

Innovative Outstanding Weatherization Assistance News

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Statistics	1
Agency Spotlight	2 3
Fiscal Monitoring Schedule	3
Iowa Weatherization Challenge	4 7
News	5 12
Miscellaneous	5
Reminders	6
Questions and Answers	6
Extreme Photos	8
State Weatherization Inspection Form Changes	9
Tips	9
Revised Weatherization Inspection Form	10
Revised Weatherization Field Inspection Report	11
Upcoming Events	12
Program Monitoring Schedule	12
Speed Bumps	13

From all of us in the
Weatherization Bureau
in Des Moines

Jim, Gwen, Mark, Marcia,
Chris, Mike and Rosemary

Welcome

NEATShell—Do you have questions about NEATShell? If so, either give Greg Dalhoff a call at 608-845-6551 or call Gwen Howe at 515-281-3988 for assistance.

2005 SLICE Report—The 2005 SLICE Report is in its' final draft. Once the final copy is compiled, the report will be on the weatherization website at www.weatherization.iowa.gov and hardcopies will be mailed to the agencies. The report found that average first-year client fuel bill

savings increased substantially, averaging \$487 for dwellings weatherized during calendar year 2005 compared to \$389 in calendar year 2004. In 2005, several agencies had average first year savings of more than \$450. Eight agencies achieved average savings of \$500 or more. One agency achieved a savings of \$743. The increase in savings is due both to an increase in energy savings and an increase in fuel costs.

We congratulate the weatherization agency network for doing a great job!

Statistics

<u>Item</u>	<u>*QTRLY</u>	<u>**YTD</u>
Houses Worked On	570	919
Completions	530	834
Closed Incomplete	40	85
Owner-Occupied	511	814
Rentals	59	105
Elderly-Occupied	198	298
Disabled-Occupied	246	390
Occupied by Young Children	84	128
Furnace Replacements	284	448
Refrigerator Replacements	261	414
Freezer Replacements	91	146
Average Costs per House	7425	6972

Totals for all agencies combined

*QTRLY (June 2006—August 2006)

** YTD (Program Year through August 2006)

Agency Spotlight—Polk County

Polk County and Senator Harkin Announce New Affordable Housing Initiative in Des Moines

DES MOINES, Iowa – October 18, 2006 — The Polk County Board of Supervisors and Senator Tom Harkin announced a new affordable housing initiative today that is the first of its kind in the country. The result of a \$750,000 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant, the initiative will allow Polk County to rehabilitate more than 200 public housing units in Des Moines over the next two years.

Polk County will sell the first rehabilitated home to Jennifer McCoy, a recent graduate of Polk County Family Development Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) program. McCoy, 28, is a single mother of four young children, all of whom were present at today's event and saw their new home for the first time since rehabilitation began.

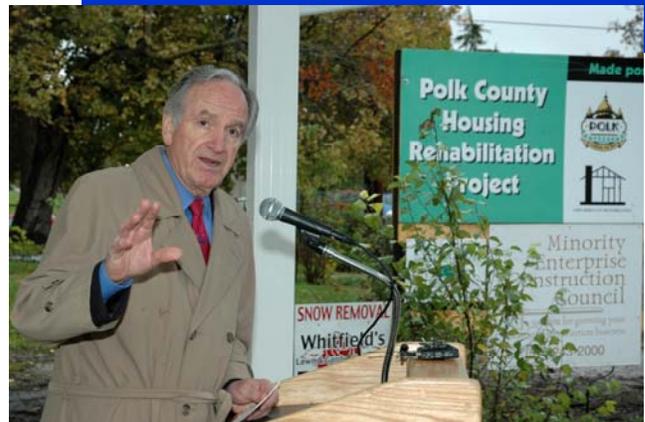
"Today represents a significant opportunity to bring Iowans with limited financial means closer to the American dream of home ownership," says Senator Harkin. "This is a wonderful opportunity for someone like Jennifer, who would normally fall through the cracks, to get back on her feet and make a



fresh start for her family."

Senator Harkin secured the federal HUD grant for the Polk County Board of Supervisors. The county will work with the Polk County Housing Trust Fund utilizing minority contractors to rehabilitate more than 200 public housing units.

