

# Hammond presents emergency funding package

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Gov. Jay Hammond has submitted a plan to spend \$4 million in state contingency funds to help replace monies lost to the state because of cuts in the federal budget.

Hammond sent his plan to State Rep. Al Adams and the House Finance Committee last week. The plan was sent to Adams for review but, according to legislation setting aside the fund, the Legislature has no say in how Hammond spends the money.

Neither was the finance

committee aware of the plan until it was delivered to them last Thursday. Adams has two legislative aides working on a study of the federal budget cuts and they were not aware of the governor's research, despite the committee's request that they be kept informed of developments.

According to a cover letter accompanying the plan, the state stands to lose \$80 million in federal monies. Prior to adjourning for the year, the 1981 State Legislature passed emergency funding legislation allocating \$5 million to help cover the lost federal

revenues.

One problem with the allocation is that, even now, the federal government is unable to state with certainty how much will be cut from Alaska funding.

And, just when the state was getting its act together in determining the amount of cuts in Alaska, a new round of budget cuts began in September.

The government then extended funding on all federal programs to the state for 45 days which will allow them to continue until mid-November. It's expected that many

of the major programs which are facing budget cuts will be able to continue with some of the emergency funding until the Legislature reconvenes in January.

Under Hammond's plan, \$4 million of the emergency contingency fund will be spent on several programs in mid-November.

Hammond has proposed the following expenditures:

School lunch program to partially fund the meals and milk programs in 36 public school districts and in 224 child care facilities — \$500,000;

Vocational Rehabilitation program which serves 250 to 300 handicapped clients — \$337,000;

General Relief Program to provide funding for families being cut off from the Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance program.

Department of Environmental Conservation, Solid Waste Management, to provide a staff assistance to communities with solid waste management problems — \$100,000;

Department of Community and Regional Affairs to main-

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# Non-state agency money not allocated

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tain field offices and continue support of the Private Industry Council — \$268,000;

Department of Community and Regional Affairs Community Planning to maintain support of local community planning assistance — \$389,000;

Statewide reserve to be used when further cuts are determined.

Another \$1 million in emergency funds is to be allocated

for non-state agency appropriations but amounts have not been determined.

That money will be considered for equal distribution to meet basic service needs. It is estimated that \$30 million in federal aid has been cut from non-state agency appropriations.

Those appropriations went to the following programs such as CETA public service employment; the BIA general

assistance fund of up to \$750 monthly for a family of four Natives; basic health services such as health care; and block grants for non-state programs.

According to the memo which was signed by Ronald D. Lehr, director of the governor's office of budget and management, non-state programs will be maintained with direct program grants but amounts of money have not been determined.

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