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## Charities Gasp as Hurricanes Divert Donations

By The Associated Press

Officials say Florence's Manna House is in danger of closing because donations have almost dried up. Jean Mullinax of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for Spartanburg and Cherokee counties sees the same problem.

Both Mullinax and Manna House Executive Director Daphine Tedder say people are giving money to hurricane-relief efforts and there's little left over for their organizations.

Tedder says she has plenty of food for the city's elderly, poor and homeless, but not enough money to operate the organization's building.

Manna House gets no government money and relies on private donations.

The organization has about \$20,000 in emergency funds. That's enough to operate for about five months, Tedder said. Then the group might consider closing its doors.

Mullinax's organization is federally funded and will get a cash infusion in January, but that won't help Cherokee County residents make it through the holidays.

Mullinax says just \$33 remains available to help those families pay their heating bill through the end of the year.

So far, the group has paid almost \$140,000 to help more than 700 households in that county in the first 10 months of the year.

More than half a million dollars has been used to help more than 2,600 Spartanburg County residents for the same period.