

**Washington, D.C.** - Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) announced today that \$266,319 has been awarded to the 12th District of Georgia by the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). Federal funds totaling \$100 million were made available to the EFSP, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to bring immediate relief to communities to address unemployment, poverty, and other needs during the economic crisis.

Funds will be distributed to support social service agencies in more than 2,500 cities and counties across the country. EFSP grant funds are used to supplement food, shelter, rent, mortgage, and utility assistance programs for people with non-disaster related emergencies.

The following counties in the 12<sup>th</sup> District are receiving funds:

Baldwin County	\$17,689
Bulloch County	\$21,254
Burke County	\$9,496
Chatham County	\$80,243

Emanuel County	\$9,006
Evans County	\$3,377
Hancock County	\$4,972
Jefferson County	\$7,839
Jenkins County	\$4,951
Johnson County	\$3,440
Montgomery County	\$3,680
Richmond County	\$69,163
Screven County	\$6,682
Tattnall County	\$6,577
Toombs County	\$10,997
Washington County	\$6,953

Additional counties in the 12<sup>th</sup> District may be selected to receive EFSP funds at a later date by the EFSP State Set-Aside Committee. Georgia's Set-Aside Committee will receive \$506,047 for this purpose.

The EFSP National Board, chaired by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and composed of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; and United Way of America, provides supplemental funding to shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks.

One-month awards for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance are also available.

The funds are used to help individuals and families with non-disaster, temporary emergency needs.

In each funded jurisdiction, a Local Board advertises the availability of the funds, establishes local priorities, selects local non-profit and government agencies to receive supplemental funding, and monitors program compliance. The Local Board's composition mirrors the EFSP National Board, with a local government official replacing FEMA and board members voting to select their chair.

The EFSP has been in existence since 1983 and was authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. With the ARRA funding, more than \$3.404 billion in federal aid will have been disbursed through the EFSP since its inception to communities nationwide, and has accounted for millions of additional meals and nights of shelter to the hungry and homeless most in need across the nation.

For a listing of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Local Board contacts in particular jurisdictions or for more information, please call the EFSP National Board staff at (703) 706-9660, or FEMA's Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 646-4500.

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