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Stephanie Barrett - ARRA Food Stamps

From: "Cohen, David" <David.Cohen@ahs.state.vt.us>
To: "Stephanie Barrett" <sbarrett@leg.state.vt.us>
Date: 7/15/2010 10:34 AM
Subject: ARRA Food Stamps
CC: "White, Priscilla" <Priscilla.White@ahs.state.vt.us>, "Cohen, David" <Da...>

Stephanie – I believe that JFC is meeting today and we have an emergency that I would like to make you aware of. ARRA funding is available for a special program to provide a one time TANF benefit to eligible recipients for the months of July and August. It requires a 20% match to draw down the 80% funds that we can get from the feds. This special one time program had been discussed at several legislative sessions. Unfortunately, we had been unsuccessful in obtaining the match. However, the Vermont Community Foundation has said that they would conduct a fund raising that we could use as the match. They would donate the money to DCF and we would be able to use that as the match. After a discussion with Sue Zeller, she confirmed that we had to get JFC approval.

I am on my way to meeting with Commissioner Dale to strategize how we can get this done ASAP. We need to put the benefit into our payment tables in the ACCESS system by July 23rd. Sue suggested that we alert you to this need. What I am trying to determine is whether there is time on the JFC agenda today if we decide to proceed. I am copying Priscilla who get access to Steve and myself during the next 45 minutes. I am doing this as a heads up as I am unsure of which direction we will take. Thanks.