

Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP)



FEMA



April 2010

Emergency Food and Shelter:

Partnerships in Assessing Community Needs

*What is the EFSP all about and
who is involved?*

History

- Established: 1983, Jobs Stimulus Bill
 - \$50 million: EFSP
 - \$50 million: States

- Authorized: Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, Public Law 100-77

- Amended: 1992, Public Law 102-550
 - Homeless, formerly homeless, homeless advocate
 - Tribal member

- Renamed: 2000, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Program Purpose

“To supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food and supportive services” for homeless and hungry individuals nationwide.

McKinney-Vento Act of 1987, as amended

Program Characteristics

- Non-disaster emergency assistance
- Supplement and expand resources
- Not seed money
- Not poverty or entitlement program
- Special emphasis groups
 - Veterans, elderly, families with children, Tribal members, mentally and physically disabled

EFSP (not disaster assistance)

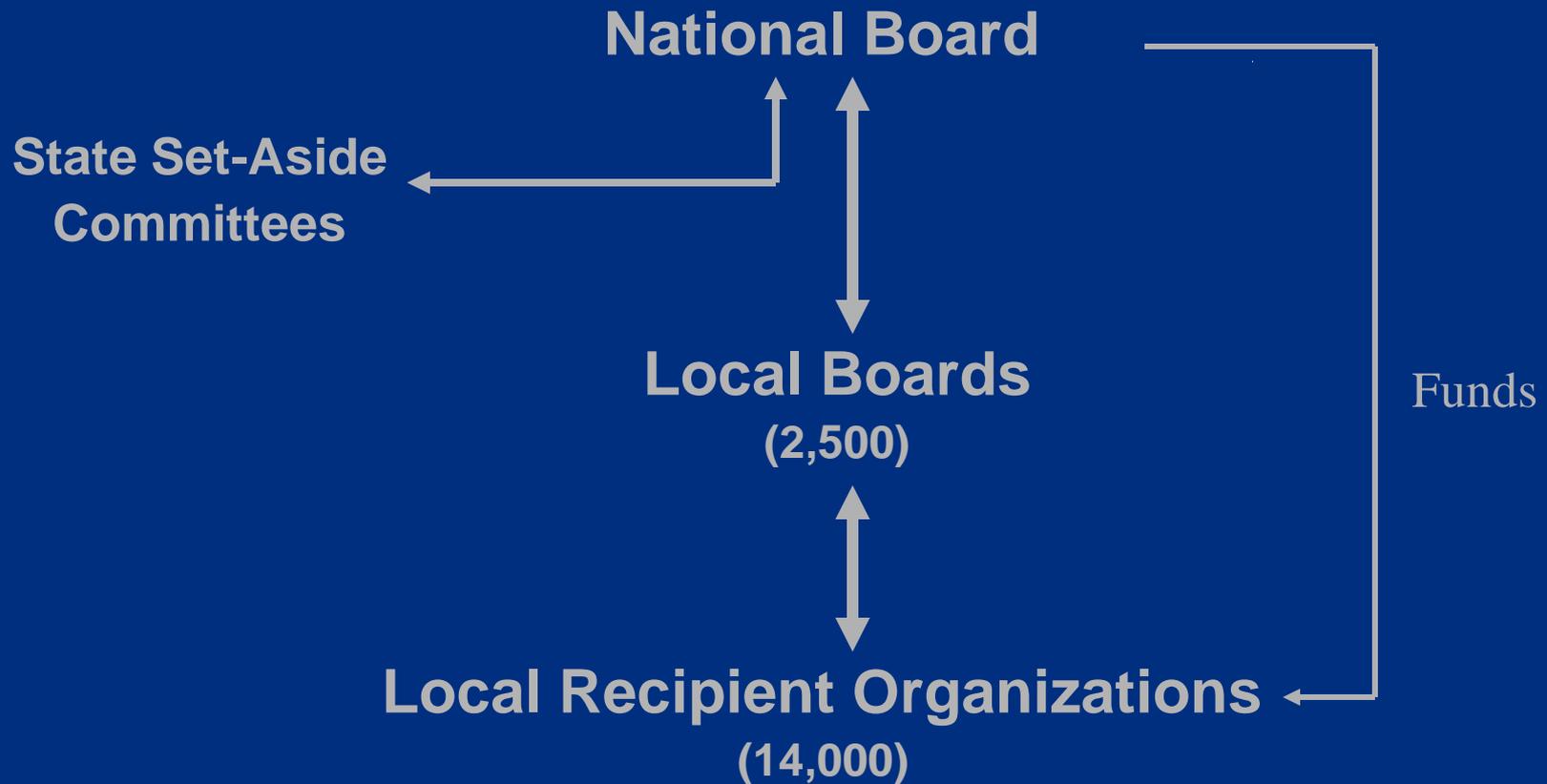
- Open to all organizations helping hungry and homeless people
- Funds help people with economic needs (inability to provide for basic needs; layoffs due to plant closings)
- Not a Stafford Act Program; not disaster-related (fires of any kind, floods, etc.)
- Funds not used for circumstances that are the *immediate* result of a disaster
- A resource after initial disaster assistance and when no other resources available
- Clients treated the same based on economic need; people whose original need was created by a disaster would not receive greater consideration



