



The Emergency Food and Shelter Program began in 1983 with a \$50 million federal appropriation. The program was created by Congress to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States and its territories by allocating federal funds for the provision of food and shelter.

The program is governed by a [National Board](#) composed of representatives of the [American Red Cross](#); [Catholic Charities, USA](#); [The Jewish Federations of North America](#); [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA](#); [The Salvation Army](#); and [United Way Worldwide](#). The Board is chaired by a representative of the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA).

During its 35 years of operation, the program disbursed over \$4.4 billion to over 14,000 local providers in more than 2,500 counties and cities.

EFSP Guiding Principles are:

- Efficiency—fiscal administration, reporting and procedural guidance to Local Boards and LROs
- Accountability—good steward of taxpayers’ dollars through reasonable oversight and transparency
- Responsiveness—prioritize the allocation of supplemental funds to the neediest areas in the nation
- Partnership—promote and strengthen collaboration between non-profit organizations and public sector
- Facilitating—maximizing appropriate local decision-making through clear guidance and training

What does EFSG fund? Please see following pages. You can also find additional information on the EFSG website located <https://www.efsp.unitedway.org/efsp/website/index.cfm>

Application Requirements:

1. Contact Information
EIN Number
2. Request Amount
3. Statement of need in the Lewis and Clark County – local data sources and organizational data.
4. Specific numbers that you serve and number that this funding will serve.
5. Collaborative partnerships – Who are you working with in the community to create better outcomes for those in need?

Applicants are encouraged to combine requests with other organization to help clients overcome barriers.

Example: Humane Society, Red Cross and Friendship Center are going to provide transportation and housing for people with service animals who have been displaced from their homes.

**SAMPLE ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES; NOT LIMITED TO THESE ITEMS
FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE LIST AND FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THESE CATEGORIES, SEE PAGES 63-77**

CATEGORY	SAMPLE ELIGIBLE ITEMS	SAMPLE INELIGIBLE ITEMS
SERVED MEALS	Any food used in served meals (cold or hot); costs of transporting food to site or client; daily per meal schedule (\$2/meal).	Any items not related to actual feeding of a client. Excessive meal costs. Excessive snack food items. Staff events/functions.
OTHER FOOD	Food vouchers, food boxes, grocery orders, restaurant vouchers, etc., food purchased for food banks and/or food pantries, vouchers, gift certificates (limited), transportation costs.	Tobacco, alcohol, paper products. Any non-food item. Excessive meal costs. Excessive snack food items. Staff events/functions.
MASS SHELTER	Direct expenses associated with housing a client (e.g., supplies, linens, etc.); transportation costs; daily per diem schedule (\$7.50 or \$12.50).	Year-round ongoing operational costs (rent, pest-control, garbage pick-up, utilities); salaries of employees.
OTHER SHELTER	Any <u>reasonable</u> hotel/motel or non-profit facility acting as a vendor; SRO; actual charge by vendor, per night; 30 day limit	An LRO receiving funds <u>may not</u> act as a vendor for themselves or another funded LRO. Stay beyond 30 days per phase. Prepayments for hotel/motel.
SUPPLIES/ EQUIPMENT	<u>\$300 per item maximum.</u> <u>Mass feeding:</u> pots, pans, toasters, blenders, microwave, utensils, paper products, any item essential to the preparation of food, shelving. <u>Diapers.</u> <u>Mass shelter:</u> cots, blankets, pillows, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, cleaning materials, limited first-aid supplies, underwear/diapers. Emergency repair of essential small equipment (\$300 limit for both mass feeding and mass shelter.)	Decorative curtains, carpet, clothing, TVs, computer systems, office equipment, bedroom furniture other than beds (nightstand, lamps, etc.).
REHABILITATION/ EMERGENCY REPAIRS	Building code violations, handicap ramp, etc. (\$2,500 limit); Emergency repairs are only allowed in support of per meal schedule or per diem schedule for mass feeding sites or mass shelters. All expenditures require <u>prior</u> approval by both the National Board and Local Board.	Rehabilitation for expansion, routine maintenance, or to prepare facility to open as direct costs.
RENT/MORTGAGE	Past due rent or mortgage payment (P&I only); current rent or mortgage due within 10 calendar days; first month's rent; lot fee for mobile homes. Limited to one month's cost for an individual/family.	Payment for rent/mortgage exceeding one month's cost; deposits; down-payment for purchase of home; late fees; legal fees; taxes, insurance & escrow accounts.
UTILITIES	Past due bills, or current bills due within 10 calendar days, for gas, electricity, oil, water; reconnect fees. May pay budgeted or actual amount. Limited to one-month's amount that is part of the arrearage at the time of payment or current one month amount. One-time delivery of firewood, coal, propane.	Payments for utilities exceeding one month's cost; deposits; cable, or satellite TV bills; phone bills; internet service; late fees.
ADMINISTRATIVE ALLOWANCE	Limited to 2% of total funds received by jurisdiction; any expenses associated with administering this program (telephone costs, stamps, etc.).	Administrative expenses <u>not</u> related to the EFSP program.