"This initiative is truly unique because it creates affordable housing, advances minority-owned businesses and provides families the opportunity to move toward self-sufficiency all



through one program," says Polk County Board of Supervisors Chairperson Angela Connolly.

In addition to the contractor working on the house, located at 1303 College Avenue in Des Moines, the Polk County Public Works and Health Departments contributed labor for the project. The home was weatherized by Polk County to ensure it was energy efficient. The Health Department worked to ensure the home is lead safe for the McCoy family, as many older homes need repairs to ensure they are rid of poisonous lead paint.

"Making homes safe and affordable is an investment in the community as a whole, as it helps transition people from renters to homeowners, which builds stability, equity and roots in the community," says Connolly.

—Submitted by Polk County Weatherization



Agency Spotlight—Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

Latham finds MICA Weatherization demo an 'amazing' display on Friday

Following a demonstration of the Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) Weatherization program at a home in Nevada on Friday, Congressman Tom Latham walked away impressed with the technology that was used and the efficiency of the program.

"You want to make sure the dollars go into actual practice and the benefits are derived from it. This was an amazing display, as far as I'm concerned, of what can be done and the kind of help that really is available and needs to be available," Latham said, at the conclusion of Friday's demonstration.

MICA's Weatherization program uses federal and state grant dollars to make long-lasting improvements to the homes of eligible, low-income families. Those improvements typically include adding sidewall insulation, attic insulation, replacement of inefficient or faulty furnaces, and replacement of refrigerators or freezers. However, improvements are tailored to each home based on the data collected in an energy audit.

Weatherization improvements save low-income families hundreds of dollars each year in energy costs. On average, MICA's Weatherization program saves families \$481 in energy costs in the year after improvements are made.

MICA's home evaluation process includes a blower-door test, which measures the cubic feet of air per minute that a particular home is leaking. In conjunction with the blower-door test, the evaluator uses a thermal-imaging camera, which detects slight differences between the interior and exterior temperatures to find leaks or areas where a home lacks insulation. Latham was impressed with how the technology pinpointed drafty areas of a home and how that information will be used to make improvements.

"I was well aware of the need for weatherization, but to see

Tentative 2006 Fiscal Monitoring Schedule

October	Operation New View Operation Threshold
November	Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
December	None Scheduled
January	Southern Iowa Economic Development



exactly how you can technically find out where your leaks are and what exactly needs to be done—this is very, very helpful," Latham said. "It's very important for a lot of folks."

Latham, a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, followed two MICA Weatherization crew members as they demonstrated how the agency inspects a home and conducts an energy audit. All of the home's energy usage data is entered into a computer and a software program helps Weatherization managers determine what improvements should be made. After the work is complete, a blower door test and thermal imaging scans are done again to ensure the prescribed improvements were made.

"When people who aren't familiar with our work hear of a Weatherization program, they might have an image of workers stapling plastic to leaky windows and not much else. I can assure you that image is from a bygone era," said MICA Executive Director Arlene McAtee. "Today, we use rather sophisticated tools, including computer software and thermal-imaging cameras, to evaluate each home and determine the most efficient and appropriate improvements."

Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) provides Weatherization services in Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, Story, and Tama counties. MICA is private, nonprofit agency serving low-income children and families.

—Submitted by Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

Iowa Weatherization Challenge

Weatherizing Homes Helps Individual Iowans and Saves Energy for All

Spreading the word about the Iowa Weatherization Challenge in their local communities is a simple way for Community Action Program (CAP) agencies to directly assist low-income, elderly, and disabled Iowans while helping to save energy for everyone. The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) leads this effort, which encourages community groups and organizations statewide to undertake one-day projects to weatherize homes in their local communities.



Weatherizing homes and businesses will help many Iowans lessen the impact from high energy prices and improve their comfort and well-being during Iowa temperature extremes this winter heating season. CAP agencies, because they are well connected to their local communities, are uniquely qualified to help engage community service groups, faith-based groups, social organizations, school organizations, employee groups, and other groups to conduct these local community service projects. CAP agencies can also help groups planning local community projects find appropriate weatherization sites by informing their clients about the weatherization events and helping match those in need with those providing the free service.

