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## Heating program offers aid with weatherization

BY MELANIE D. SCOTT  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Al-Lishia Jackson wore layers of clothing and bundled up with thick blankets nightly to ward off the cold in her Pontiac home this winter, but as contractors worked to weatherize her house Thursday, she said she already could feel a difference.

"It used to be very cold and drafty, but it's a lot warmer now," said Jackson, 31, as contractors installed insulation Thursday. Her home is to receive about \$3,800 in renovations and supplies when work is completed this month.

Jackson's home is one of about 1,683 in Oakland and Livingston counties that are being weatherized with [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) funds issued to the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency last year.

Representatives from the U.S. Department of [Energy](#), U.S. Rep. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, Oakland County and Pontiac officials gathered at Jackson's home to see the work.

"We do this to make homes safer and to make sure residents have warmer temperatures and lower [energy costs](#)," OLHSA Director of Resource Development Donald Jones said.

Since 1976, the Pontiac-based agency has offered a weatherization program to help low-income or disabled residents, but the stimulus funds allowed officials to offer the service to more residents. The agency spends an average of \$3,800 on each home

Recipients receive energy-efficient [light bulbs](#), showerheads and vouchers for reducing heating bills.

The agency hires local contractors.

Pontiac-based Catalyst Management Group is working at Jackson's home.

"This is the type of project we go after and it's good to be back in our community," operations manager Leon Brown said.

Contact MELANIE D. SCOTT: 586-826-7267 or [mdscott@freepress.com](mailto:mdscott@freepress.com)

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