Eligible Program Costs



Special Documentation Note: Spreadsheets are required for all expenditures in all funding categories, including administration and must be submitted with each LRO's Final Report, even if complete documentation is not required. The spreadsheets may be generated from the agency's financial or case management system. The required elements for the spreadsheets are stated in the Required Forms section, page 83. Sample spreadsheets are available on the website under **Forms**.

Eligible program costs include, but are not limited to:

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.

*A webinar providing background on eligible and ineligible expenditures is available on the EFSP website under **Training Workshops** on the left-hand menu after you login.*

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.



EFSP funding is intended to provide for basic, nutritional meals on an ongoing basis not for non-nutritive items. The funding is not intended to be used for a singular event, special celebratory events, holiday baskets, etc. Also, dessert items (i.e., cookies, snack food, candy, etc.) used as part of a daily meal plan may be purchased in limited amounts.



Documentation required: spreadsheets, dated receipts/invoices/completed vouchers for food purchased and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method. Vouchers and gift certificates/gift cards must state "food items only" not "groceries or merchandise". Invoices and evidence of payment for the purchase of food gift certificates/gift cards are required. Additionally, a single copy of the gift certificate/gift card indicating restrictions [i.e., food items only, diapers and feminine hygiene items, if approved by the Local Board, no cash back] must be supplied along with the invoice. When using a food voucher, if all three signatures and dates are included, no itemized receipts will be necessary; however, if one or more signatures or the dates are missing, the itemized receipts must be submitted. The signatures must be from the client, caseworker and the vendor of service. See Annex 8 [page 99] for sample of food voucher.

Transportation for Food Banks/Pantries and Other Food Providers

Transportation expenses for picking up, delivery and distribution of purchased and donated food; contracted services or public transportation (e.g., taxi, local bus, subway). A dated mileage log at the Federal rate of \$.545 cents per mile. (Note: The reimbursement rate is the rate in existence at the time of publication of this manual. The begin date applies as of January 1, 2018, and is to be used throughout the entire Phase.)

Payment to Vendors

Pay for all eligible program expenses by an approved method of payment directly to the vendor not more than 90 days after the invoice date. Approved payment methods are:

- LRO check
- LRO debit card
- LRO credit card - vendor issued (i.e., Sam's Club, other store vendor issued credit card)
- LRO credit card - third party (i.e., American Express, Visa)
- Electronic payment from LRO's bank account

*A webinar providing background on eligible and ineligible expenditures is available on the EFSP website under **Training Workshops** on the left-hand menu after you login.*

This program does not allow the reimbursement of staff/volunteers, other LROs or any party other than the vendor of services. Cash payments are ineligible.



Note: A Fiscal Agent/Fiscal Conduit must pay the vendor directly with an approved method of payment and may not reimburse other agencies for which they are serving as the Fiscal Agent/Fiscal Conduit.