The IUB helps community groups with their events by providing a “how-to” kit, helping them secure training in weatheriza-

tion methods for volunteers and suggesting ways to receive donated or favorably priced supplies and educational materials. The IUB will make educational presentations to interested groups and organizations in local communities. Organizations interested in participating in the Iowa Weatherization Challenge may call the IUB toll free at 1-877-565-4451 or download a “how-to” kit at www.state.ia.us/iub.

The IUB is also receiving applications for matching grants of up to \$500 through November 1, 2006, to assist qualified Iowa community groups with their weatherization challenge projects. Grant application forms, along with requirements and instructions, are available at the IUB Web site. As of September 22, 2006, the IUB had already granted matching funds to nine groups for their projects. These include the Mason City Jaycees, the Bettendorf Chamber of Commerce/Team8 (Iowa Quad Cities), Heartland Habitat For Humanity (Cedar Valley/Waterloo), Mississippi Valley Promise (Dubuque), and Northwest Neighbors Association, Oak Hill Jackson Neighborhood Association, Taylor Area Neighborhood Association, and Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association (all in Cedar Rapids).

Community weatherization projects, whether certified under the IUB matching grant program or not, raise public awareness of energy efficiency benefits and techniques. For example, Aquila's September 29, 2006, weatherization of three Newton homes showed how groups planning or thinking of undertaking local weatherization projects can plan effectively. Aquila approached the local CAP agency, Red Rock Community Action Program, Inc., which found six local residents wanting and needing home weatherization. A pre-inspection narrowed those to three homes deemed most appropriate for the Newton weatherization project and produced a list of



—Continued on page 7

News

Name Change—Effective October, 2006, Community Opportunities, Inc. has changed its name to New Opportunities, Inc. Please change your correspondence accordingly.

Weatherization Coordinator Change—As of September 1, 2006, Jennifer Corley, with Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc., resigned from her position as Weatherization Coordinator. Rich Kelly, previously an evaluator/inspector for Upper Des Moines, has been promoted to the position of Weatherization Coordinator.

Workers Compensation Insurance—As you know, your contractors are required to either have proof of workers compensation insurance or a waiver from that requirement. If you have questions about workers compensation insurance, feel free to call Industrial Services at 1-800-Job-Iowa (562-4692) for more information.

Dehumidifiers—Whirlpool has recently recalled some of their dehumidifiers. Some of the units pose a fire hazard. If you have a client who owns a Whirlpool dehumidifier, be sure to have them visit <http://repair1.whirlpool.com/dehumidifier1.htm> for more information about the recalls and what steps they can take to return or repair their unit.

Utility Funding—If you cannot spend all of your utility funding, or if you would like additional funds, please either give Gwen Howe a call at 515-281-3988 or send her an email at gwen.howe@iowa.gov.

New Acting Coordinator—As of October 2006, Wayne Taylor is no longer the Weatherization Coordinator at Operation Threshold in Waterloo, Iowa. The new acting coordinator is Jeff Roe.

Spanish Language Forms—Spanish language Release of Liability and Health & Safety Assessment Forms were recently sent to the agencies who had requested them. Should you need additional forms, please let Chris Taylor know by either calling her at 515-281-4565 or by sending her an email at Christine.taylor@iowa.gov.

ACI Webcasts—Affordable Comfort, Inc. (ACI) recently held their first Webcast Series—Duct Camp. To view upcoming webcasts, visit www.affordablecomfort.org.

Transitional Housing—Many of you have asked if transitional housing may be weatherized. At this time, only homeless and domestic abuse shelters may be weatherized. A notice will be sent to the agencies should a change occur in the policy.

Monitoring Reports—Currently, monitoring reports are sent
—Continued on page 12

Miscellaneous

Community Action of Eastern Iowa weatherization staff recently underwent fire extinguisher training which was provided by the Davenport Fire Department. Below, and to the right, are pictures from that training.