Operating Principles

- To allocate funds to the neediest areas
- To ensure fast response
- To foster public/private sector partnerships
- To ensure local decision-making
- To maintain minimal, but accountable, reporting

How the EFSP Works



Who are the national partners?

National Board

- Established by statute

- Membership
 - American Red Cross
 - Catholic Charities USA
 - Department of Homeland Security/FEMA (Chair)
 - National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
 - The Jewish Federations of North America
 - The Salvation Army
 - United Way Worldwide

- Four of seven designated members are faith-based organizations

National Board Responsibilities

- Make policy decisions and set program parameters
- Monitor
 - Meet monthly
 - Conduct listening sessions

Secretariat and Fiscal Agent

- United Way Worldwide (fiscal year 2010)
- Responsibilities
 - Daily program management
 - Consultation and technical assistance to funded jurisdictions and agencies
 - Disburses funds directly to agencies
 - Monitors program compliance
 - Provides staff assistance to National Board



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Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Chairs National Board
- Provides Federal guidance, oversight, and coordination
- Serves as Congressional liaison
- Monitors overall program administration and management
- Provides staff assistance to the National Board
- Provides points of contact (Voluntary Agency Liaisons) in each FEMA Regional office
- Reports to Congress independently and through the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness each year



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Who are the local partners?

Local Boards

- Composition mirrors National Board organizations
 - Local government official
 - Board elects chair

- Responsibilities
 - Set own funding criteria
 - Assess community need
 - Advertise funding availability
 - Report funded agencies to National Board
 - Monitor expenditures and program compliance

Expansion of Local Boards

- Local Boards are encouraged to expand for greater community involvement, diversity, geographic representation

- Groups to consider if expanding beyond mandated members
 - Special emphasis groups – Veterans, elderly, families with children, Tribal members, mentally and physically disabled
 - Food pantries, soup kitchens, domestic violence organizations
 - Community Action
 - Feeding America
 - Volunteers of America

*How can Local Boards assess
community need?*

Assessing Community Needs

- Use existing resources
 - Current needs assessments done by local government, non-profit organizations, or other groups
 - 2-1-1 or other Information and Referral resource
 - Knowledge of Local Board members

- Conduct own “needs assessment”
 - Find out about unmet needs from prior year’s Local Recipient Organizations (LROs)
 - Have LROs capture service statistics to determine areas of greatest need

Questions to Ask in Assessing Need

- What resources already exist in our community?
- Has the client mix changed?
- Is there a new group of homeless or hungry people?
- Are the homeless in the same places that they were last year?
- Is housing more, or less, available?
- Are there new funding sources covering a part of the need addressed by the EFSP?
- Have new services or agencies developed?
- How can the limited funds available through the EFSP best be used at this time to address the changing need in our jurisdiction?

