

Food & Shelter Fund FAQ

In response to increasing need within our community, United Way of Lancaster County has launched the Food & Shelter Fund, a new grant initiative aimed at addressing the growing challenges faced by the county's most vulnerable individuals. The Food & Shelter Fund is our response to the delay in FEMA's [Emergency Food and Shelter Program](#) (EFSP), which we have administered in Lancaster County since 1983

Link to application: <https://tinyurl.com/uwlcfoodshelterfund>

Who may apply?

Applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- 501(c)3, non-profit agencies or faith-based organizations with a voluntary board in good standing that provides food and/or shelter supports to neighbors in Lancaster County
- Demonstrate the capacity to and are already providing services under each category to which they are applying
- Practice non-discrimination and refrain from requiring participation in religious programs to receive services.

What is the Food & Shelter Fund?

This fund is a temporary initiative designed to address urgent food and shelter needs in the community while awaiting federal funding from FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Phase 42. It is supported by community contributions and aims to bridge the gap caused by delays in EFSP funding.

What types of programs are supported?

The Fund supports programs that:

- Provide emergency food or meals
- Offer housing assistance, shelter, or transitional housing
- Address critical gaps in food and housing services
- Demonstrate a measurable impact and responsiveness to urgent community needs

What is the source of funding?

The Food & Shelter Fund is made possible through generous community donations. These funds are distributed to selected organizations with a proven capacity to provide food and shelter to Lancaster County's most vulnerable individuals.

How are grant awards determined?

Grants are awarded based on:

- Demonstrated need in the community
- The organization's capacity to deliver services effectively
- Clarity and strength of the program model
- Expected impact and outcome measurement
- Responsiveness to urgent or unmet needs

Can the grant be used for administrative or staffing costs?

Yes, reasonable administrative and personnel costs that support the delivery of food or shelter services may be included but must be clearly justified in the budget narrative.