



## Homelessness Fund FAQ

### **Q: What is the *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island*?**

**A:** This special Fund -- set up by United Way of RI -- is a community-wide three-month-long fundraising and education effort to raise money and build awareness about homelessness prevention and to draw attention to those at risk of becoming homeless. United Way of Rhode Island's CEO and President, Anthony Maione, announced that United Way will match contributions to the Fund dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000 between January 12 and March 31, 2009.

### **Q: Why is United Way doing this?**

**A:** United Way of RI (UWRI) is responding to the bleak economic picture. As the recession deepens in the coming months, projections show many more will become at risk of losing their homes. UWRI's goal is to distribute funds directly to people who need assistance to meet rent, mortgage and utilities.

United Way of Rhode Island has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island communities for over 80 years. UWRI's mission is to mobilize the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need and address the issues Rhode Islanders care most about. United Way's goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. At United Way, this is referred to this as advancing the common good. For more information, visit [www.LIVEUNITEDri.org](http://www.LIVEUNITEDri.org).

### **Q: How will the money be distributed? How were the agencies who are distributing the money picked?**

**A:** The money will be administered through United Way of RI's Housing and Homelessness Committee. Participants include: Amos House, Bradford Jonnycake Center, Comprehensive Community Action Program, Crossroads RI, East Bay Community Action Program, Family Resources Community Action, Providence Neighborhood Agency Association members, Salvation Army, Providence Corps, South County Community Action, Tri-Town Community Action Agency, WARM Shelter, Westbay Community Action Program, and Wood River Health Services

All requests for money will be referred to the appropriate community agencies through *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island*, United Way's confidential, around-the-clock health and human services hotline staffed by information-referral

professionals. Each agency's staff of experienced case workers will screen the applicants for eligibility. The agencies will not be handing out money directly to those in need, but will pay bills on behalf of them.

**Q: What record keeping will United Way be doing to ensure the money is distributed as intended?**

**A:** The community agencies will keep records of clients, their situation, and how much money was given for what specific purpose. The information will be forwarded to United Way on a regular basis. United Way has worked with community agencies in this way for many years.

**Q: How much of what I contribute actually go to people in need?**

**A:** One hundred percent of the contributions made to the fund will be distributed directly to people who need assistance to meet rent, mortgage, and utility payments.

**Q: I understand that UWRI is matching contributions dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000. Where does the match money come from?**

**A:** The matching funds come from a Special Opportunities Grant pool that has been set aside by the Board of Directors of UWRI. Its purpose is to make monies available in the event of either critical community need or for innovative social investments.

**Q: How can I contribute?**

**A:** Anybody can help support the *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island*. Credit card contributions may be made by dialing 2-1-1 or online at [www.LIVEUNITEDri.org](http://www.LIVEUNITEDri.org) or by mailing a check to *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness*, 50 Valley Street, Providence, RI 02909.

**Q: Will I receive a record of my contribution?**

**A:** All contributions will be followed-up by either a confirmation or a thank-you note.

**Q: Can I designate allocations from my Philanthropy Account to the Homelessness Fund?**

**A:** Yes. After you confirm the allocation of funds, you will receive a confirmation letter. UWRI, as a service, sends out tax receipts to all contributors in January.



**Q: I thought United Way was all about long-term Impact? This effort appears to be aimed at an immediate need. Is this a departure from that strategy?**

**A:** UWRI is dedicated to both long-term solutions and immediate critical need or safety-net services. The term safety-net is used to describe a collection of services that prevent individuals from falling into abject poverty.

UWRI has recognized that this is going to be a very difficult year for Rhode Island's working poor and at-risk populations. Given the State's current fiscal issues, it is imperative that everyone step up to the plate and help out our most vulnerable citizens.

**Q: What is *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island's* role in this initiative? Where can people seeking help go to get it?**

**A:** UWRI encourages anyone who is in need or knows anyone in need to dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.211ri.org](http://www.211ri.org) --United Way's confidential, around-the-clock health and human services hotline staffed by information-referral professionals. In 2008, *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island* received nearly 100,000 calls. 2-1-1, backed by a yearly commitment of \$500,000 from United Way, is also supported by a grant from the Hasbro Children's Fund as well as additional funds from the State.