Reminders

Previously Weatherized Homes—Completions prior to April 1, 1999 are not included in WAMS data. If you want that information in the data each year, you can send it to Gwen in one of two ways: As an Excel spreadsheet containing a minimum of client name (first and last), address, AFN, and date of completion. Or you can enter the information in the WAMS program and send it as an export file. Either way, it will be merged with your agency completion information and included with the client data sent out each spring. This way, as long as clients AFN number does not change, they will not appear on the priority list if they have been previously weatherized.

Appliances—Remember to double-check doorway sizes to ensure the appliance you will be installing will actually fit through the doorway.

Utilities—Remember, when charging refrigerators to the utilities, they must be Energy Star rated and the freezers must be manual defrost.

Garage Leakage Testing—If the house has a breezeway or a room in between it and the garage, there is no need to perform the garage leakage test. Any results you get more than likely be inaccurate and not meaningful. A CO detector,

should be installed however, to ensure occupant safety.

“Change a Light, Change the World” Campaign—To celebrate Energy Awareness Month, DOE and the U.S. EPA recently kicked off “Change a Light, Change the World”. The campaign encourages U.S. residents to replace a conventional bulb or fixture with one that is Energy Star rated in the hopes of saving energy to millions of homes. For more information, visit www.energy.gov/news/4304.htm.

“I’d like to thank you for saving my life.” An elderly client recently baked something in her oven, forgot about it, and went to bed. In the middle of the night, the CO detector installed by the agency evaluator had gone off and woke the client. She immediately called the Iowa City Fire Department who responded and found that the oven was on. Naturally, they turned off the oven and all was fine. However, the client credits the evaluator and the program for having installed the device that alerted her to a problem which could have been a matter of life and death.

—Hawkeye Area Community Action Program Client

Questions and Answers

Question: How do I calculate BTU’s from therms?

Answer: 1 therm = 100 cu. ft. = 100,000 BTU

Question: If an electrical upgrade needs to be done from the pole to the clients’ home, is the client responsible for the upgrade?

Answer: Yes.

Question: When documenting in WAMS for the garage leakage test, what number do I use?

Answer: Use the house-to-zone reading which will be in CFMs.

Question: I have heard a lot about radiant barriers. In fact, some of my clients claim they work. Are radiant barriers worth while?

Answer: As you know, radiant barriers are not allowed in the Weatherization Program, however, we do understand the curiosity about these advertised products. Should you like to read more information about radiant barriers (reflective materials), feel free to visit the link below.

http://www.ornl.gov/sci/roofs+walls/radiant/rb_02.html

Iowa Weatherization Challenge—Continued

—Continued from page 4

needed supplies that were purchased locally. A partnership was also formed with the Newton Rotary Club, which provided weatherization volunteers. All team members were trained on basic weatherization methods and techniques and pre-assigned various tasks, which was beneficial because everyone knew their responsibilities.

One of the easiest things anyone can do to reduce energy use is to seal air leaks on a home's exterior walls using caulk and weatherstripping materials, which are relatively inexpensive and available at hardware and department stores. Residents can also reduce natural gas use this winter by setting back thermostats, replacing manual thermostats with programmable ones, and changing furnace filters frequently. Efficiency upgrades that offer a good return on investment include insulation upgrades, old or inefficient furnace replacement, and old or inefficient water heater replacement. Replacement furnaces and water heaters should be Energy Star certified.

The IUB commenced the 2006 Iowa Weatherization Challenge on July 31, 2006. It was first initiated by Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack and is designed to engage community groups, local governments, faith-based groups, social service organizations, school organizations, and other non-profit groups to conduct local community projects. It is part of Iowa's multi-layered energy efficiency initiative and a recently unveiled National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency. Iowa was instrumental in forming the national plan under the leadership of the IUB Board members. The overall plan is about achieving results for everyone, but the level of success depends largely on people choosing to participate, by whatever means they have available. More information on the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency is available at www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/eeactionplan.htm.

Iowa has been a national leader in saving energy through efficiency measures for decades. In 2005, Iowa's investor-owned utility customers realized savings of about 1.6 million megawatt hours of electricity, worth about \$106 million, and 70 million CCF of natural gas, worth about \$81 million, as a result of all the measures implemented through formal energy efficiency programs since 1990. That's enough electricity saved to supply about 160,000 households for a year and enough natural gas for more than 70,000 homes.