Selection of Vendor

The LRO must select vendors whose requirements do not conflict with EFSP requirements. If a vendor's requirements conflict, the LRO must either use a different vendor or work with the vendor so EFSP guidelines are followed. LROs must provide a preference of vendors for, the purchase or acquisition of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States. Vendors must be able to provide a vendor originated invoice and must be able to accept an EFSP acceptable method of payment. (If a vendor only accepts cash, they may not be used for EFSP provided services unless they agree to accept an agency check or other EFSP acceptable payment method.)

Client Confidentiality

While the National Board respects the need for confidentiality, required documentation must be maintained.

When client confidentiality is protected by statute, LROs may use a unique identifier in providing and documenting services to clients. When submitting documentation where a unique identifier has been used, the LRO is responsible for providing documentation of the statute that applies to the clients served and services provided by their agency that are protected.



Documentation required: [1] dated mileage log (*Note: The mileage log serves as the spreadsheet for the mileage allowance.*), with departure, destination and trip purpose noted or [2] spreadsheet, receipts/invoices from contracted services or public transportation, and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method. See Annex 11 [page 102] for sample of mileage log.

Equipment and Consumable Supplies for Food Banks/Food Pantries

Purchase of small equipment not exceeding \$300 per item and essential to the operation of food bank or pantry (e.g., shelving and storage containers).

Purchase of consumable supplies essential to the distribution of food (e.g., bags, boxes).



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated, itemized receipts/invoices for equipment/supplies purchased and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.

Food Purchases for Mass Feeding

For mass feeding sites, eligible expenditures include:

Food (hot meals, groceries). Dessert items (e.g., cookies, snack food, candy, etc.) used as a part of a daily meal plan may be purchased in limited amounts. Also allowable are vegetable seeds and vegetable plants cultivated in an LRO's garden on-site and canning supplies.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated receipts/invoices for food/seeds/plants purchased and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.

Transportation for Mass Shelter/Mass Feeding

Local transportation expenses for picking up/delivery of food, transporting clients to a mass shelter (five or more beds in one location), or feeding site. (*Note: The reimbursement rate is the rate in existence at the time of publication of this manual. (The begin date applies as of January 1, 2018 and is to be used throughout the entire Phase.)* Limited to a dated mileage log at the Federal rate of \$.545 cents per mile, contracted services or public transportation (e.g., taxi, local bus, subway).



Documentation required: [1] dated mileage log (*Note: The mileage log serves as the spreadsheet for the mileage allowance.*), with departure, destination and trip purpose noted or [2] spreadsheet, receipts/invoices from contracted services or public transportation, and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method. See Annex 11 [page 102] for sample of mileage log.

Consumable Supplies for Mass Shelter/Mass Feeding as Direct Cost

Purchase of consumable supplies essential to mass feeding (e.g., plastic cups, utensils, detergent, feminine hygiene items, etc.) and/or mass shelters of five or more beds (e.g., soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene items, cleaning supplies, etc.).



Supplies for mass shelter/mass feeding awards are included in per diem/per meal costs. An LRO may not be awarded additional funds for supplies if documenting their expenditures with a per meal or per diem schedule.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated receipts/invoices for supplies purchased and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.

Equipment Purchases for Mass Shelters/Mass Feeding as Direct Cost

Purchase of small equipment not exceeding \$300 per item and essential to mass feeding (e.g., pots, pans, plates, utensils, microwave oven, dining table and chairs, toasters, blenders, etc.) and/or mass shelters (e.g., beds, mattresses, cots, blankets, linens, etc.)



Equipment for mass shelter/mass feeding awards are included in per diem/per meal costs. An LRO may not be awarded additional funds for equipment, if documenting their expenditures with a per meal or per diem schedule.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated receipts/invoices for equipment purchased and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.

Minor Emergency Equipment Repairs for Mass Shelters/Mass Feeding as Direct Cost

With prior Local Board approval, minor emergency repair of small equipment essential to mass feeding or sheltering not exceeding \$300.00 in repair costs per item. Equipment eligible for repairs under the EFSP is any that if not repaired would force the mass feeding or mass sheltering site to terminate or curtail services (e.g., stove, refrigerator and hot water heater).