How to Use the Needs Assessment

- Know the resources already available
- Determine the need – especially unmet need
- Fill the gaps

Assessment of Community Need
(Less Community Resources Available)
Identified Gaps in Services

- Determine how to use EFSP resources

Intended Use of Funds

- To fill those gaps in food and shelter services that are eligible under the EFSP
- To focus on the most critical needs in the most efficient and effective manner
- To respond to the changing hunger/homeless needs both nationally and locally; not to maintain the status quo
- To address hunger/homeless needs to make a difference – not to simply spread dollars among all eligible applicants

*Who gets EFSP funding and how
can they use it?*

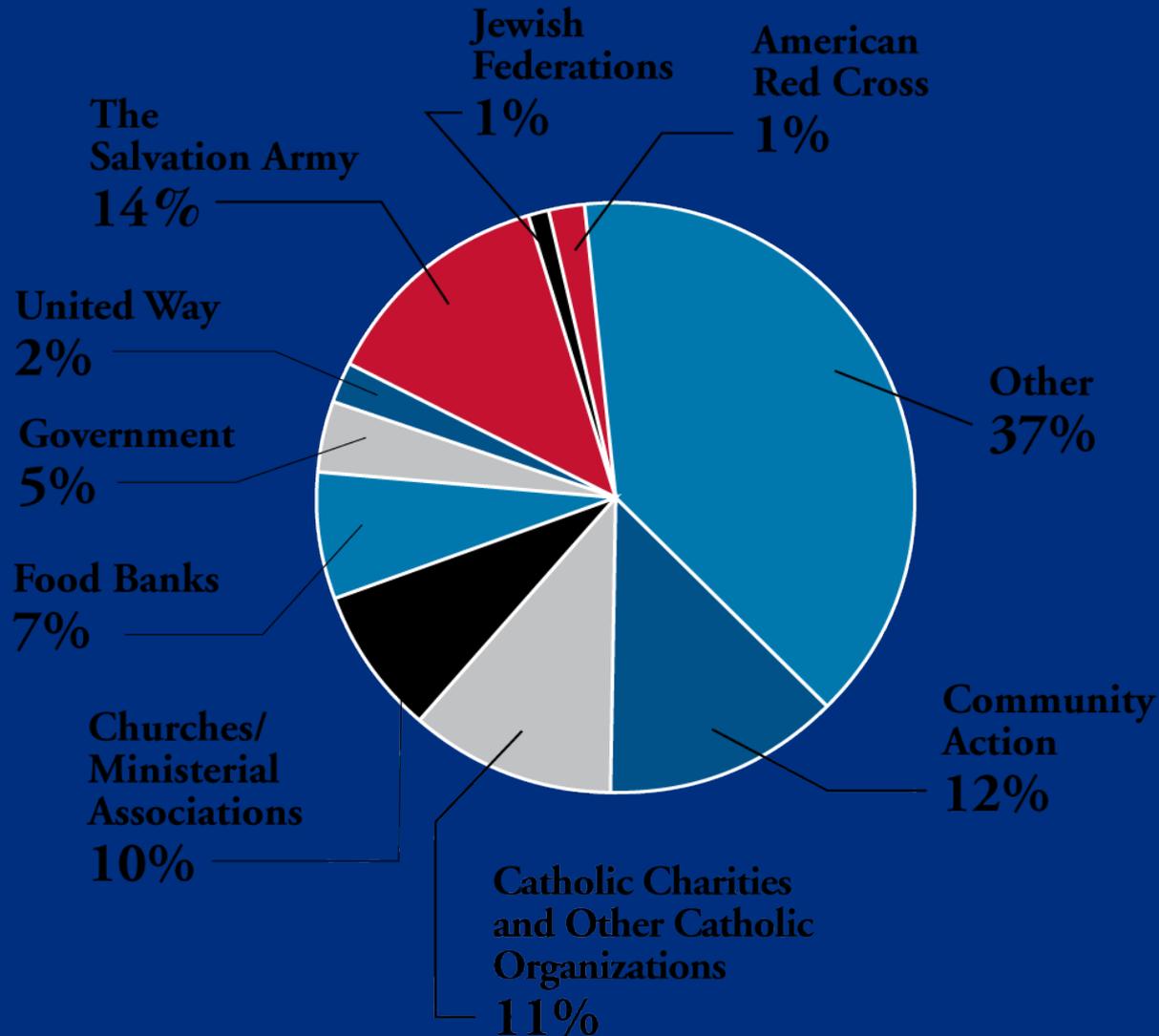
Local Recipient Organizations (LROs)

