

MEDIA RELATIONS

Weatherization: Keeping you cool this summer

KVBC News 3
July 9, 2008

With weather this extreme, we're all cranking up the air conditioning. But for many families here in Las Vegas, there's simply no escaping the heat. And with these types of temperatures, keeping cool is a matter of life and death.

Until Tuesday, 82-year-old Mary Diaz and her son David, who suffers from a disability, didn't have air conditioning in their home. Their unit broke last year, and this summer, they've been forced to endure the 105 degree temperatures inside their home. "The worst part of it was me worrying about my son, that he won't go and get sick," says Mary.

HELP of Southern Nevada's Weatherization Program was created to help save money and save lives. They intervened and sent technicians from KoldAir to the family's home. The organization awarded the family a free brand new cooling system.

Wednesday, the family came home to make sure their unit was working. And it was - the temperature inside their home was a cool, comfortable 78 degrees. "I never expected anything like this," says Mary. "I'm cool now and my son is, too. "Our prayers was answered. I can't thank them enough, believe me I can't thank them enough."

Funding for this program came from the Department of Energy and the state of Nevada. And there's enough assistance to go around. The agency tells News 3's Katherine Whaley that they have the money to help anyone who qualifies for their assistance, which is based on a household's income level.

The Weatherization Program will not only fix or replace your air conditioning unit, but can assist with utility bills and help "weatherize" your home to save you money. They contract local companies to provide money-saving services all year round, such as installing solar screens, low-flow shower heads, and insulation.

"I never expected anything like this," says Mary. "I'm cool now and my son is, too. Our prayers was answered I can't thank them enough, believe me I can't thank them enough."



Weatherization helps families stabilize energy costs

The Citizen

November 26, 2007

By: Marie Montgomery

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency's Weatherization Assistance Program rings more often, and the customers are a bit more anxious during this time of year. The heating season is a scary and difficult time for eligible customers of the Weatherization Assistance Program.

"I'm still paying for last year's heat," one client said to me. And another said, "The doors on my house don't even close all the way, and the walls and floors are cold all the time."

With as much as 25 percent of a low-income family's monthly income being used to pay for utility and fuel costs, the heating season can be a costly time of year.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is funded by the Department of Energy and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and is administered in New York state by the Department of Housing and Community Renewal. The program was created in 1973 in response to the Arab oil embargo to assist eligible customers who lacked the resources to respond to the volatile energy markets by investing in energy efficiency.

Annually, more than 100,000 homes nationwide are provided with energy saving and health and safety retrofits, as well as vital information to help families stabilize their energy bills and improve living conditions. Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency weatherizes an average of 75 homes each year in Cayuga County.

One such home was the home of Noel and Gerald. Noel contacted the Energy Services Component of Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency and inquired about the Weatherization Assistance Program. After completing the application process and being approved for the program, an energy audit was conducted at her home.

The agency's auditors conduct a series of diagnostic tests using state of the art equipment such as a blower door, infrared camera, monometer and combustion analyzer. The information gathered during the visual inspection as well as these diagnostic tests is used to prepare a written report that pinpoints the measures that will help the family reduce the greatest amount of energy while protecting the integrity of the home and increasing the quality of the indoor air.

The assessment of their home was completed and a comprehensive workscope was developed that included a furnace clean and tune, reconnecting a cold air return to, sidewall insulation, attic insulation, door and window repairs and replacements, pipe wrap for water pipes, carbon monoxide detectors, compact fluorescent light bulbs, a low flow showerhead, faucet aerator and air sealing.

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Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency uses in-house crews to perform the majority of work. All staff receives ongoing training from a variety of industry sources to maintain a high level of competency and quality of work.

Noel's work was completed prior to the start of the heating season and the changes significantly decreased the amount of cold air infiltrating her house as well as the heated air leaving the house.

According to the Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center (WAPTAC) and based on 2006 energy costs, weatherization services will reduce the average annual energy costs by \$358 during the first year per household. This can significantly reduce the burden of energy costs for eligible customers.

WAPTAC reported in 2006 "an average of 30.5 million BTU of energy is saved as a result of weatherization, which equates to a 23 percent reduction in primary heating fuel usage. This helps alleviate the heavy energy burden on low-income households and helps them become more self-sufficient."

