



Umbrella Updates

February 2009

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State Revenue Crisis Reality Check

There is enough money to avoid any further cuts to our critical public service structures. While the exact details of the federal stimulus package are still being worked out in Congress - by all indications - there will be enough money for Vermont to address our budget problem through Fiscal Year 2010. This will give us enough time for policy makers to develop a plan for sustainable funding of essential public services and structures. For more up to date information on the federal stimulus package and what it will mean to the states visit <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud.htm> and <http://www.cbpp.org/1-26-09bud.htm>

We have already made 68 million dollars in cuts. We cannot afford any more cuts. Cuts made in April (\$24 million), August (\$24 million) and December (\$20 million) have already weakened our important safety net for our most vulnerable populations and undermined our plans for our future economic stability and growth.

Further cuts will weaken our state and our economy. The point of the federal stimulus package is to prevent job losses. Further cuts on the state level to jobs and services will shrink our economy more – it would be going in the wrong direction and only make our recession longer.

A balance of cuts and new revenue is needed. We've done significant cutting. It's time to look for revenues – from the federal government, our own rainy day funds or targeted tax increases.

Federal funds will give us time to develop a long-range plan. Stimulus funds do not provide an important bridge to economic recovery. Vermont still has structural budget problems. Instead of focusing on harmful and short-sighted cuts, the administration and Legislature should be working together on a sustainable fiscal policy that will serve the best interests of all Vermonters once the state and national economies rebound.

Prepared by One Vermont Coalition, January 29, 2009

One Vermont is a coalition of citizens, organizations, and businesses working to improve Vermonters' lives by creating strong, effective public structures that ensure long-term security and prosperity for our state. For more information on One Vermont contact:
Barbara Postman, Coalition Chair bpostman@voicesforvtkids.org 802-229-6377

Make Your Voice Heard - Speak out in Support of Critical Programs!

Monday, February 2nd Rally in St. Johnsbury - 5 PM in front of the Post Office on Main Street. Check out the S.O.S. (Save Our State) blog <http://www.sos-vt.blogspot.com> for more information, We are also looking for spokespeople to speak directly to how budget cuts will impact them or their families. In order to help us prepare for the event, please contact Michelle Fay at 748-1992 x314 or michelle@umbrellanek.org to let us know if you are interested.

information:

www.goodsearch.com

to attend the rally, and/or if you would like to be a spokesperson. **POSTER-MAKING Umbrella (1st floor, 1222 Main Street, St. J) from 3:30 – 4:45 on February 2nd**

VIT Hearing on the Budget - Monday, February 9th 4:30 to 7:00 PM The House and Senate Appropriations Committees will hold a joint public hearing on Vermont Interactive Television (V.I.T.) on Monday, February 9th from 4:30 to 7:00 PM, to give Vermonters throughout the state an opportunity to express their views about the State budget for year 2010. Northeast Kingdom V.I.T. sites in Lyndonville and Newport will be participating. Go to [VIT's website](#) for an up-to-date location listing, including driving directions, addresses and telephone numbers.

As part of the Kids Are Priority One Coalition's [Child Care Subsidy Campaign](#), the Coalition for the One Vermont Coalition, the Paid Sick Days Campaign, the Building Bright Futures of Southeastern Vermont, the Livable Wage Campaign-Peace and Justice Center and other partners are sponsoring a **rally on Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 11:00 AM to 1 PM at the Statehouse in Montpelier**. (Click [here](#) for a rally flyer to circulate.) The rally is an opportunity to show public support for looking at all options for solving this revenue shortage including increasing revenues. For more information, go to: www.kidsarepriorityone.org/february-rally-at-the-governors-office.html.

Petition to the Governor regarding the need for further investment in early childhood education and care. (www.ipetitions.com/petition/kidsarepriorityone/)

Submit a family/provider/professional story for the "Walk in My Shoes" Storybook for legislators (www.kidsarepriorityone.org/share-your-story.html) by **February 20?**

Free Advocacy Training Series to Begin

Trainings are free and open to the public with no further commitment, but are required to serve to fulfill the trainings required to become a volunteer hotline advocate. **Please contact Henekis or Zoe at the Umbrella office 748-8645 ext. 325 or 326 to register.**

February 3rd, 2009 - Tuesday

Domestic Violence 101, 5 pm – 8 pm

Myths and Facts about D.V., Physical & Emotional Violence, Understanding The Power & Control Wheel, Why Women stay, Equality, Gender Bias, Characteristics of a Batterer and The Cycle of Violence. Safety Planning, Relief from Restraining Orders, Orders against Trespass, Safe Housing, Shelter Referrals, Common Court Orders and remaining questions

February 4th, 2009 – Wednesday

Sexual Violence 101, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Vermont Statutes, Consent, Signs and Symptoms, Men as Victims, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.), Advocating for Assault Victims, Policies Regarding Hospital Advocacy and the Role of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.).

Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault, 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Common Sexual Assault Drugs, How Common Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault is, Effects of Sexual Assault Drugs, Signs and Symptoms of Drugs and Safety Planning.

February 5th, 2009 - Thursday

Coordinated Community Response, 5pm – 7:30pm

Exploring the services and intricacies of networking with community partners such as Caledonia Family Court, Court Clerks, Police, States Attorney's Advocate, Department of Probation and Parole, AHS and Department of Corrections. The exercise *In Her Shoes* used to demonstrate how survivors often experience the different agencies and people within their community.

February 10th, 2009 - Tuesday

Effects of Battering on Children 5 - 8pm

Identifying Symptoms in Children, Description of Effects on Children Including Physical, Emotional, Behavioral, Cognitive and Social Effects at Various Ages and Stages of Development. Strategies for Implementing Support, Safety Planning and Techniques for Kids Who Have Witnessed Violence in Their Homes.

February 11, 2009 - Wednesday

Stalking, 5:30 pm – 7 pm

Definition, Laws on Stalking, How to Prove it, Difficulties in Investigation, Effects of Stalking, Documentation, Cyber Stalking and Safety Planning.

Sex & Violence in Today's Pornography Industry 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Introduction to porn culture, history of the pornography industry, racism & sexism in today's pornography industry, effects and where we can go from here.

February 12th, 2009 - Thursday

Advocacy Skills, 5 pm – 8 pm

Define Confidentiality, Confidentiality and Campus Life, Domestic and Sexual Violence Program Policies and Procedures, RFA's, and Case Studies. Advocacy Listening Skills, Empowerment, How to Support Victims/Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence, Responding to Hotline Calls and Victims Bill of Rights.

Upcoming Early Childhood Events for Parents, Providers and Families

Dabble Day – Saturday, March 14th from 10-12 at the St. Johnsbury School. Arts, craft activities and resources for area families. Sponsored by the Building Bright Futures Office of Caledonia and Southern Essex Counties. Free!

Parents and Providers Partnering Together for Children Early Childhood

Conference Saturday March 21st, 8-3:15 at Lyndon State College. Workshops and presentations for early childhood educators and caregivers – which naturally include children's first and most important teachers...parents! Check www.umbrellanek.org for more information by mid-February.

Remember...

GoodSearch & GoodShop

Your internet searches and shopping can benefit Umbrella without costing you anything to www.goodsearch.com to sign up and learn more about it.



Cell Phone Recycling Program

Umbrella continues to recycle used cell phones, which we either give to program participants to make emergency 911 calls, or send to a recycling vendor that pays us for the parts. We raised nearly \$100 last year, and kept a lot of old phones out of the waste stream. Cell phones can be dropped at the Umbrella office at 1222 Main Street (3rd floor) during normal business hours.