



OLHSA is a private, 501(c)3 non-profit Community Action Agency, founded in 1964. In those 47 years over 1 million services have been provided to struggling people in Oakland and Livingston Counties by utilizing federal, state, local, and private funds to provide knowledge, skills, and opportunities that lead to higher quality of life and economic security.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program & Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) support the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). EFSP is a restricted federal grant and the expenditures are limited to food, meals, shelter, rent/mortgage assistance, and utility assistance.

EFSP is governed by a National Board that selects jurisdictions for funding. By law, the National Board is chaired by FEMA and consists of representatives of the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of the Churches of Christ in USA, The Salvation Army, United Jewish Communities, and United Way of America. FEMA awards the grant to the National Board.

Since 1983, Local Boards and Local Recipient Organization under the auspices of the EFSP have provided services for families and individuals who struggle to meet their basic food and shelter needs. The formula used by the National Board is based upon average unemployment statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor for the most current 12-month period available and poverty statistics from the 2000 Census. The National Board adopted this combined approach in order to more effectively target funds for high-need areas and to allocate these funds rapidly and fairly. The National Board has selected United Way of America as the secretariat and fiscal agent to perform the necessary administrative duties for the Board.

There are additional State Set-Aside (SSA) funds available to those states that qualify. The state must show a documented measure of need that is not adequately reflected in unemployment or poverty data, areas experiencing drastic economic changes such as plant closings, and areas with high levels of unemployment or poverty.

State Set-Aside data

- According to the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency, between Jan. 1, 2010 and Nov. 30, 2010, 162,000 Michiganians exhausted their benefits. (Michigan League for Human Services 2010)
- In Oakland County according to Gleaners Community Food Bank, 42 percent of those receiving assistance who were surveyed reported having to choose between paying for food or utilities; while 32 percent of Michigan residents surveyed reported having to choose between paying for food or their rent/mortgage. In addition 40 percent choose between food and medical expenses.
- In Southern Oakland County OLHSA served 11,160 individuals in 2010 with food or food certificates; a **363 percent increase** from 2009.
- In Livingston County, OLHSA shares Michigan's current largest food pantry in Howell, Shared Harvest Pantry, which went from serving 250 visitors a month in 2005 to serving over 1,300 visitors a month in 2010.
- Michigan has the highest unemployment rate in the country only to be surpassed by Nevada in late 2010. At the same time, the top request by individuals calling the United Way for Southeastern Michigan 2-1-1 emergency line was for food assistance – for the first time since the launch of the call center in 2005.
- During the second quarter of 2010, there were 64 counties that increased their Family Independence Program cases. Statewide, there was a 10.6 percent increase in cases, and Oakland County increased by 25 percent. (Michigan League for Human Services 2010)
- 45-50 percent of emergency food providers in Michigan have had to reduce the amount of food portions provided to individuals. (Hunger in Michigan 2010 report)

For More Information:

Ronald B. Borngesser, Chief Executive Officer, OLHSA

196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Pontiac, Michigan 48342 | t- (248)209-2605 | f- (248)209-2645 | e- ronb@olhsa.org