"At times it is easy to forget that you are an agency and not an old friend always there to help," Noel recently wrote in a letter to the agency. It is not unusual for the energy services component to work with a customer for an extended period of time, since the waiting list for the Weatherization Program is quite lengthy. During a customer's wait, we have the unique opportunity to develop a relationship that respects the family's desire to move towards achieving and sustaining self-sufficiency.

Although the weatherization work had been done for quite some time, Noel knew that she could count on the agency to point her in the right direction when she needed help with a faulty water heater. Within a short period, three of the agency's components - Head Start, Family Development and Energy Services - worked together to find the necessary resources to install a new water heater.

Our agency capitalizes on the unique abilities of its staff to address multiple challenges for the customers we serve and to work with the customer to identify resources that will assist the family in achieving their goals.

For more information on the Weatherization Assistance Program, call 255-1703 ext. 142.

Marie Montgomery is the weatherization director for the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency.

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Program helps you warm up

Daily Oklahoman

November 21, 2007

By: Paul Monies

Nov. 21--Last winter, 11-year-old Kyla Williams would bundle up just to watch TV inside her grandmother's house in Oklahoma City.

This year, thanks to the Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and its partners, she won't have to.

"Last year, I was down there with a big coat, five or six blankets with the heat on high," Kyla said Tuesday. "And I asked her, 'Is there another blanket I can use?'"

Kyla's grandmother, Minnie Jones, qualified for weatherization help just in time for cooler weather later this week. Workers spent Tuesday spraying insulation, hanging a new door to the utility room and sealing drafty cracks inside Jones' house on N Nebraska Avenue.

"I've been needing some insulation, especially down in the den," said Jones, who has been in her house 34 years. "In order to stay down there and be comfortable watching TV, you had to turn the heater up really high and make the rest of the house intolerable."

Jones qualified for help through the state Commerce Department's Weatherization Assistance Program, which uses federal money and other funds to help low-income Oklahomans. The program aids about 1,400 homes each year, said Garcia Tarver Jr. in the department's office of community development.

The Oklahoma Energy Resources Board has contributed \$1.5 million to the program since 2005 as part of its mission to promote energy conservation. Mindy Stitt, the board's executive director, said that money helped weatherize 600 additional homes across the state.

The weatherization programs can save homeowners up to 30 percent on utility bills, she said. OERB helped perform an "Extreme Energy Makeover" on Jones' house.

"What we're doing here today is a complete home energy makeover, but what you will find is that it doesn't have to be extreme," Stitt said. "There are simple things we can do to save money and energy in our homes."

Changing to compact fluorescent light bulbs, adding weather stripping around doors and using a programmable thermostat are among the simple tips for homeowners, Stitt said.

Jones said energy experts came to her home and pointed out some areas for improved energy efficiency. She had converted a former garage into a den, which needed some spray-in insulation inside the walls. Jones said she hopes

"Last year, I was down there with a big coat, five or six blankets with the heat on high," Kyla said Tuesday. "And I asked her, 'Is there another blanket I can use?'"

that will help lower her utility bills.

“Last year, they were outrageously high, and during the cold months they got up to \$200,” Jones said. “That was one good reason why I really wanted to see if I could get some help through the program.”

Matt Van Horn, weatherization coordinator for the Community Action Agency, said his inspections show attic insulation as among the most-needed improvements.

“That’s an area most people don’t think about,” Van Horn said. “It’s just an area you don’t see much, but insulation can help your home be warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.”

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State Celebrates Kansas Weatherization Day

Morningsun.net

October 31, 2007

By: Kevin Flaherty

Celebrating the nation's largest residential energy efficiency program which offers free home repair services to income-qualified families, Governor Kathleen Sebelius proclaimed Tuesday as "Kansas Weatherization Day."

"The best defense against rising energy costs is a weatherized and well-insulated house," Sebelius said. "By providing a few cost-effective energy conservation measures, the Weatherization Assistance Program can help families save money on energy bills."

Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP), has been helping low-income residents in its 10-county area deal with the problem for 30 years.

"We've probably weatherized close to 10,000 houses and homes," said Steve Lohr, SEK-CAP executive director. "We used to have thousands of applications in hand, but we certainly need applicants now."

