**Phase 42 Questions & Answers**

**What funding categories can LROs apply for during Phase 41?**

1. Served Meals
2. Other Food
3. Mass Shelter
4. Other Shelter
5. Rent/Mortgage

*Note: Admin is an approved category for Phase 42 but is reserved solely for the Local Board’s administrative costs.*

**Can my organization apply for Phase 42 funding if we already received Phase 39, ARPAR, Phase 40, or Phase 41 funding?**

Yes. Any organizations funded in previous phases does qualify and may apply for funding during Phase 42.

**What is my organization’s LRO #?**

This is the unique identifier assigned by the National Board to Local Recipient Organizations who have received funding. If your organization has received funding in previous phases, you can look this number up by logging on to the [National Board’s website](https://www.efsp.unitedway.org/). Your LRO # will be 3 digits, or the 3 digits following 782400, which is the Travis and Williamson County Jurisdiction ID.

**What does UEI stand for?**

The new Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is now the primary means of identifying entities registered for federal awards government-wide in the System for Award Management (SAM). If your entity is already registered in SAM, it has been assigned a UEI.

**How do I find my UEI Number?**

Please find detailed instructions at this link: [https://mailchi.mp/16a328e16fd8/for-action-unique-entity-identifier-uei-requirement?e=[UNIQID](https://mailchi.mp/16a328e16fd8/for-action-unique-entity-identifier-uei-requirement?e=%5bUNIQID)]

**Would an organization that does not offer mass shelter as part of its services be able to apply for shelter funding? We would use funds for hotel/motel expenses.**

The National Board has let us know that organizations who do not offer mass shelter as part of their services ARE ELIGIBLE to apply for shelter funding under the category of Other Shelter.

**Can we use meal per diem for food from our pantry, food to make meals?**

No. Served meals must be meals provided in a congregate setting. If you are going out and preparing meals to hand out individually, those must be documented as Other Food.

**Are these payments all only reimbursements?**

It depends. Payments are made from the National Board in two installments. If a spending period start date is prior to the date an LRO receives funds, the LRO may use the payment as reimbursement. It may also use the payment for ongoing costs. The use, in every category, must be documented with relevant details (see EFSP Manual).

**How long is the Phase 42 Spending Period?**

The National Board has not announced the spending period yet, so we do not know.

We believe it will include at least 2024, and possibly 2025.

**Is there a minimum or maximum amount that an applicant can request?**

There is not a maximum amount. LROs should request the amount of funding that they could use to supplement existing food and shelter programs.

The Board recommends a $5,000 minimum.

**If an organization providing shelter contracts with another organization that provides meals, would they qualify for reimbursement (served meals, other food)?**

We would defer to the National Board on this question. If the vendor providing food to your organization is not another LRO receiving EFSP funding, it seems that this is an eligible expense, so long as the costs fall under the eligible costs below.

Here’s the information provided in the Phase 35 manual:

**Food Purchases for Food Banks/Pantries and Other Food Providers**

For food banks/pantries and other food providers, eligible costs include:

Food, food vouchers, seeds, gift certificates for food (gift certificates must be marked “Food Only”, "Food & Diapers Only" or Food, Diapers & Feminine Hygiene Items Only”). Note: Gift Cards are eligible only if they can be marked/encoded “Food Only”, “Food & Diapers Only” or “Food, Diapers & Feminine Hygiene Items Only”. The same applies for food vouchers and gift certificates. There must be an agreement with the vendor that food, food and diapers only or food, diapers and feminine hygiene items only will be allowed and no cash will be returned to clients.

An allowance for maintenance fees charged by food banks may be granted by a Local Board at the prevailing rate. EFSP funds cannot be used to pay such a maintenance fee twice: by a food bank and by the food pantry/LRO it is serving.

Only food banks may operate under EFSP as both vendor and LRO.

*Note: An LRO may not operate as a vendor for itself or other LROs. Purchases may not be made from or payments made to other LROs except for the shared maintenance fee of food banks.*