LOBCAL EFSP BOARD 158600 IN CITRUS COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)/FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM (EFSP) **PHASE 39 and ARPA-R.**

Local EFSP Board 158600 has been awarded **$41,876 for Phase 39 and $129,430 for ARPA-R** to supplement **Emergency Food and Shelter Programs** in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army; and The United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A Local Board made up of United Way of Citrus County, Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, The Salvation Army of Citrus County, et. al, will determine how the funds awarded to Local EFSP Board 158600 are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. **Agencies may apply for both phases (Phase 39 and ARPA-R) but an application for each must be completed.** The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the term of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must:

1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government,

2) be eligible to receive Federal funds,

3) have an accounting system,

4) practice non-discrimination,

5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food, shelter, or utility assistance programs,

6) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board,

7) applicants must be on the Mid Florida Information Network system or willing to participate (Local Board recommendation.)

Local EFSP Board 158600 has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with Daystar Life Center Citrus County, The Salvation Army of Citrus County, United Way of Citrus County, and The Pregnancy and Family Life Center. These agencies were responsible for providing rental, utility and diaper assistance**. Do we need this? *This is normally done to meet the “program purpose” requirement.***

Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must go to United Way of Citrus County’s website to download an application.

Completed applications are to be submitted to United Way of Citrus County via mail or drop-off at United Way of Citrus County, 1582 N Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34465. The deadline for application submission is **Friday, March 11, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.**