Routine maintenance and service contracts are not eligible.



Minor emergency equipment repair for mass shelter/mass feeding awards are included in per diem/per meal costs. An LRO may not be awarded additional funds for minor emergency equipment repair if documenting their expenditures with a per meal or per diem schedule.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated letter from Local Board indicating approval and dated invoices for equipment repair and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.



Good judgment must be exercised in determining the most cost-effective use of EFSP funds when deciding an equipment purchase against a repair.

Limited First Aid Supplies for Mass Shelter/Mass Feeding

Limited amounts of basic first aid supplies (e.g., aspirin, Band-Aids, cough syrup, etc.) for mass shelter providers and mass feeding sites only.



Limited first aid supplies for mass shelter/mass feeding awards are included in per diem/per meal costs. An LRO may not be awarded additional funds for limited first aid supplies if documenting their expenditures with a per meal or per diem schedule.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated receipts/invoices for first-aid supplies and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.

Building Code Repairs to Mass Shelter or Mass Feeding Facilities

Building Code/Accessibility Improvements – Emergency repairs to comply with building code citations for a mass feeding facility or mass shelter only, provided:

- The facility is owned by a not-for-profit LRO (profit-making facilities, leased facilities, government facilities and individual residences are not eligible); and,
- The building code plan and the contract detailing work to be done and material and equipment to be used or purchased is approved in writing by both the National Board and the Local Board prior to the start of the emergency repair/building code project to ensure compliance with program guidelines; and,
 - The repair is limited to bringing a facility into compliance with local building codes; maximum expenditure: **\$2,500.00**;
 - All emergency repair work is completed and paid for by the end of the jurisdiction's spending period;
 - Facility must be used primarily for mass feeding or mass sheltering programs; and,
 - No award funds are used for decorative or non-essential purposes or routine maintenance/repairs.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated letters from both the National Board and the Local Board indicating approval and amount approved, copy of contract including cost or invoices for supplies and contract labor, document citing building code violation requiring the repair and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.

Facility Improvements for the Disabled for Mass Shelter/Mass Feeding

Expenses incurred from accessibility improvements for the disabled are eligible for mass feeding or mass shelter facilities up to a limit of **\$2,500.00**. These improvements may include those required by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. A building code citation is not necessary for accessibility improvements. Both the National Board and the Local Board must approve in advance, any accessibility improvements.



All social service providers are mandated to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).



Building code repairs and facility improvements are allowable for mass feeding and mass sheltering sites only. These costs must have prior National Board and Local Board approval even if using the per meal or per diem rate.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated copy of contract describing work to be done including cost, letters dated from the National Board and the Local Board indicating approval and amount approved, and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.

Mass Shelter Expenses

For mass shelter providers, there are two options for eligible costs: Direct Costs or Per Diem Allowances. One option must be selected at the beginning of the program year and continued throughout the entire year.

Note: The documentation requirements for each option are noted with each option.

Option 1: Mass Shelter/Direct Cost

Reimbursement of actual direct eligible costs for supplies/equipment essential to the operation of the mass shelter (e.g., cots, mattresses, soap, linens, blankets, cleaning supplies, etc.). Refer to previous sections for description of direct eligible expenditures.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated receipts/invoices from vendor and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.

Option 2: Per Diem Allowance

Per diem allowance of exactly \$7.50 or \$12.50 per person per night for mass shelter providers (five beds or more in one location), only if:

- Approved in advance by the Local Board; and,
- LRO's total mass shelter award is expended in this manner.



