

For Immediate Release

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UNITED WAYS OFFER SUPPORT TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Pensacola, FL Jan 24, 2019- United Way Worldwide announced yesterday the establishment of the **United for U.S. Fund** to benefit federal workers, contractors, and others who may be impacted by the ongoing government shutdown.

The United for U.S. Fund is an expansion of the United for U.S. Coalition, which was launched recently to bring together corporate partners, organized labor, the United Way network, and other nonprofits to assist furloughed federal workers and others who are struggling during the ongoing government shutdown.

Throughout the shutdown, United Ways around the country have been providing a host of services to federal workers and others, including financial services and counseling, emergency assistance for food, rent, and other immediate needs.

Across the state of Florida, there are 79,771 federal employees, totaling 3.9% of nationwide federal employment, per Governing.com. Of those, there are 15,992 employees in agencies without appropriations, the 7th highest total in the country.

“We understand how difficult it is for many of the individuals and families affected by the government shutdown,” said United Way of Escambia County President & CEO, Laura Gilliam. “United Way of Escambia County is committed to identifying resources and to connecting those who are struggling with assistance. The United for U.S. Fund is yet another way that individuals can help.”

Individuals affected locally may contact 211 Northwest Florida to speak with an information and referral specialist about what services and resources are available to them in the area. This service is free, confidential, and available 24/7 simply by dialing 2-1-1 or visiting 211nwfl.org. 211 Northwest Florida is a program of United Way of Escambia County that serves Escambia, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties.

A number of local organizations and companies are also providing additional support to individuals and families affected by the shutdown. Manna is offering grocery assistance to federal workers and Coast Guard members, while USO Northwest Florida is collecting donations for affected families, and Escambia River Electric Company will not disconnect electric services of federal workers who make arrangements with the utility.

For more information about support services for furloughed employees locally and nationally, please visit unitedwayofescambia.org/governmentshutdown.

If you would like to support the United for U.S. Fund, please visit unitedway.org/unitedforusfund.

United Way of Escambia County (UWEC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every citizen in our community. UWEC has operated locally for 94 years with a vision of a community United to create better opportunities for all. By investing in programs, participating in partnerships, and leveraging resources, UWEC works to meet a mission of Uniting our community to improve lives.

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