- Non-profit or government agencies
- Agencies paid directly by National Board
- Monitored by Local Board
- Report to Local Board and National Board

Eligible Expenses

- Mass feeding (soup kitchens)
- Food for food banks and food pantries
- Food vouchers
- Mass shelters
- Hotel/motel lodging
- Rent/mortgage assistance
- Utility assistance

Funding By Agency Type



So, what does this mean for you?

How can you use the assessment information on the EFSP and the partner agencies in your role?

Partnership Imperatives

- Engage existing partners in building new partnerships in the community
- Ask partners to be active participants in specific efforts, including assessing community needs
- Actively engage with partners on an ongoing basis by sharing information on community needs – new needs, unmet needs, and changes
- Successful agencies do not work in a vacuum – they use their partners to achieve mutually important goals and objectives

Partnership Ideas

- Connect with EFSP Local Boards
- Build relationships with partner agencies
- Connect with state and local VOADs where appropriate
- Get others involved in your work

Ideas for Using Local Board Community Assessments

- Preparedness activities by State and Community VOADS
 - Planning for number of shelter agreements needed based on jurisdictions' rates of unemployment and homelessness
 - Planning for special needs (shelter agreements for the elderly, families with children, mentally/physically disabled)
 - Planning for other disaster services based on number of clients presently being served (rent/mortgage, lodging, utilities, food)



A Partnership That Works

- Model program of public/private partnership
- 27 years
- Links federal resources with local service delivery experience
- Partnership from national to local level

Facts & Figures

Since established in 1983 the EFSP partnership has:

- Received 35 awards
- Distributed more than \$3.6 billion
- Allocated funds to over 2,500 jurisdictions
- Funded more than 14,000 Local Recipient Organizations (LROs)
- Served over 2.3 billion meals
- Provided over 254.7 million nights of shelter
- Made over 4.7 million rent/mortgage payments
- Made over 6.8 million utility payments

Typical Funded Agencies

Council on Aging Services for Seniors **Traveler's Aid** Salvation Army Shelter

Labor Community Services **Coalition for the Homeless** **St. Vincent dePaul Place, Inc.**

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles **Gramercy Place Shelter / SOVA**

YWCA Domestic Violence Program Food Center, Inc. **Catholic Center of Concern**

Fort Belknap Community Council **Veterans and Freeman Davis Help Center**

Meals at Home Program Children's Crisis Center **Jewish Family Service Walton Co.**

American Red Cross, South Central Wisconsin **The Maria House, Teresa Shelter**

Washington County Ministerial Association **Senior Citizens Council, Inc.**

Vacaville Social Services Corporation **Franklin County Department of Social Services**

Floyd County Relief Food Closet The Familia Center **Labor Community Services**

Community Action Partnership Mid-Nebraska **Interfaith Food Center, Inc.**

Urban League for Bergen County, Inc. **United Way Community Food Bank**

YMCA Network for Counseling & Youth Development **Centro Evangelistico Jesucristo**

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc. **Indochinese Community Center**

Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services



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