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## **Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program**

The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) helps households with incomes at or below 150% of poverty reduce energy consumption and high utility bills. Energy conservation measures such as air sealing, attic and wall insulation, furnace repairs or replacements, electric baseload reduction (lighting and refrigeration), and sometimes window and door work are provided free of charge to eligible households. The maximum amount of work to be done on a home is based on each individual type of home with a maximum of \$7,500 when major energy-related repairs are needed. A network of 35 local community action agencies/community-based organizations delivers the program statewide.

The Weatherization program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant, the State of Illinois through the Supplemental Low Income Energy Assistance Fund, and the U.S. Department of Energy. This year the Illinois program had total funding of \$42 million and will weatherize approximately 7,500 units.

The economic stimulus funding contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the Weatherization program will total about \$242 million over the next two program years. The PY2010 IHWAP that will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> will represent a 400% increase over the current year's funding, and a 500% increase in funding for PY2011.

Some of the Weatherization program revisions and increases are as follows:

- The ARRA increases the income guidelines to 200% of the poverty level.
- We estimate that about 30,000 homes will be weatherized in 2010, and an additional 40,000 homes will be weatherized in 2011.
- According to a recent survey of local Weatherization agencies in Illinois, they estimate they will need to hire 305 additional local agency staff for Weatherization immediately.
- The same statewide survey from last week indicates that an additional 354 additional Weatherization contractors will need to be added to the IHWAP in the next four months.
- The survey also estimates that the above contractors will need to hire an additional 639 staff for their own work crews.
- DCEO is actively working on a new Green Workforce training and certification module for all contractors that would like to work in the IHWAP.

**For more information, you can go to [www.weatherizationillinois.com](http://www.weatherizationillinois.com)**