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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**ST. LUCIE 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.**

*Fort Pierce, FL, January 8, 2021* – St. Lucie County has been chosen to receive \$125,581 under Phase 38 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, 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 the United Way of St. Lucie County will determine how the funds awarded to St. Lucie County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program. The Local Board has determined that under Phase 38, 90% of funds will go towards rent/mortgage assistance and 10% towards served meals.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Deana Shatley, Director of Collaborative Impact, United Way of St. Lucie County at 772-464-5300 or [deana.shatley@unitedwayslc.org](mailto:deana.shatley@unitedwayslc.org) for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

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