

Friday

December 26, 2003

Sterling, Colorado

50 cents

www.journal-advocate.com

JOURNAL-ADVOCATE

Agencies benefit from fed grant

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Funding for emergency food and shelter is being made available through a federal grant.

Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave announced \$330,463 has been awarded to the Fourth Congressional District. Logan County's share of this money is \$7,346, according to a recent press release from Musgrave's office.

The Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program is chaired by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The program is made up of representatives

from the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, United Jewish Communities, United Way of America, The Salvation Army, and the Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Deborah Doiel, director of the Morgan County United Way, said while any group may apply for the funds, last year Cooperating Ministry and Help For Abused Partners were the only Logan County recipients.

Only non-profits with existing programs are eligible to apply for the money, and groups must comply with certain record keeping requirements, Doiel said.

Logan County received \$6,790 last year.

Ways the grant money can be spent include meals served at a shelter of safe-house.

In order for a person to be eligible for rent utility assistance, the utility payment must be in arrears, all the family's other resources must be exhausted, and the money must guarantee an additional 30 days of service.

The money is intended to provide a piece of assistance "in hopes that they (recipients) can put the whole together for themselves," Doiel said.

Once United Way receives official notice it has received the federal grant, it has 25 days to put together a local board from the community, to include representatives from the national organizations such as the Salvation Army, and advocates for the homeless to review the applications.