

# Innovative Outstanding Weatherization Assistance News

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**Wishing you a  
Super Summer!**

From all of us in the  
Weatherization Bureau  
in Des Moines

Jim, Gwen, Mark, Chris, Mike  
and Rosemary

## Welcome

- Summer is here! Are you warm enough? Have you had enough rain? Some parts of Iowa have received too much rain, prompting questions from agencies. See page 3 for more details.
- A note from the fiscal department: If you have funding leftover and are sending it back to DCAA, be sure to note which contract the funding should be applied to. This will help alleviate any questions fiscal department staff may have.
- In October, we encouraged agencies to obtain digital cameras. Although we do not require each agency to have a digital camera for the evaluators and inspectors to use, there are strong benefits to owning a camera. The photos would come in handy for a variety of reasons, especially when proving a moisture problem existed prior to weatherization services taking place.
- The 2004 DOE Regional meeting was held in conjunction with the Affordable Comfort Conference. DCAA staff attended the Regional meeting and had a chance to visit with other states regarding the Weatherization Program.
- The Affordable Comfort Conference was held on April 26-29 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Many Iowans attended and brought back useful information. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2005 Affordable Comfort Conference to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana May 16-21, 2005.

## Statistics

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>*QTRLY</u>	<u>**YTD</u>
Houses Worked On	257	257
Completions	205	205
Closed Incomplete	52	52
Owner Occupied	233	233
Rentals	24	24
Elderly Occupied	87	87
Disabled Occupied	115	115
Furnace Replacements	97	97
Refrigerator Replacements	67	67
Freezer Replacements	18	18
Average Costs Per House	\$4,183	\$4,183

**Totals for all agencies combined**  
\* QTRLY (April, May)  
\*\* YTD (Program year through May)

## Agency Spotlight - Northeast Iowa

### Commission Meeting Provides Opportunity to Learn More about Weatherization

In a continued effort to visit each of the Community Action Agencies, commissioners recently traveled to the beautiful city of Decorah for their May 21st commission meeting.

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation, hosted the meeting, took the commissioners on a tour of the facility and provided a weatherization demonstration at a client's house. This was a wonderful opportunity for the commissioners to learn more about the program.



Northeast Iowa staff installing blower



Northeast Iowa staff greeting commissioners.



Northeast Iowa staff installing insulation machine hose.



Blower door installed.



Attic of clients' house.

"I wanted to thank your agency for a job well done. It was very much appreciated. What a wonderful organization!"

— Client

## Questions and Answers

**Question:** Can side by sides with ice makers be installed if that is all that is available?

**Answer:** Yes, if that is all that is available, it is Energy Star rated, and qualifies through BART.

**Question:** Should the costs for health and safety repairs limit be included in the SIR?

**Answer:** Health and Safety repairs are *not* to be included in the SIR calculation, however, incidental repairs are to be included.

**Question:** Are E.C.I.P. funds included in the \$8000.00 limit?

**Answer:** Yes they are to be included in the limit. All material and labor costs are to be included in the limit, support is not.

**Question:** Are E.C.I.P. funds included in the furnace/boiler limit?

**Answer:** No they are not included in the limits for furnaces and boilers. All other material and labor funds are included.

## News

**WAPTAC Website**—Be sure to visit the WAPTAC website for DOE rules, DOE financial assistance rules and OMB circulars. Don't forget, they also have a Pollution Occurrence Insurance page. The website address is <http://www.waptac.org/>.

**Flood Damaged Homes**—Due to the recent storms Iowa has been subjected to, DCAA has received questions from agencies concerning weatherizing homes that have been damaged by floods. As per DOE's federal rules for the Weatherization Program (10 CFR Part 440.18 (e) (ii)) and the 2004 Iowa Weatherization State Plan (Section II.11), you may reweatherize any eligible home that has been damaged by floods as long as the reweatherization work is not covered by insurance. A house damaged by a flood, fire, or other disaster can be reweatherized irrespective of the date it was originally weatherized. Note that an audit (including a health and safety inspection) needs to be performed on the house again.

Regarding homes that have not been previously weatherized, we do not state that a flood-damaged home that has never been weatherized has to have a high priority number in order to be weatherized. Our client selection policy allows for serving clients "out of turn" when it is an emergency situation. An example of this would be when a furnace quits working during the heating season. You could probably consider a flood-damaged home to be an emergency situation.

Note: FEMA funds should always be exhausted before considering using Weatherization Program funds.

**Program Year 2004 Changes**—Program Year 2004 changes and clarifications of program policies and requirements were mailed to each agency in April. Contact the DCAA office with any questions.

The DOE average expenditure per home limit is \$2,672.

The DOE average health and safety expenditure per home limit is \$668.

The amount of support that is allowed per completed home under the DOE and HEAP Contracts is 35 percent of the sum of the DOE, HEAP, Utility and **ECIP** expenditures for health and safety, labor, and materials.

