



## Important FAQs about United Way NCA Emergency Assistance Fund

### **Q: What is the Emergency Assistance Fund?**

The Emergency Assistance Fund will provide additional capacity to select nonprofit organizations providing vital food, rent, and other assistance, which are facing an increased demand for services due to the government shutdown crisis.

### **Q: What is the need?**

Many non-profit organizations that provide emergency assistance programs rely on government funding to sustain operations—funding which is now frozen due to the government shutdown without assurance that it will be restored in the near future.

### **Q. How will my funds be allocated?**

Funds will be directed to select organizations in our region that will help residents weather this storm and provide vital food, rent, and other assistance programs.

### **Q. Who will my funds help?**

Funds will help federal workers that are most impacted in our community.

### **Q. When will funds be made available to select nonprofit organizations?**

Funds will be made available to select nonprofits organizations in 24-48 hours once we receive.

### **Q: Is United Way NCA keeping any of the money raised?**

No. 100 percent of the funds are going directly back to the nonprofit members.

### **Q: Is United Way NCA giving individual's money?**

United Way NCA will provide funds to select nonprofit organizations and for this reason, United Way NCA will not directly provide money to individuals.

### **Q. Is my donation tax deductible?**

Yes. Your donation will be tax deductible.

### **Q. What services are offered at the FEC?**

The FECs offer direct access to high quality financial services and guidance in a welcoming, professional environment at no cost. Services include one-to-one financial coaching and budgeting support, personal and business-focused workshops, free tax preparation, housing counseling and more.

**Q. Where can I find an FEC near me?**

To locate an FEC near you, click here: [Financial Empowerment Centers](#).

**Q. What documents must I provide at the FEC?**

You must provide proof of wages earned in federal employment for the past 18 months such as a copy of your 2017 W-2 form and/or payroll check stubs, along with a copy of your SF50 or SF8.

**Q. Which nonprofit organizations have been selected?**

The following organizations have been selected:

- Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS)
- Capital Area Food Bank
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

**Q. How can I get in contact with the select nonprofit organizations?**

To reach the select nonprofit organizations. See below:

Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS)

- Website: [www.nvfs.org](http://www.nvfs.org)
- Email: [shutdown@nvfs.org](mailto:shutdown@nvfs.org)
- Telephone: Please leave a message at 571-748-2552. Messages will be returned within 24 hours of receipt.
- Documentation needed: NVFS staff can assist clients in determining appropriate forms. Please bring proof of employment (Employer ID to verify employment status) and demonstration of financial need.

Capital Area Food Bank

- To learn where Capital Area Food Bank is holding five free Pop-Up Markets for government employees and contractors affected by the furlough, visit: <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/pop-up-markets/>
- Telephone: Please dial (202) 644-9800 or (571) 482-4770
- Documentation needed: Please bring a valid ID or federal contractor ID

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

- To help offset these challenges, Catholic Charities will be providing limited financial assistance to federal employees in the DC region who are experiencing hardship due to the ongoing government shutdown. Assistance will be provided at three of our locations.
  - Tuesday, January 15, 2019  
Susan D. Mona Center  
5859 Allentown Way, Temple Hills, MD  
9am to 1pm

- Wednesday January 16, 2019  
Southern Maryland Food Bank  
22A Irongate Drive,  
Waldorf, MD  
9am to 1pm
  - Thursday, January 17, 2019  
James Cardinal Hickey Center  
924 G St NW,  
Washington, DC  
9am to 1pm
- Documentation needed: A government employee or federal contractor ID will be needed to receive this assistance.
  - Assistance available: Financial assistance will be provided for current rent, medical needs, and essential home supplies. Please bring documentation of bills so that a check can be sent to the proper vendor.

For assistance on mortgage payments we recommend you work directly with your bank as most are offering case by case assistance to their clients. Similarly, because Pepco, Washington Gas and DC Water are offering support to furloughed workers, assistance will not be provided for these bills.

**Q. Is there a referral service available to help residents in the national capital area with basic needs during the shutdown?**

[2-1-1](#) is a free, confidential referral and information service that connects those in need to food pantries, health care services and utility and eviction prevention assistance. Callers also can receive information on mental health counseling, transportation, job training, substance use recovery services, child care and volunteer opportunities.

Note, not all cell phones are programmed for 2-1-1. Cell phones that are not programmed for 2-1-1 will produce either a “fast busy” or a “not in service” recording. If you cannot reach 2-1-1 from your cell phone, dial the 10-digit number in your jurisdiction:

- Dial 202-463-6211 in the District of Columbia.
- Dial 301-864-7161 in the state of Maryland.
- Dial 800-230-6977 in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Q. What does ALICE stand for?**

ALICE, a United Way acronym which stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, represents the growing number of individuals and families who are working, but are unable to afford the basic necessities. United Way NCA uses these reports as the framework for our work in improving residents’ lives and strengthening their communities. It allows us to make stronger, more efficient decisions with our funds. To learn more, click here: [ALICE](#)