"If eligible households, families or individuals have not previously taken advantage of the program, odds are we can get to them this year, with this year meaning the next 12 months or so."

Lohr said the level of funding changed each year, with funding topping out at about \$1 million. Lohr said SEK-CAP received about \$600,000 through three funding sources this year.

Among the services SEK-CAP offers includes an energy audit, air sealing and diagnostics, repair or replacement of furnaces or heat producing devices. Lohr said SEK-CAP would also pay to insulate attics or side walls.

But SEK-CAP isn't the only route to go when it comes to weatherization. The South Central Kansas Economic Development District (SCKEDD) will host on-site weatherization demonstrations in three cities over the next two weeks. The first demonstration takes place in Buhler on Tuesday. The second is set for Thursday in Haysville and the third is scheduled for next week in Wichita.

"Rising energy bills force many elderly and low-income Kansans to make difficult choices, some of whom spend up to 40 percent of their income on utilities," said Mike West, SCKEDD's Weatherization Manager. "A weatherized home can help these families save up to \$300 annually, money which instead can be spent on food or medicine."

"The best defense against rising energy costs is a weatherized and well-insulated house," Sebelius said. "By providing a few cost-effective energy conservation measures, the Weatherization Assistance Program can help families save money on energy bills."

Over the last year, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) distributed \$6.6 million in weatherization funds from the U.S. Department of Energy, Kansas Warm Homes Project and Low-Income Energy Assistance Program to nine service providers statewide

Weatherization services:

- Completed a total of 1725 homes in 95 Kansas counties.
- Repaired homes in 876 households with elderly and persons with disabilities and 210 children under the age of 6.
- Replaced 453 dangerous furnaces.

Eligible households are individuals and families whose incomes do not exceed 60 percent of the state median income, which is about \$39,000 for a family of four. Services typically cost about \$2,885 per household and are available in every county. Preference is given to the elderly, people with disabilities and families with children.

Weatherization services typically include the installation of attic, wall, floor and duct insulation; furnace repair or replacement; door and window repair; replacing missing or cracked window panes; weather-stripping; patching cracks and holes in ceilings, walls and floors; and installing door bottoms. Services also include furnace and water-heater safety inspections.

For information regarding the Weatherization Assistance Program, or to obtain a list of service providers, call Larry Bentley of KHRC at 800-752-4422 or visit http://www.kshousingcorp.org/documents/wap_forms.shtml. For interviews or to view one of this week's on-site weatherization demonstrations, contact Mike West of SCKEDD at 316-262-7035 or e-mail mike@sckedd.org. For additional information, please visit the Department of Energy's Web site at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization>.

Governor Rendell Proclaims Oct. 30 as 'Weatherization Day'

PR Newswire
October 29, 2007

HARRISBURG, Pa., Oct. 29 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Citing the importance of being more energy efficient, Governor Edward G. Rendell has declared Oct. 30 as "Weatherization Day" in Pennsylvania.

"With winter on our doorstep and energy costs still rising, it's important to remember that our state's weatherization program can help by showing people how to properly insulate their homes, repair or replace their inefficient or unsafe heating systems, and other techniques to help them lower their utility costs," the Governor said. "Pennsylvanians can also get help paying their heating bills through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP.

"Weatherization and LIHEAP have helped thousands of our most vulnerable citizens and they will continue to do so, but we can do more," the Governor said. "My Energy Independence Strategy keeps more money in Pennsylvanians' pockets, while reducing our reliance on foreign, costly, and environmentally harmful energy sources."

The initiative calls for the creation of an \$850 million Energy Independence Fund, which would support clean energy by providing rebates to install more energy efficient appliances; give financial assistance to alternative energy companies in Pennsylvania; and support the development of specific energy economic development projects.

"The Energy Independence Strategy will create 13,000 new jobs, attract \$3.5 billion in new investment to the commonwealth and cut down on pollution," Governor Rendell said. "It goes a long way in making Pennsylvania more economically and environmentally sound for generations to come.

"Rising fuel and heating oil costs as well as national concerns over security and the environment mean energy conservation is an issue that can no longer be ignored. We should be thinking of preserving energy year round, not just on Weatherization Day," the Governor said. "I encourage all Pennsylvanians to take advantage of the resources the commonwealth has available to help pay their utility bills this winter and to learn how to make the state more energy efficient."