Prior approval must be obtained from the DCAA before weatherizing homes when the estimated cost of the work on a home, including health and safety, energy efficiency, and repair work, using DOE, HEAP, Utility, and **ECIP** funds, is greater than \$8,000.

Prior approval must be obtained from the DCAA when the purchase price of an item is \$5,000 or more.

The new fuel prices for the NEAT Audit are listed below and are to be input into the NEAT Audit immediately and used on homes evaluated after the input date.

Propane	\$1.06/gal
Fuel Oil	\$1.18/gal
Natural Gas	\$6.08/MCF
Electricity	\$.086/kWh

Side-by-side refrigerators are allowed as replacements. They must be Energy Star rated and must still be run through the BART program to ensure they are cost effective.

**Selecting Clients**—As stated in Section 4.23 of the Policy and Procedures manual, as Local Agencies select clients from the client priority list, there may be justifiable reasons why some clients are not selected. Those reasons include, but are not limited to, the following: the client's eligibility period has ended, the client was contacted and refused weatherization service, the local agency was unable to contact the client, the client's dwelling had previously been weatherized or the client's landlord refused to *(continued on next page)*

### Service Recognition

#### 25 Year Anniversary

Julie Colling is the Weatherization Coordinator at Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. in Remsen, Iowa.

Sharon Heidesch is in Administration at Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. in Remsen, Iowa.

#### 26 Year Anniversary

Marie Hagert is in Administration at Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. in Remsen, Iowa and retired at the end of June.

## News—Continued

sign the landlord agreement. If a local agency does not serve a client on the priority list, the local agency must document the reason why. Also, in the case where the local agency was not able to contact the client, documentation must exist showing the local agency made reasonable attempts to contact the client, including both telephone and mail contacts. Documentation is to be done in WAMS as well as on the priority list itself. The following denial codes are listed in WAMS and may also be used when documenting the priority list.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Reason</u>
00	Approved
01	Client deceased
02	Duplicate file
03	Landlord did not replace furnace
04	Landlord did not return landlord letter
05	Landlord returned letter, refused to allow WX
06	No forwarding address or address unknown
07	Client refused WX—will be denied LIHEAP
08	House under extensive remodeling
09	Extensive repairs needed
10	House is for sale
11	Beyond scope of program due to structural repairs
12	Beyond scope of program due to H & S problems
13	Client's 12-month eligibility period has expired
14	House poses a health and safety hazard to workers
99	Other

**Utility Measures**—This is a reminder to install utility measures. If you are *not* installing them, be sure to note in WAMS

the reason why you are not installing the measures. This is reviewed by the House Inspector as well as the Program Monitor. Utility measures are important to install because they have a very good payback.

**Reports**—Agencies have expressed an interest in knowing how many furnace replacements are done per agency as well as total furnace replacements for the state. This is a reminder that the front page of the newsletter will give you the totals for the state, program -year-to-date. For more detailed information, we will refer you to Calendar Year 2002 SLICE report. In the report titled "Report on Impacts and Costs of the Iowa Low-Income Weatherization Program—Calendar Year 2002", page 34 outlines heating system replacements for all agencies utilizing state and utility funds. Page 35 outlines heating system replacements for all agencies utilizing state funds. On the subsequent pages of the report, each agency is listed, which includes, among other measures, heating system replacements.

**Charging Utilities**—Be sure to charge 90%-92% furnaces and refrigerators to utility funds.

**DOE's Chicago Regional Office**—The U.S. Department of Energy's six regional offices recently underwent a name change. The Chicago Regional Office, which oversees our area, was changed to the Midwest Regional Office. The name change will be reflected on all U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) communications and publications.

## Extreme Photo



*Holding on by a thread...um...duct tape.*

Please send us your Extreme Photos. We would be very interested in sharing them with your colleagues. You never know what you may find out there...

## News—Continued

**Forms**—If your agency needs additional Client Consent and Health and Safety Assessment forms, please contact Christine Taylor at [Christine.Taylor@iowa.gov](mailto:Christine.Taylor@iowa.gov) or 515-281-4565 and she will send some to you.

**DOE Programmatic Monitoring**—DOE is planning a monitoring of the State of Iowa Weatherization Bureau sometime in November. Representatives will review office files, visit a local agency and inspect a couple of homes.

**IWAC Retreat**—The 2004 Annual IWAC Retreat was held June 8 and 9 in Clear Lake. It was a very productive retreat as many items were discussed including, HEAP and Utility funding, the ICAA Conference, furnace flat rate, the NEAT Audit, an explanation of the SLICE report by Greg Dalhoff, and an infrared camera demonstration by Roger Schmidt. Also discussed was the possibility of WAMS being web-based in the future. Reporting would be much easier, ending the need to send reports in to the Weatherization office.

**Work Standards**—The Iowa Weatherization Bureau continues revamping the Weatherization Work Standards. Technical changes will be outlined in the October issue of the IOWAN.

