



**WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**

**LIVING UNITED**

**PARTNERS**

# Emergency Food And Shelter Program

## OPPORTUNITIES

Karen works for a local nonprofit that distributes emergency food supplies to families who are struggling to make ends meet. It seems that there is never enough funding to support all the work they do, but thanks to the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, the food bank is able to access national funding each year. Without this, many families in Weld County would go without necessities like food.

## ABOUT UNITED WAY OF WELD COUNTY

United Way has the vision, experience, relationships, and ability to take on and solve some of Weld County’s biggest challenges. Through United Way, together we are building a better Weld County, one where children are reading to learn by the start of fourth grade, youth are working at good jobs by age 25, families have stable housing, older adults are aging well, and people are connecting to the help they need. **Will you join us?**

Weld’s Way Home-involved programs help Households attain and maintain stable housing.



## CHALLENGES

The middle class in the United States has shrunk consistently over the past half-century. Until 2000, the reason was primarily because more Americans moved up the income ladder. But since then, the reason has shifted: there is a greater share of households on the lower rungs of the economic ladder. Many households in poverty live paycheck-to-paycheck, and are always on the cusp of an emergency. When one event

occurs, such as a car breaking down or an illness, families are often forced to make difficult choices between paying for food, housing and health care costs.

What are EFSP funds used for?

- food, in the form of served meals or groceries
- lodging in a mass shelter or hotel
- one month's rent or mortgage payment
- one month's utility bill
- equipment necessary to feed or shelter people, up to a \$300 limit per item

Since 1983, in its **30+ year history**, the **Emergency Food and Shelter Program** has distributed over **\$3.8 billion** to more than **14,000** human service agencies in more than **2,500** communities.





**“With more people moving to Weld County and the supply of housing not keeping up, increasing rents create household instability, especially for low wage earners and older adults on fixed incomes. Our hard working nonprofits use EFSP funds to support these families.”**

**– Melanie Woolman, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Weld County**

## INVESTMENTS

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), a federally funded effort, was established in 1983 in partnership with local United Ways. The legislation created a national board, chaired by the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with representatives from the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, The Jewish Federations of North America, The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, The Salvation Army, and United Way Worldwide. Local boards emulate the agency membership of the national board to ensure the decision-making for funding local agency programs has a broad base of community perspective. Each year Weld County receives around \$100,000 for distribution through EFSP.

At the beginning of each funding phase, United Way of Weld County convenes the local board that includes representatives of participating agencies and other community leaders. A request for proposal is developed, released, and promoted to the public. Following proposal receipt and reading, the local board reconvenes to hear applying agency presentations. After applying organizations leave the room, board volunteers then decide which agencies to fund and the amounts. Upon approval from the national board, funds are distributed to local recipient organizations.

**In 2021, EFSP funds were provided to 10 agency programs serving all areas of Weld County.**

**In 2021, 64% of EFSP funds were used for housing support and 36% for food.**

## GIVE

Make a donation to support United Way of Weld County and the agencies funded through EFSP.

## ADVOCATE

Tell your legislators of the importance of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

## VOLUNTEER

United Way of Weld County and the agencies funded through EFSP have a variety of volunteer needs.

**Please contact the UWWC Community Impact team at [Impact@UnitedWay-Weld.org](mailto:Impact@UnitedWay-Weld.org) or 970-353-4300 for more information or to get involved.**