



United Way of Portage County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **United Way of Portage County Emergency Food & Shelter Program** *Grant funding available from United Way of Portage County EFSP*

**RAVENNA, OH** - The United Way of Portage County (UWPC) Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) has received a grant award of \$66,463 (EFSP Phase 41) from the EFSP National Board Program, a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Funds received from EFSP National are used to supplement emergency food and shelter programs, including utility assistance in Portage County. Funds will be made available for housing, utility, and food assistance programs.

The amount of the award each county throughout the United States receives is based upon the total number of unemployed persons as compared to the total number of unemployed persons in all qualifying jurisdictions. Funds for the EFSP program are appropriated annually by Congress and administered by a national board of non-profit organizations including United Way Worldwide, the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, United Jewish Communities, The Salvation Army, and The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

The Portage County Emergency Food and Shelter Board is comprised of local representatives of the national organizations listed above as well as Portage County government, local housing authority, emergency management agency, and non-profit organizations serving low-income households. The local board is accountable to the national board for the use and awarding of the funds.

The Portage County EFSP Board has distributed EFSP funds since 1983. In 2023, Family and Community Services, Inc., Change Hunger Inc, Community Action Council of Portage County, Inc., and Catholic Charities of Portage County were awarded funding.

Organizations interested in applying or that would like more information should contact Bill Childers, chair of the UWPC EFSP Board at 330.297.1424, [billc@uwportage.org](mailto:billc@uwportage.org) or complete an online application at <https://www.uwportage.org/> Completed applications must be received by 4 p.m. Friday, March 22, 2024.



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## About United Way of Portage County

United Way of Portage County's mission is to unite people with resources to improve the quality of life of families and individuals in Portage County. We envision a Portage County where no resident is without food, no child is without tools to learn, and no one is without access to care. United Way focus areas are:

- [Youth Education](#): To improve reading proficiency at a young age. Together with our partners, we offer children access to quality early learning programs, literacy programs, and summer learning opportunities.
- [Public Health](#): To promote healthy lives by building a healthier, more resilient community by promoting healthy eating and physical activity, expanding access to quality health care and integrating health into early childhood development.
- [Critical Needs](#): To ensure that every person's critical needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing, are met and supported. Together, we help people who are going through tough times get the assistance they need.

Our goals are ambitious, but with your help, and by utilizing our core strengths — a national network, Local Board Leadership, committed partners and public engagement capacity — we can achieve them. Visit [uwportage.org](http://uwportage.org) and [facebook.com/uwportage](https://facebook.com/uwportage) to learn more about our service to the community, how to volunteer or to donate.

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