



Fuel & Utility Assistance Programs Summary

Fuel Program Funding (Seasonal & Crisis)

- FFY2013: Federal \$18.4 million plus State \$9.7 million Avg. Benefit \$898
- FFY2014: Federal \$19.1 million plus State \$8.1 million Avg. Benefit \$792
- FFY2015: Federal \$18.8 million plus State \$5.0 million Avg. Benefit \$783

Seasonal Fuel Assistance

- Seasonal Fuel Assistance is a supplemental program to pay a portion of a household's winter heat
- Operates as an "Entitlement Program" – benefit granted if client is income eligible
- Applications processed year-round (approx. 48,000/year) by DCF/ESD
- Grants made from late September (firewood/pellets) through mid-March (all fuels)
- 25,000+/- households projected to receive a "fuel-liability" benefit in FFY2015
- Average FFY2015 "full-season, full-fuel-liability" benefit projected at \$783
- 185% of Federal Poverty Level. Example: 3 person household maximum income is \$3,053/month
- Benefits for: home owners or renters; pay for heat or heated rental; heat with fuel or metered utility
- Federal Requirement: Benefits based on client "need" (financial need and energy burden)
- "Heat-&-Eat" – annual \$21 fuel benefit to 24,000+/- households leverages additional 3SqsVT benefits
- Website: www.dcf.vermont.gov/esd/fuel_assistance

Crisis Fuel Assistance

- Applications processed and grants made and paid by Vermont's five Community Action Agencies
- **NOT** an "Entitlement Program" – clients must meet eight conditions
- Crisis season: last Monday in November to the last business day in April, or until funds run out
- After-Hours crisis assistance is available statewide 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and state holidays for households with a "vulnerable" member (elderly ~ age 60 or older, living with a disability ~ in receipt of permanent disability benefits, or young children ~ under the age of 6)
- 200% of Federal Poverty Level. Example: 3 person household maximum income is \$3,300/ month.
- One grant per season for with incomes to 185% FPL; two grants for households between 186 and 200% FPL
- Clients receiving Seasonal Fuel can also receive Crisis Fuel
- Less than 6,000 households projected to be assisted in FFY2015
- Website: www.dcf.vermont.gov/esd/fuel_assistance/crisis_assistance

Utility Assistance Programs

- Benefits privately funded by GMP & VGS rate-payers
- DCF/ESD/Fuel & Utility Office determines eligibility under service contracts with GMP and VGS
- Green Mountain Power (GMP) 25% discount first 600 KWH; 150% federal poverty maximum
- Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) 20% discount on entire bill; 185% federal poverty maximum
- Residential service only regardless of heat source
- Website: www.dcf.vermont.gov/esd/eap

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