Efficiency could be considered as an energy supply source produced by Iowa customers investing in their own homes and businesses. It reduces the need for new power plants and extra coal to generate electricity and additional natural gas production. It is estimated that United States consumers could save hundreds of billions of dollars on their utility bills over the next 10 to 15 years through greater use of cost-effective energy efficiency. Continued reductions in consumer use of energy supplies like natural gas are also expected to result in lower market prices over time. One estimate maintains that if eight Midwest states, including Iowa, decrease natural gas consumption by one percent annually for five years, the national wholesale price could fall by as much as 13 percent.

—Submitted by the Iowa Utilities Board

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

—John Quincy Adams

Extreme Photos



*This gas line starts at the meter and goes to the clothes dryer.
How unsafe to use a copper line for natural gas!*



Not a safe heat exchanger!



How do you keep moisture in your home in the winter? Hook a gas-fired dryer vent to the return air duct!

Check this out! The large white ducts and the red round tile that pass through the floor are return ducts to the furnace. The duct (red tile) passes under the basement floor and it terminates under the furnace in an old cistern that is approximately 2-3 feet deep and about that big around. The furnace filter is under the furnace. The tile under the floor occasionally fills up about 90% full of water. Consequently, this would be a good place for mold to grow. The agency is going to add a return duct that does not go under ground. They will also add a sump pump, and fill up as much of the cistern and underground ducts as much as possible.

State Weatherization Inspection Form Changes

To the right, on page 7, you will see Mike Speeds' new State Weatherization Inspection Form and Field Inspection Form. Several changes have taken place, some of which we would like to explain. Should you have any questions about the form after reviewing the explanations here, please give Mike Speed a call at 515-281-4586.

In the upper right-hand corner of the first form, you will see a double-lined box with PASS, CWR, etc. typed in it. The change on the second form is the key at the bottom. Below, are the items listed and their meanings.

PASS ~ No additional work needs to be done.

CWR ~ Additional work or corrections need to be done.

FAILURES ~ If marked, work needs to be done on the home. This does count against an agencies' corrective work percentage.

NON-FAILURE ~ If marked, minor corrective work needs to be done. Often, these are items that will

not save energy, such as: secure small section of siding, paint wood, etc. These items are required to be done but do not count against an agencies' failure percentage.

FILE CORRECTION ~ This is corrective work to be done with the file. Examples are: material list is not accurate, client information is incorrect, a reading is missing, etc. This may be marked along with FAILURE, NON-FAILURE or by itself.

REINSPECTION ~ When a house did not pass the first inspection.

PASS ~ No additional work needs to be done.

CWR ~ Additional work or corrections *still* need to be made.

Note: All corrective work is subject to additional inspections if needed.

Tips

Ladder Handle—Do you have trouble carrying your ladder? Do you ever feel like you are going to drop it? *Try this:* Add a handle to your ladder. Center the handle so the ladder is balanced and attach with screws or small machine bolts. This will make the ladder easier to carry when you have a lot of items to take in to the house.

—Tip from Eldon Starmer, MATURA



Revised Weatherization Inspection Form

STATE OF IOWA - WEATHERIZATION INSPECTION FORM

AGENCY: _____ COUNTY: _____

FILE #: _____ PHONE #: _____

CLIENT NAME _____

ADDRESS/DIRECTIONS: _____

PASS _____	Reinspection:
	Pass _____
CWR: _____	CWR _____
FAILURES _____	
NON-FAILURE _____	
File Correction _____	

INFILTRATION:

Volume _____

CFMB _____

CFMF _____

State _____

CI, KI, SI, CEILING, KNEEWALL, AND SLANT INSULATION:

Attic Access _____

By-passes _____

Damming _____

Insulation _____

Insulation _____

Ventilation _____

WI, WALL INSULATION:

Insulation _____

Siding _____

BI, FI, BASEMENT & FOUNDATION INSULATION:

Insulation _____

Vapor Barrier _____

Venting Sealed _____

FURNACE/H&S:

Duct Sealing _____

Exhaust Venting _____

Furnace Testing _____

Room Pressure _____

Utility Measures _____

CO//Smoke Detector _____

Dryer Venting _____

Knob & Tube _____

Heat Rise _____

CAZ/WRT Outside _____

Inspector _____ Date _____

News—Continued

—Continued from page 5

to the Executive Director and the Weatherization Coordinator. Beginning immediately, the reports will also be sent to the Board of Directors Chairperson as well.

