

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2009

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PENOBSCOT COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THROUGH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA) FOR THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM.

Penobscot County has been chosen to receive \$49,274 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. These funds have been made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

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 consist of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A; The Salvation Army; United Jewish Communities and United Way of America. 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, chaired by John Bragg of N.H. Bragg & Sons, will determine how the funds awarded to Penobscot 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 made available through the ARRA.

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) be eligible to received 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, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Penobscot County had distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously to Acadia Recovery, Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, Brewer Christian Food Cupboard, Community Health & Counseling Services, Corinna United Methodist Church, Dexter Food Closet, Eastern Maine AIDS Network, Ecumenical Food Cupboard, Howland United Methodist Church, I Care Ministries, Maine Mental Health Connections, Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Community Pantry, Salvation Army, Shaw house, Spruce Run, Stetson Food Cupboard, Penobscot Nation, Community Evangel Temple, St. Peters Church, St. Mary's (Lincoln Regional Food Cupboard) participating. These agencies were responsible for providing 101,217 meals and 3,760 nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for ARRA Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Jennifer Hazelwood at United Way of Eastern Maine at 941-2800 for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 4:30.