

Stimulus money will boost food and shelter programs

*By Rich Suwanski
Messenger-Inquirer
May 5, 2009*

Daviess County has been awarded \$29,937 in federal stimulus money to supplement emergency food and shelter programs.

The funds are provided through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and will be administered in cooperation with the United Way of the Ohio Valley.

Any nonprofit organization interested in applying for funding should contact the United Way office here. The funding is for expenses incurred from April 1 through Sept. 30.

"Nonprofit organizations can apply for funding in different areas, such as served meals, or food vouchers for groceries ordered, or food banks or food pantries," said Kathy Christie, the director of community services for the local United Way. "Mass shelters would be reimbursed for onsite shelter for people in emergency homeless-type situations.

"Nonprofit organizations that have qualified for other funding, however, will have to apply for this. If they've received other funding, it's not automatic that they would receive this. There's a whole lot of criteria."

Under the terms of the grant, local agencies chosen to receive funds must be private, voluntary nonprofits or units of government; be eligible to receive federal funds; have an accounting system; practice nondiscrimination; have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs; and if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board.

"This additional stimulus money will be a boost to bridge some gaps in services," Christie said. "We're really pleased at the United Way to administer this package for our community because our community has been hit hard.

"We wish it was more -- there's never enough money to go around -- but any additional funding will be helpful."

Applications are available at the United Way office at 403 Park Plaza Drive. Completed applications must be mailed to that office (P.O. Box 705, Owensboro, 42302) no later than May 14. A local, volunteer board approves allocations to service agencies, and the United Way provides staff support to the program.

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