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Nevada and the Sierra**

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## **United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra to Lead Distribution of Funds to Help Families throughout Northern Nevada**

(Reno, NV) - United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS) announced that it has started the administration process of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) to distribute funds that have become available to help people throughout the UWNNS region. EFSP is 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.

UWNNS was selected to distribute the funds by a national board that is chaired by FEMA and consists of representatives from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Council of Jewish Federations, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and United Way of America.

UWNNS has received \$486,834 from the EFSP national board and is to determine the most appropriate use of the funds. The amount of funding the EFSP administers to communities throughout the nation is dependent on multiple factors including the local unemployment rate. In recent years the UWNNS service region has added additional counties due to their rise in unemployment rate.

"UWNNS is pleased to be able to help all of our communities throughout our region with these additional funds," said Karen Barsell, chief executive officer and president of UWNNS. "Several of our areas are particularly hard hit and continue to experience unemployment rates not seen in the rest of the nation. These funds will help many individuals and families that are in need of basic assistance."

UWNNS is creating panels of volunteers to determine how to distribute the monies throughout northern Nevada who serve homeless individuals and families, those at-risk of being homeless, and families who are in need of emergency food and shelter as well as one-time rental and utility assistance. The panels will come from the various regions UWNNS serves including Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, and a special state panel that includes Churchill, Elko and Lincoln counties. Each county will receive a portion of the funds.

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

United Way believes the foundation of a happy, productive life is made up of three 'building blocks' – education, financial stability and health. United Way creates positive, lasting change through the organization's expertise, capacity and relationships. This year, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra is celebrating our 70th Anniversary. With your help we will reach the goal of \$100 million raised since we started in 1942. To help celebrate this goal, we have established the \$100 Million Club. We invite everyone who gives to United Way to become a "\$100 Million Dollar Club" member. For more information, call 775-322-8668 or visit [www.uwnns.org](http://www.uwnns.org).

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