

Sec. E 323.7 REACH AHEAD PILOT PROGRAM

(a) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 33 V.S.A. chapter 12, funds appropriated to the Department for Children and Families for the Reach Ahead Pilot Program in fiscal year 2024 shall be used to:

(1) enroll families that have left the Reach Up program or the postsecondary education program within the prior 12 months for employment that meets the federal work requirements for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for the family's size and composition;

(2) increase the amount of monthly food assistance from \$50 to \$100 in the first 12 months of a family's participation in Reach Ahead;

(3) increase the amount of monthly food assistance from \$5 to \$50 in the second 12 months of a family's participation in Reach Ahead; and

(4) provide incentive payments to participating families in the amounts of:

(A) \$750, to be paid after participating in the Program for six months;

(B) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for 12 months;

(C) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for 18 months; and

(D) \$1,000, to be paid after participating in the Program for 24 months.

(b) Funding for this program is provided for in Sec. B.1100(o)(1) of this act and is only in effect for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, unless additional funding is authorized.

Sec. E.323.8 REACH AHEAD PILOT PROGRAM

(a) The Department for Children and Families – Economic Services Division shall collect and report data that measures outcomes for participants of the Reach Ahead Pilot Program established in Sec. E.323.7 of this act; the indicators used to measure participant and Pilot Program progress; and the strategies that are implemented.

Sec. E.324 EXPEDITED CRISIS FUEL ASSISTANCE

(a) The Commissioner for Children and Families or designee may authorize crisis fuel assistance to those income-eligible households that have applied for an expedited seasonal fuel benefit but have not yet received it if the benefit cannot be executed in time to prevent them from running out of fuel. The crisis fuel grants authorized pursuant to this section count toward the one crisis fuel grant allowed per household for the winter heating season pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2609(b).

Sec. E.325 DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – OFFICE
OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.325 of this act, \$18,776,814 shall be granted to community agencies to assist individuals experiencing homelessness by preserving existing services, increasing services,