

Innovative Outstanding Weatherization Assistance News

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Have a safe winter!

From all of us in the
Weatherization Bureau
in Des Moines

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

Welcome

Challenges and Opportunities Ahead—As many of you know, we face a huge challenge ahead of us. The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a major “player” in the Obama administration’s strategy for achieving two of its highest priorities, economic recovery and energy independence. The WAP has long been viewed as one of the solutions to more energy independence for the nation. Weatherization measures reduce national energy demand by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil per year. The WAP is also now being viewed as a “jobs creation” program which is a vital piece of the administration’s economic recovery plans. Fifty-two direct jobs and 23 indirect jobs are created with every \$1 million invested in the weatherization program. For these reasons, the administration wants the program to ramp-up so

it will be weatherizing 1 million to 2 million homes each year. (The program currently weatherizes about 100,000 homes per year.) What this means is a huge increase in funding for the program.

Congress included \$250 million of supplemental funding for the program for PY 2009 in the Continuing Resolution passed last fall. Iowa’s share of the supplemental funding is about \$5.4 million. Although Congress has not yet passed WAP’s regular appropriation for 2009, we anticipate it to be at least \$227 million (Iowa’s share would be about \$5.0 million.). That means DOE funding for PY 2009 will be about \$10.4 million. That is more than a 200 percent increase over the PY 2008 DOE funding level. In addition to this

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Statistics

<u>Item</u>	<u>*QTRLY</u>	<u>**YTD</u>
Houses worked on	581	1384
Completions	539	1265
Closed - Incomplete	42	119
Owner-occupied	503	1198
Rentals	78	186
Elderly-occupied	183	425
Disabled-occupied	241	592
Young child	147	318
Furnace replacements	269	636
Refrigerator replacements	161	366
Freezer replacements	47	117
Average cost per home	\$8,431	\$7,394

Totals for all agencies combined

*QTRLY (September 2008—November 2008)

** YTD (April 2008—November 2008)

Welcome—Continued

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increase, HEAP funds for PY 2009 total \$10.2 million, a 145 percent increase over the PY 2008 HEAP amount.

This increase in funding pales in comparison to what is likely soon coming our way. Congress is currently debating the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, otherwise known as the Stimulus Package. The Stimulus Package includes huge increases in funding for the WAP. The House bill contains \$6.2 billion for WAP while the Senate bill provides \$2.9 billion for the program. Even at the lower Senate level of \$2.9 billion, this would be more than \$50 million in additional weatherization funding for Iowa.

This represents the greatest challenge most of us have faced concerning the weatherization program. It also represents a tremendous opportunity for us. It's an opportunity to be a major program in this administration and a major player in the administration's goals of economic recovery and energy independence.

Reminder – MHEA Audit—This is a reminder that agencies are required to begin using the Mobile Home Energy Audit (MHEA) in PY 2009. This is a DOE requirement. Training on the MHEA Audit was provided on October 15, 2008. We will offer refresher training on the audit in March 2009.

Agency Spotlight—Community Action Agency of Siouxland

Siouxlanders Get Help Keeping Homes Warm This Winter

UTE, Ia. (KTIV) - The cool winds of fall will soon give way the bitter cold of winter, so contractor Bob Gotto is drilling holes in this Ute, Iowa home.

Though it may seem counter intuitive, it's all in an effort to keep this home warmer, as the mercury falls.

"The main reason we weatherize a house is to make them comfortable and affordable to heat during the winter and also helps in the summer keeping them cooler," said Denny Krause, Community Action Agency Housing Director.

"We insulate the side walls, the roof or ceiling insulation, basically tighten up the entire house," said Krause. But all of these small renovations add up to a big price tag.

Worker's today say they continue to help, because so many people can't afford to help themselves.

"The satisfaction of helping people save energy some of the people cant afford to do it themselves, or don't know how to do it themselves," said Gernhart.

"I enjoy meeting people, I know I'm saving them a lot of money in the long run. that gives them money left to do other things with, that they need, and the people really do need it," Bob Gotto, Contractor.

what is expected to be a cold winter.

"Well energy's not getting any cheaper," said Gernhart.

The owners of the home in Ute say they are expecting to cut their energy bill in half after all the work that was done on their home.

In addition to helping to weatherize homes, the Community Action Agency of Siouxland can also help to pay energy bills for low income houses.

