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## Ind. gets second half of weatherization grant

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After a slow start, Indiana's weatherization program has cleared an important hurdle, allowing it to receive the second half of allotted federal stimulus dollars.

Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, standing outside the Fountain Square home of an elderly couple who had benefited from the program, said the state has now been awarded \$63 million. This is the second round of a total of \$131.7 million in federal stimulus money earmarked to make homes more energy efficient.

The U.S. Department of Energy approved the second round of funding after Indiana became the 18th state to complete 30 percent of its overall goal. Skillman said that in the past three months, Indiana moved to ninth nationally in the number of homes that have been weatherized and seventh among states in the number of homes being completed daily.

Kenneth and Paula Holsclaw, who joined Skillman at their home in the 1600 block of Brier Place in Fountain Square, said the weatherization work done by the South East Neighborhood Development Communication Action Agency, has enabled them to get a new roof, insulation and water heater.

"They're guardian angels," Kenneth Holsclaw said, before serenading the lieutenant governor, other state officials and the press corps by playing "Amazing Grace" on his harmonica.

The federal stimulus funds allowed for a 1,000 percent increase in the state's normal weatherization budget. Homeowners, though, cannot apply for help; instead, the state is weatherizing the homes of homeowners already receiving assistance paying utility bills through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

However, homeowners can apply for help in the regular weatherization program by calling the social service hotline, 211, to be referred to a community action agency.

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