It is the decision of the Local Board to choose between the \$7.50/\$12.50 rates. This rate may vary from agency to agency depending on the level of services provided to the clients. The \$7.50 or \$12.50 rates, if elected, may be expended by the LRO for any cost related to the operation of the mass shelter; it is not limited to otherwise eligible items. The per diem allowance may be used to cover costs such as shelter rent, shelter utilities, and shelter staff salaries if necessary to provide a night of shelter. **The per diem allowance does not include the additional costs associated with food or the food per meal allowance.**



Documentation required: schedules showing daily rate of \$7.50 or \$12.50 and number of persons sheltered by date with totals. Note: The daily schedule serves as the spreadsheet for the per diem allowance. Supporting documentation must be retained on-site, e.g., invoices, service records and sign-in logs, proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method. See Annex 9 [page 100] for sample.

Mass Feeding Expenses

For mass feeding programs, there are two options for eligible costs: Direct Cost or Per Meal Allowance. One option must be selected at the beginning of the program year and continued throughout the entire year.

Note: The documentation requirements are noted with each option.

Option 1: Mass Feeding/Direct Cost

Reimbursement of actual direct eligible costs for supplies/equipment essential to the operation of the mass feeding program (e.g., food, paper products, cleaning products, pots and pans, etc.). Refer to previous sections for description of direct eligible expenditures



EFSP funding is intended to provide for daily, basic, nutritional meal costs on an ongoing basis. The funding is not intended to be used for a singular event, special events/celebratory events/holiday meals, etc. Basic non-excessive meal costs may be applied towards special/celebratory/holiday meals served only as part of an ongoing program. Also, dessert items (e.g., cookies, snack food, candy, etc.) used as part of a daily meal plan may be purchased in limited amounts.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated receipts/invoices from vendor relating to operation of facility and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.

Option 2: Per Meal Allowance

Per meal allowance of exactly \$2 per meal served if:

- Approved in advance by the Local Board; and,
- LRO's total mass feeding award is expended in this manner.

The \$2 per meal allowance, if elected, may be expended by the LRO for any related cost; it is not limited to otherwise eligible items. The per meal allowance may be used to cover costs such as rent, utilities, and staff salaries for those staff necessary for the preparation and serving of food. **The per meal allowance does not include the additional costs associated with shelter or the per diem shelter allowance.**



EFSP funding is intended to provide for daily, basic, nutritional meal costs on an ongoing basis. The funding is **not intended to be used for a singular event, special events/celebratory events/holiday meals, etc.** Basic non-excessive meal costs may be applied towards special/celebratory/holiday meals served only as part of an ongoing program. Also, dessert items (e.g., cookies, snack food, candy, etc.) used as part of a daily meal plan may be purchased in limited amounts.



Documentation required: daily schedule showing meal rate of \$2 and number of meals served by date with totals. Note: The daily schedule serves as the spreadsheet for the per meal allowance. Supporting documentation must be retained on-site, (i.e. invoices, service records and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method). See Annex 10 [page 101] for sample.

Other Shelter Assistance (Off-Site Lodging Hotel/Motel)

For other shelter assistance, eligible program costs include off-site emergency lodging (room and tax only) in a hotel/motel or other off-site shelter facility provided conditions 1 and 2 below are met.

1. No appropriate on-site shelter is available; and
2. It is limited to 30-days assistance per individual or household during the current program period. (Note: Assistance may be extended in extreme cases with prior Local Board written approval. A copy of this approval must accompany the LRO's documentation.)



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated vendor receipts/invoices from off-site shelter [hotel/motel/etc. on their stationery] and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method. Receipts/invoices must include client's name, length of stay and charge per night. Note: If using a unique identifier when submitting documentation for clients served, the LRO is required to provide documentation of the statute which applies to the protecting of clients and the services provided.