State Hotel Rate—Did you know the new “state rate” at hotels is now \$50/night plus tax? Be sure the hotel you are staying at will honor the new rate.

PowerHouse TV—Be sure to check out PowerHouse TV

topics at www.powerhousetv.com . Perhaps you will find some client education ideas.

Appliance Meters—We recommend each evaluator have a minimum of three appliance meters. This will help ensure evaluators have enough meters to conduct all of the meterings without having to make a special trip back to the house.

Chore Service—Does your agency or community have a chore service for the elderly or disabled? Please let us know by emailing Christine.taylor@iowa.gov .

Upcoming Events

October 2006

24—25 **Mold/Moisture/Ventilation/BTL training.** To be held in Carroll, Iowa at Community Opportunities, Inc., 603 West 8th Street. For more information or to sign up for the training, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .

31—3 **NASCSP Conference.** To be held in Providence, Rhode Island. For more information, visit <http://www.nascsp.org> .

November 2006

8—9 **Advanced Blower Door/Zonal Pressure Diagnostics training.** To be held at Baymont Inn & Suites, 2500 Elwood Drive, Ames, Iowa. For room reservations, please call 515-296-2500. For more information or to sign up for the training, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .

28—29 **Advanced Combustion Health and Safety training.** To be held at Baymont Inn & Suites, 2500 Elwood Drive, Ames, Iowa. For room reservations, please call 515-296-2500. For more information or to sign up for the training, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .

28—29 **Lead and Slate Safe Work Practices trainings.** To be held at Polk County, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa. For more information or to sign up for the training, contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .

*Be sure to view the complete
2006 Training Schedule on
www.weatherization.iowa.gov !*

Tentative 2006 Program Monitoring Schedule

October	Mid Sioux Opportunity, Inc. Operation New View Community Action Agency
November	Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. Community Action of Eastern Iowa
December	Operation Threshold
January	Polk County

Speed Bumps

- There have been several homes lately that have sections of walls that haven't been insulated. I have been and will be removing siding to verify that the walls are insulated and the insulation in the walls was not pre-existing.
- I have been to several agencies in the last few months where the weatherstripping being installed did not meet our standards. Most of what I am seeing that is not acceptable is a bulb type that is not siliconized rubber. (Section 4000, page 4)
- Pipe wrap is not being installed consistently and sometimes, is not being secured properly. (Section 4000, page 12-13).
- Exhaust ducts as well as the fans need to meet the standards. As an example, one manufacturer's 80 CFM fan meets the one some requirement but the same fan with 110 CFM does not meet the 1 some requirement. And, the ducts need to have at least R-6 insulation and have a termination made for that purpose. (Section 2090)
- Attic access openings should not be caulked shut nor should they be made smaller, making them inaccessible.
- Insulation specifications or an empty bag need to be left in the attic, close to the attic access door.
- Water heaters are still a problem. Water heaters that the utilities pay for need to meet the .62EF. Most of the time you need to look up the model number on the manufacturer's website. This was in the last edition of the IOWAN. There is a listing of water heaters meeting utility requirements in the October 2005 IOWAN, which is on the weatherization website at www.weatherization.iowa.gov under Publications.

Water heaters need to be at least 1-1/2 inches off of the ground as per the standards. I am calling for corrective action when this is not done. This is not a simple procedure for the installer to go back and do as it involves changes to the water lines and gas line.

Please feel free to copy and distribute.

Iowa Bureau of Weatherization

Department of Human Rights
Community Action Agency
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

We're on the Web!!!
www.weatherization.iowa.gov

Contact us at:

Iowa Bureau of Weatherization, Department of Human Rights, Community Action Agency
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Christine Taylor, Editor-In-Chief

Email: Christine.Taylor@iowa.gov

Phone: 515-281-4565

Fax: 515-242-6119