work hard to get the biggest ‘bang for the buck’, and to spread these dollars around to reach the maximum number of people in need.”

For further information contact Margaret Grose at the United Way of Jackson County at 796-5121. United Way offices are located at 729 W. Michigan Ave. Jackson, MI 49201.