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Nevada and the Sierra**

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## **UWNNS RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM FUNDING**

Reno, Nev. - United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS) has received \$540,372 in funding from the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP), a Federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food and supportive services for the nation's hungry, homeless and people in economic crisis. Last year, UWNNS received \$300,341 from EFSP.

The amount of funding the EFSP administers to communities throughout the nation is dependent on multiple factors including the local unemployment rate. In the UWNNS service region, unemployment has increased from 4.76 percent in 2007 to 6.12 percent in 2008.

"This supplement to UWNNS is critical as charitable giving has taken a hit during these tough economic times," said Karen Barsell, chief executive officer and president of UWNNS. "These funds will help many individuals in our region that are in need of basic need assistance."

A panel of volunteers will determine how to distribute the monies to UWNNS partner agencies who are serving homeless individuals and families, those at-risk of being homeless, and families who are in need of food, shelter, rent and utility assistance.

From now until February 6th, applications are being accepted from private, government or non-profit agencies that are providing emergency food and shelter services. For more information, visit the UWNNS website at [www.uwayreno.org](http://www.uwayreno.org) or call 775-322-8668.

**About United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra**

United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra brings the community together to identify our most pressing needs, produce measurable results, and, thereby, improve lives. United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra is achieving meaningful impact here in our community. We use our expertise and knowledge through innovative funding of programs and initiatives that have a positive influence on the people of northern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe communities. Our Mission is to link the community's will and resources to improve lives. Call 775-322-8668 or visit [uwayreno.org](http://uwayreno.org).

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