

# United Way of Tompkins County

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**November 25, 2025**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Community Foundation of Tompkins County Announces Grant to Support United Way/2-1-1 Response to HEAP Delay**

**Ithaca, NY** – We are pleased to announce a grant of \$20,000 has been made by Community Foundation’s Lane Family Fund in support of Tompkins County households facing utilities shut offs and/or a lack of fuel for heating their homes. Last week, United Way of Tompkins announced its United Way/2-1-1 Program was responding to delays in HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) delays funding by making payments on behalf of eligible households up to \$500. “We live in a place with so many people eager to help when they learn of local needs. The long standing collaboration of United Way and Community Foundation to connect our caring donors with causes that matter results in delivering resources in the most impactful way. As we enter this season of gratitude I invite everyone to consider what they feel called to do in lifting up our community,” shared Community Foundation CEO George Ferrari.

The program is accessed by contacting 2-1-1 of Tompkins County. Humans Services Coalition’s Deputy Director John Mazzeo, who administers 2-1-1’s side of the process explains, “Since United Way of Tompkins County announced heating support, the 211 Helpline has received many requests for assistance—enough that the initial funding would likely have been exhausted shortly after Thanksgiving. This program supports households who are unable to get assistance through other programs, bridging the gap for individuals and families in Tompkins County.” Gail Belokur, UWTC Chief Development and Operating Officer adds, “This generous gift will allow the program to keep a minimum of an additional forty homes warm as the cold of winter sets in and the holidays are upon us. We are grateful for Community Foundation’s Lane Family Fund and others responding to these needs.”

Individuals, organizations, and businesses who would like to make a difference for Tompkins County households through this program and others meeting local human needs are encouraged to contact either organization. Community Foundation of Tompkins County can accept gifts to its Community Impact Fund at <https://cftc.fcsuite.com/erp/donate>. Donors wishing to join Community Foundation in supporting this specific initiative can do so by visiting [www.uwtc.org](http://www.uwtc.org) and selecting the “HEAP Response” link, texting “UWTC4HEAP” to 41444, or by making an annual donation through its “Donate” button and designating the UW/211 ALICE Program. Questions and pledges can also be directed to [campaign@uwtc.org](mailto:campaign@uwtc.org) or by calling (607)500-GIVE and selecting options 2 or 5.

To connect with 2-1-1 in Tompkins County for information and to access human services resources, callers can dial 877-211-8667.

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