

DATE: March 1, 2011

OVERTON COUNTY AWARDED FOOD AND SHELTER FUNDS

For many years Overton County has been chosen to receive funds to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. Although at the present time an award amount has not been received applications are being solicited from local charitable service organizations.

The selection of Overton County was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross; United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA; and, United Way of America. The National 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 Local Elected Officials and other community representatives will determine how the funds awarded to Overton 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 available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms 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) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capacity to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Overton County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously through local and regional service agencies. These agencies were responsible for providing meals, lodging, rent/mortgage assistance, and utility assistance.

Organizations wishing to apply for EFS funds should prepare a request, taking into consideration its needs and services, which explains the purpose of the requested funds and the number of persons who will benefit from the funds.

Applications must be delivered to the UCHRA Livingston office by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2011, in order to be considered for funding. Applicant organizations are invited and encouraged to have a representative at the Local Board meeting, which begins at that time.

Further information about the program may be obtained by contacting Rev. Dee Wells, Board Chairman, at First Christian Church (823-2413) or Dian Dillon, UCHRA County Coordinator, at the UCHRA Livingston office located at 106 W. Henson Street (823-7323).