They will be able to help even more families this year with the help of a big increase in their funding.

Nationally, an additional \$2.5 billion is available to help families pay rising home energy bills.

Organizers with the Community Action Agency say any additional funding will help them, help others.

"Anything that can help with costs of prescriptions, people are seeing costs of food is going up, although gas prices have been a little lower recently, still that is an added cost. Anything that can help households save money on one bill to where they are able to pay their other bills is just of tremendous importance," said Craig Franzen, Assistant Community Services Director.

—Written by Rebecca Sunshine
Obtained and reprinted from www.KTIV.com

Drilling holes to help as many people as possible get through

Service Recognition

20 Years—Phil Klar, a Housing Production Manager, has achieved 20 years of service with Mid-Iowa Community Action in Marshalltown, Iowa.



25 Years—Verne Schutzman, an evaluator/inspector for Hawkeye Area Community Action Program in Hiawatha, Iowa, celebrated 25 years of service in April. In September, he was diagnosed with a heart problem and underwent triple bypass surgery. Everything went well and he was able to return to work on December 1st. Welcome back Verne!

Resources

<http://www.iowafinanceauthority.org/>

The Iowa Finance Authority's (IFA) mission is to finance, administer, advance and preserve affordable housing and to promote community and economic development for Iowans. IFA is a self-supporting public agency.

www.electrophysics.com/View/Viw_ProductTraining.asp

Information regarding infrared camera training.

www.nfpa.org/aboutthecodes/AboutTheCodes.asp?DocNum=73&cookie%5Ftest=1

National Fire Protection Association Electrical Inspection Code for Existing Dwellings

Extreme Photos



Notice the cement trawl used as a deflector...



This furnace exhaust is plugging the intake when the condensation freezes.

Upcoming Events

January

6 **Lead Safe Work Practices** training will be held at Polk County Public Works, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at the Weatherization Bureau via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .

February

16—17 **Iowa Not-for-Profit Alliance Conference** to be held at the Marriott Hotel, Downtown Des Moines, Iowa. This first-ever conference will become an annual event. The conference will promote three tracks including best practices, cost saving measures and a legislative update; all focused on the not-for-profit community. More than 500 attendees are anticipated from around the state and we're inviting additional experts in the industry to participate as speakers and panelists. For more information, visit. www.INFPA.org .

25 **IWAC Meeting** meeting to be held at Polk County Public Works, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313.

March

No scheduled trainings or meetings...

April

22 **IWAC Meeting** meeting to be held at Polk County Public Works, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313.

23—1 **ACI Home Performance Conference** will be held in Kansas City, Missouri at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center. For more information, visit www.affordablecomfort.org .

The 2009 Training Schedule will soon be released and listed under the Upcoming Events/Training section of the website...

www.Weatherization.Iowa.Gov

Tentative 2009 Program Monitoring Schedule

January	Polk County
February	Southern Iowa Economic Development Assoc.
March	No scheduled monitoring visits

Speed Bumps

- Dryer vent ducts for either electric or gas dryers should *never* be installed using screws.
- Exterior walls used for returns should be sealed off and insulated. The return air should then be rerouted through the home to other returns.
- It is usually preferable to dense-pack exposed floors of a home rather than using fiberglass.
- When repairing walls or ceilings with drywall, the drywall should be treated with at least one coat of drywall mud and be sanded once.
- When patching interior drill holes used for insulating, a non-shrinking spackling should be used to seal the holes.
- Water heaters and furnaces need to be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch off of the floor or higher.
- Insulation on exhaust fan ducts needs to be secured so it won't fall off and not just taped on because the tape will fail.
- I would recommend that all evaluators have at least 3 refrigerator meters to do the metering. Quite often one or two are not enough.
- I would recommend that carbon monoxide alarms that are installed have a battery back-up. When the electricity goes off, clients tend to heat their homes with space heaters or the oven which may be putting off higher levels of carbon monoxide.
- Caulking installed should blend in with the surface color that it is being applied to as much as possible.
- Attic insulation should be level and the amount called for by the audit.
- Weatherstripping and thresholds installed need to meet the standards.
- The combustion air intake and the exhaust of high efficiency furnaces have to be at least twelve inches off of the grade at their termination.

Please feel free to copy and distribute.

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

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