

## State receives more money from the feds for weatherizing

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Mike Leiby - The Independent |

WHITE MOUNTAINS - Arizona's Weatherization Assistance Program will receive \$28.5 million to help working residents save money (and the environment) by weatherizing their homes to be more energy efficient.

The program helps income-eligible families and individuals lower monthly utility bills by identifying energy efficiency improvements and making necessary repairs. Under the program, the maximum repair allowed per household has been increased from \$2,500 to \$6,500.

The news of the funding from the U.S. Department of Energy came from Gov. Jan Brewer's Office Tuesday noting that it is the final phase of funding from the Department of Energy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

Director of Communications for Brewer's office Robert Senseman said this is the third phase of funding of \$57 million awarded to the State Energy Office at the Arizona Department of Commerce. The first phase of funding in March of last year provided the state with \$5.7 million and the second phase of \$22.8 million was awarded in June.

Final phase funding is awarded when a state meets its goal of weatherizing 30 percent of homes or apartments, according to Senseman who noted that so far Arizona's Weatherization Assistance Program has provided services to 1,930 homes reducing utility costs by an estimated \$390,000 in its first year.

"This program is helping hardworking Arizona families reduce utility costs now and for years ahead, and at the same time sustaining some Arizona job, a top priority of my Administration," said Brewer.

According to the Governor, the weatherization program has also created more than one hundred jobs in Arizona while allowing displaced construction workers to be trained for re-entry into the workforce.

As for how to get in on the deal, Senseman said weatherization applications will be taken at the community level.

In our neck-of-the-woods they are available through NACOG (Northern Arizona Council of Governments) by calling (928) 774-1895.

In other parts of the state applications are available through the following provider partner organizations:

- Community Action Human Resource Agency, (covering Pinal County) (520) 466-1112
- Gila County, (928) 425-7631, ext.8693
- Maricopa County, (but not City of Phoenix or City of Mesa) (602) 506-5911
- Mesa CAN, (480) 833-9200
- Pima County, (520) 243-6777
- City of Phoenix, (602) 495-0700
- Southeastern Arizona Human Resource Council, (Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, and Santa Cruz counties) (928) 428-4653
- Tucson Urban League, (covering cities of Tucson and South Tucson) (520) 791-9522
- Western Arizona Council of Governments, (Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave counties) (928) 782-1886

Updates from the Governor's Office on Arizona's ARRA programs can be viewed at [www.azrecovery.gov](http://www.azrecovery.gov).

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