Rent/Mortgage Assistance/Eviction Prevention

For rent/mortgage assistance, eligible program costs include:

Limited emergency rent or mortgage assistance principal and interest only (P&I), for individuals or households provided conditions "a" through "f" below are met:

- a) Payment is in arrears or due within 10 calendar days.
- b) other resources have been exhausted;
- c) The client is 1) a resident of the home or apartment and 2) responsible for the rent/mortgage on the home or apartment where the rent/mortgage assistance is to be paid;

- d) Payment is limited to a maximum of one month's assistance for each individual or household; assistance can be provided 1) for a full month's rent/mortgage (P&I) all at one time, or 2) in separate payments over a period of up to 90 consecutive days so long as the total amount paid does not exceed one month's cost and is paid by a single LRO;
- e) Assistance is provided only once in a jurisdiction by a single LRO in each award phase for each individual/household (with exception of item d [2] above);
- f) The month paid is the current amount or part of the arrearage that is still owed at the time of payment and is from the current award phase and,
- g) Payment must guarantee an additional 30 days service.

Notes: Late fees, legal fees, deposits, and condo fees are ineligible.

If a client has two mortgages, assistance may only be given for the first mortgage for the client's residence on the principal and interest.

Payments for mobile homes and lots are eligible and can be paid to a mortgage company or to a private landlord.

If the bill is not in the client's name, documentation must be provided to prove that it is the client's responsibility to pay the bill.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated and signed letters from landlords [must include amount of one month's rent and due date] mortgage company's letter and/or copy of mortgage loan coupon showing monthly mortgage amount and date due and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method. Payments must be made to the landlord ONLY, not to both client and landlord. Documentation must support the payment made and is limited to a maximum of one month's assistance. A copy of the client's lease is only accepted when paying the first month's rent. See Annex 7, page 98.

First Month's Rent Payment

First month's rent may be paid when an individual or household:

- a) Is transient and plans to stay in the area for an extended period of time; or
- b) Is moving from a temporary shelter to a more permanent living arrangement; or
- c) Is being evicted because one-month's payment will not forestall eviction in current housing.

First month's rent:

- a) **Cannot** be provided in addition to emergency rent/mortgage assistance under item 1 above.
- b) **May** be provided in addition to assistance provided for off-site or mass shelter.
- c) **May** only be provided by a single LRO in a jurisdiction each award phase for an individual/household.
- d) **Cannot** be paid more than 30 calendar days before occupancy.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated and signed letters from landlords or current lease [must include amount of first month's rent and due date] and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.) See Annex 7, page 98.

Documentation must support the payment made which is limited to a maximum of one month's assistance.

Note: First month's rent is the only situation in which the lease is acceptable documentation.



Rent/Mortgage Assistance Special Note

EFSP will allow a one-time payment of \$250 or less for rent/mortgage assistance where the past due balance is \$250 or more without the verification of the monthly rent/mortgage amount. Verification of an outstanding balance, month covered, and due date for the rent/mortgage is still required.

Utility Assistance

For utility assistance, eligible program costs include:

Limited metered utility assistance (includes gas, electricity, water, and sewer service) for individuals or households. The client must be 1) a resident of the home or apartment and 2) responsible for the utility on the home or apartment for which utility assistance is to be paid provided conditions "a" through "f" below are met:

- a) Payment is in arrears or due within 10 calendar days;
- b) All other resources have been exhausted (e.g., State's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program);
- c) Payment is limited to a maximum of one month's billed usage cost for each utility (e.g., gas, electric and water) for each individual or household;
- d) The month paid is the current amount, budget amount or part of the arrearage that is still owed at the time of payment and that is either from the current award phase or for continuous service prior to award phase that remains past due;
- e) Each utility is paid only once in each award phase for any individual or household; and
- f) Payment guarantees an additional 30 days service.



Note: If paying from a past due notice, a breakdown of the monthly usage charges must be obtained (a copy of current client billing and payment history by month from the utility provider). The highest one month amount from the phase/year may not be paid unless it is part of the amount currently owed at the time of payment. Where clients have made a partial payment, the payment is generally applied to the oldest past due amount. The entire EFSP amount paid may only be a maximum one month amount that is all still past due. Documentation must clearly indicate which month is being paid from the breakdown of monthly charges and must be part of the past due amount still owed at the time of payment.

Reconnect fees are eligible. Required fees that are included on the bill are eligible. Level billing or budget payments are eligible. Elective fees/items are not eligible.