"Rising fuel and heating oil costs as well as national concerns over security and the environment mean energy conservation is an issue that can no longer be ignored. We should be thinking of preserving energy year round, not just on Weatherization Day," the Governor said. "I encourage all Pennsylvanians to take advantage of the resources the commonwealth has available to help pay their utility bills this winter and to learn how to make the state more energy efficient."

To learn more about LIHEAP and weatherization programs, log onto <http://www.staywarmpa.com/> . More information on the Energy Independence Strategy is available by visiting <http://www.newpa.com/> or by calling 1-866-466-3972.

The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his weekly newsletter, visit his Web site at: <http://www.governor.state.pa.us/> .

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<http://www.newpa.com/>

<http://www.staywarmpa.com/>

SOURCE Pennsylvania Office of the Governor

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Governor Otter Proclaims Oct. 30 as Weatherization Day 2007

U.S. States News

October 26, 2007

Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter, R-Idaho, has issued the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the Weatherization Assistance Program, the nation's largest residential energy efficiency program, was initiated in 1976 for states and communities to assist low-income families to have more energy efficient, safe, and healthy homes; and

WHEREAS, the program conducts computerized energy audits and uses advanced technologies to determine the energy conservation needs of a home, and has provided caulking and sealing of cracks and holes; insulating of attics, walls, and floors; installation of energy-efficiency increasing windows; replacement, repair and retrofitting of furnaces; detection of leaking gas, and other improve-ments to more than 5.5 million homes throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the program, administered by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in cooperation with the Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho's network of local service providers, has produced energy cost reductions in more than 1,400 homes, affecting thousands of people, many of whom are elderly, the disabled, and children; and

WHEREAS, the program's local service providers consider weatherization a vital part of the overall effort to help low-income people gain energy-efficient, affordable and safe housing, and other basic necessities that enable them to advance socially and economically; and

WHEREAS, the program not only assists families working toward self-sufficiency, but also contributes more broadly to the improvements and progress of communities by eliminating carbon emissions, reducing dependence on foreign oil, stimulating local economies through the purchase of goods and services, creating jobs and stabilizing neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, because of its proven effectiveness and its recognized potential to do more for the common good, the program has gained the growing support of the public and private interests; and

WHEREAS, it is widely agreed that it is in the best interest of our government and others in the public and private sectors to work together to support and strengthen this program that has done so much for so many in our state, for the betterment of all;

*"NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L.
"BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of
the State of Idaho, do hereby
proclaim October 30th, 2007, to
be WEATHERIZATION DAY 2007 in
Idaho."*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim October 30th, 2007, to be WEATHERIZATION DAY 2007 in Idaho.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at Boise, Idaho, on this 26th day of October in the year of our Lord two-thousand and seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-second and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred eighteenth.

Governor Granholm Proclaims Oct. 30 as Weatherization Day

U.S. States News

October 1, 2007

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, D-Mich., issued the following proclamation:

Whereas, The average American family spends more than \$1,300 annually on utility bills; and,

Whereas, That figure represents an alarming share of a low-income family's income, and it is steadily rising; and,

Whereas, The Weatherization Assistance Program, using federal, state, local and private dollars, benefits households and communities across the nation by providing cost-effective, energy-efficient modifications to homes occupied by low-income Americans; and,

Whereas, The average energy cost savings for each home weatherized is more than \$300 annually, allowing families to spend the money saved on groceries, doctor bills, prescriptions and other needs, thereby making them more self-sufficient; and,

Whereas, Weatherizing a house reduces carbon dioxide emissions by an average of one ton per household; and,

Whereas, 52 direct jobs are created within the nation's communities for each \$1 million invested in weatherization, resulting in 3,692 jobs in Michigan in the past three years; and,

Whereas, 264,578 homes have been weatherized in Michigan since the program began in 1977; and now therefore be it,

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim October 30, 2007, as Weatherization Day in Michigan, and I encourage all citizens of this state to recognize the importance of energy conservation, pollution reduction and safer homes through appropriate activities and ceremonies.

"Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim October 30, 2007, as Weatherization Day in Michigan, and I encourage all citizens of this state to recognize the importance of energy conservation, pollution reduction and safer homes through appropriate activities and ceremonies."