

Crisis Fuel - Suggested Language

1. Continue with a Special Warmth grant for the 2014-2015 Season

2014 Budget Adjustment:

Sec. 86a. SPECIAL WARMTH GRANT

(a) Effective January 30, 2014, the Department for Children and Families is authorized to grant \$500,000 of the funds available within the fuel assistance program for a special warmth program to address extraordinary temperature-related fuel assistance needs in the 2013–2014 heating season.

SPECIAL WARMTH GRANT for FY 2015

The Department for Children and Families is authorized to grant funds available (reserved ?) within the fuel assistance program for a special warmth program to address temperature-related fuel assistance needs in the 2014-2014 heating season in addition the regular Crisis Fuel Program.

The Commissioner shall report annually to the Chairs of the House Human Services and Appropriations Committees and the Chairs of the Senate Health and Welfare and Appropriations Committees and the Joint Fiscal committee on the status of the crisis fuel budget prior to budget adjustment and make recommendations consistent with its purpose

2. Allow households to get an initial crisis fuel assist if they have applied, but not yet received their benefit if they are in danger of running out of fuel on the commissioners' (designees) approval.

CRISIS FUEL in FY 2014 Budget Passed last year:

Sec. E.324.9 33 V.S.A. § 2609 is amended to read:

§ 2609. CRISIS RESERVES; ELIGIBILITY AND ASSISTANCE

(b) Crisis fuel grants shall be limited per winter heating season to one grant for households that are income-eligible and have received a seasonal fuel assistance grant and meet all eligibility requirements for crisis fuel assistance or to two grants for households that are not income-eligible for seasonal fuel assistance and meet all eligibility requirements for crisis fuel assistance.

Notwithstanding Sec. E.324.9 33 V.S.A. § 2609 (b)

The Commissioner of DCF or their designee (CAPs ?) may authorize a crisis fuel assist to those income-eligible households who have applied for an expedited seasonal fuel benefit but have not yet received, if the benefit can't be executed in time to prevent them from running out of fuel.