Late fees and deposits are not eligible. Repayment agreements beyond the one month billing are not eligible.

Limited non-metered utility assistance (includes oil, firewood, coal, propane) for individuals or households provided conditions "a" through "c" below are met:

- a) All other resources are exhausted (e.g., State's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program).
- b) Payment is limited to a one-time delivery (e.g., the minimum amount of delivery for firewood, minimum gallons of fuel oil, propane).
- c) Each utility is paid only once in each award phase for any individual or household.

The intent of non-metered utility assistance, like metered utility assistance, is to provide 30 days of service.



Note: A maximum of a one month's utility bill may be paid for a client/household by a single LRO in a jurisdiction. Multiple LROs may not join together and each pay a portion of a single utility bill. Rental fees for propane tanks or other equipment are not eligible.

If the bill is not in the client's name, documentation must be provided to prove that it is the client's responsibility to pay the bill.



Documentation required: (1) spreadsheet, metered utilities [e.g., electricity, water], the most recent copy of past due or current utility bill with a breakdown which clearly identifies the one month's charges being paid including due date and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method; (2) spreadsheet, non-metered utilities [e.g., propane, firewood], receipts/invoices for fuel including due date or delivery date and canceled checks or documentation for other acceptable payment methods. (Estimated delivery quotes are not acceptable.)



EFSP allows a payment of \$100 or less on a utility bill with a past due amount or shut-off notice of \$100 or more without the monthly breakdown showing the client's monthly billing amount. A bill is still required to show the outstanding balance, but a service period is not required.

Note: Utility disconnects and termination notices often do not show the amount owed by month. The monthly information must be verified with the utility company (a copy of current client billing and payment history by month from the utility provider) and written onto the notice or metered utility verification form. If one month's service cannot be verified from the bill or with the utility company, the LRO may pay up to \$100 per individual or household provided at least \$100 is owed on the bill. This \$100 is not a cap. If an LRO wishes to pay more than \$100, the one month amount paid must be verified.



Documentation required: spreadsheet, dated copy of utility bill, disconnect, termination, final or shut-off notices with one month verification, if necessary, and proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method. Documentation must state which month's usage is being paid from the breakdown of monthly charges as well as the due date.

For additional information on utility assistance guidelines, see Annex 14 [page 107].

Metered Utility Verification Form

The National Board encourages the use of the Metered Utility Verification Form (along with a copy of the current utility bill or the client's billing and payment history from the utility company) as the preferred method for verifying eligible utility assistance. The bill must be attached to the metered utility verification form and the information on the bill must support the information completed on the form. Documentation must state which month's usage is being paid from the breakdown of monthly charges as well as the due date. The form must be completed in its entirety and proof of payment must be provided with the form and supporting documentation. See Annex 6, page 97 for sample metered utility verification form.

Diapers

For all service providers, the purchase of diapers is eligible as described below:

- For direct distribution to individuals.
- For residents of mass shelters.
- For vouchers to grocery stores.



Note: Local Boards must use discretion in selecting LROs to provide this service, taking into consideration the cost effectiveness of bulk purchasing.



Documentation required: *spreadsheet, dated receipts/invoices for diapers purchased and/or proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.*

Feminine Hygiene Items

For all service providers, the purchase of limited, basic feminine hygiene items is eligible as described below:

- For direct distribution to individuals.
- For residents of mass shelters.
- For vouchers to grocery stores.



Note: Prior Local Board approval is required. Local Boards must use discretion in selecting LROs to provide this service, taking into consideration the cost effectiveness of bulk purchasing.



Documentation required: *spreadsheet, dated receipts/invoices for feminine hygiene items purchased and/or proof of payment to vendor by an acceptable payment method.*

Charging Back Expenditures

REMINDER: LROs may submit expenditures for items and services procured prior to receiving EFSP funds. The expenditures must be incurred during the spending period and be eligible under EFSP program guidelines. All documentation requirements for the category in which the expenditures are reported will apply.

