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Natalie Paterson

VT Fuel Assistance Under Fire

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Posted: Aug 16, 2011 5:47 PM EDT
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It may be summer but this is the time of year when Vermonters have to start planning for winter.

The state could see a huge cut to its fuel assistance program if President Barack Obama's budget proposal is approved. The President has suggested cutting the federal program by 55 percent which means Vermont families would be left with just \$400 to heat their homes this winter.

So, the state is stepping in. The Shumlin administration is negotiating with the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association for a larger discount for people in the program. The current discount is five cents per gallon but, the VFDA is now considering Shumlin's request to double, or even triple the discount.

Negotiations are expected to wrap up within the next two weeks but, a higher discount wouldn't make up for the proposed loss in federal funding. However, if Congress doesn't approve a budget by October first, it could pass a resolution that would keep up current funding levels. One thing's for sure, there's more uncertainty to come for Vermonters.

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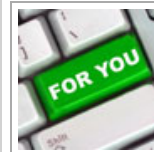


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