

**For Immediate Release**

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**United Way of West Florida Announces Emergency Relief Fund**

Pensacola, FL (November 20, 2025) - As Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties begin to recover from the federal government shutdown, United Way of West Florida (UWWF) recognizes that many hardworking community members are still reeling from missed paychecks and delayed SNAP benefits. To meet this urgent need, UWWF has launched an Emergency Relief Fund, dedicated to assisting residents of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties with critical needs arising from the recent government shutdown.

Though the shutdown has ended, individuals and families remain vulnerable. They are struggling to put food on the table, pay bills, and bridge the gap between uncertainty and stability. Community food pantries are reporting a surge in demand despite a reduction in resources for many of them. Residents find themselves forced to choose between utilities, rent, and groceries, a burden exacerbated by a sudden pause in benefits and missed paychecks for many.

Many of these households are ALICE. These ALICE, Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, families are working yet living paycheck to paycheck. In Florida, households must earn less than or equal to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$64,300 for a family of four, to qualify for SNAP benefits.

"The people in need right now are our neighbors- people who work hard, care for their families, and face uncertainty through no fault of their own," said Laura Gilliam, UWWF CEO. "The Emergency Relief Fund will support nonprofits and agencies that are assisting people in need. Contributions to this fund will allow these agencies to continue their critical mission of helping households cover basic needs, like food, utilities, and housing."

UWWF will work with trusted local health and human service non-profits to maximize the impact of these funds, ensuring they are impacting those in greatest need, and that assistance is delivered efficiently.

To donate, please visit [www.uwwf.org/relief](http://www.uwwf.org/relief) or mail contributions to:

United Way of West Florida  
Emergency Relief Fund  
7100 Plantation Road, Suite 18  
Pensacola, FL 32504

**About United Way of West Florida**

United Way of West Florida (UWWF) mobilizes communities to action so all can thrive in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. True to its founding spirit, whenever there is a need in our communities, UWWF is there. The nonprofit organization brings a comprehensive approach to every challenge, actively listening and responding to local needs. From strengthening local resilience to advancing health, youth opportunity, and financial security, UWWF works towards a future where every person in the community can reach their full potential. To learn more, visit [uwwf.org](http://uwwf.org).