*"I am writing to you regarding the weatherization that was done at my house about one month ago. I am very happy about this service because already, I can see the results. My house is a lot warmer and my electric bill has already been lowered. Also, the noise level outside is not as bad. My worker was Alan Stockdale and he was terrific. Every time he called me to set up an appointment, he was very prompt. Also, most people don't take the time to go over the inspections they are doing but Alan did. He went over every step and did not rush through it. I had to write to let you know that you have a winner on your team."*

- Threshold Client

**Expenditure Limit Waiver**—Approval to exceed the expenditure limit threshold must be obtained as soon during the process you believe the home will go over the limit, not after the home is completed. Waiver request forms are posted on the Members Only page of the weatherization website and are to be submitted to Mike Speed at [Mike.Speed@iowa.gov](mailto:Mike.Speed@iowa.gov).

### Resources

**Infrared Thermometers can be found on the following sites:**

[www.cooperinstrument.com](http://www.cooperinstrument.com)

[www.process-controls.com](http://www.process-controls.com)

[www.mannix-inst.com](http://www.mannix-inst.com)

[www.omega.com](http://www.omega.com)

[www.nyserda.org/guide.pdf](http://www.nyserda.org/guide.pdf)

Homeowner's Guide to Ventilation

[www.homeenergysaver.lbl.gov](http://www.homeenergysaver.lbl.gov)

Web-Based Do-It-Yourself Energy Audit Tool

[www.aceee.org](http://www.aceee.org)

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

**DOE Regional Meeting**—At the DOE Regional meeting held in April, four initiatives were discussed: Regional best practices guide, developing a regional certification program, developing an administrative training taskforce, and discussion regarding the Regional Office serving as a catalyst and resource to developing partnerships that will benefit local sites, states, and the region. Out of this came the commitment by DOE to host monthly phone meetings to discuss these and other important issues. Should you have any pressing needs, please let us know so we can discuss them with DOE.

## Upcoming Events

### July 2004

13—14 **Zonal Pressure Diagnostics Training.** To be held at the Operation Threshold, 300 West Third Street, Waterloo, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov).

### August 2004

10—11 **Advanced Furnace Training.** To be held in Ireton, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov).

25 **IWAC Meeting.** To be held at the Four Points Sheraton, Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, Iowa from 9:00am -12:00noon. For more information, contact Mike Loos at 563-324-3236 ext. 103 or [MLoos@iowatrains.org](mailto:MLoos@iowatrains.org).

31 **Lead Safe Work Practices Training.** To be held at Operation Threshold, 300 West Third Street, Waterloo, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov).

### September 2004

1 **Slate Siding Safe Work Practices Training.** To be held at Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA), 1001 S. 18th Avenue, Marshalltown, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov).

14—15 **Mold/Moisture/Ventilation Training.** To be held at Mid-Sioux Opportunity, 418 Marion Street, Remsen, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov).

### October 2004

5—6 **Blower Door/BTL/Duct Leakage and Combustion Health & Safety Training.** To be held at MATURA Action Corporation, 203 West Adams, Creston, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov).

25—27 ICAA Conference. To be held at the Marriott Hotel in West Des Moines, Iowa. For more information, visit <http://www.iowacommunityaction.com/>.

26 **IWAC Meeting.** To be held at the Marriott Hotel in West Des Moines, Iowa. For more information, contact Mike Loos at 563-324-3236 ext. 103 or [MLoos@iowatrains.org](mailto:MLoos@iowatrains.org).

**Be sure to check our website for training updates at [www.state.ia.us/dhr/caa/WxPage.html](http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/caa/WxPage.html)!**

#### Tentative 2004 PY Monitoring Schedule

July	Community Opportunities SE Iowa
August	MICA
September	SIEDA

#### Tentative 2004 Fiscal Monitoring Schedule

July	SIEDA SE Iowa
August	None scheduled
September	NE Iowa North Iowa

## Speed Bumps

- March and April were tough months for agency inspections. Four agencies were inspected, with a total of forty homes. Of these homes 18 needed corrective work for a corrective work percentage of 45%, much worse than the statewide average last year of 17%. SO please make sure that crews/contractors are doing what needs to be done. A lot of the corrective work involved routine items such as by-pass sealing, sealing duct work, etc.
- When doing air sealing work in garages it needs to be 5/8 in. fire-rated drywall. Plywood, chip board, thermal board, insul-board, etc. cannot be used.
- Installed exhaust venting needs to be insulated and never should be downsized from the opening on the fan.
- Room-to-room pressure testing needs to be done when there is a central return and in mobile homes.
- Garage leakage testing is still not being done consistently. It is required for homes that have attached or tuck-under garages. The results are to be reported in WAMS.
- Fiberglass is not an acceptable air sealing material and should not be used as such.

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***Please feel free to copy and distribute.***

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### **Iowa Bureau of Weatherization**

Department of Human Rights  
Community Action Agency  
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor

***We're on the Web!!!***  
***[www.state.ia.us/dhr/caa/WXPage.html](http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/caa/WXPage.html)***

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