

## WSOS using its millions to weatherize

BY MATT MANNING • Staff writer • March 11, 2010

FREMONT -- Ohio leads the nation in weatherization.

Ohio's progress means the WSOS Community Action Commission received \$6.8 million in federal stimulus funds to help people save, on average, 30 percent on heating bills.

The Ohio Department of Development said the state received \$106 million in federal funding for the program.

Terry Jacobs, energy coordinator for WSOS, said since receiving the funds, the agency has been able to weatherize 435 residences since July.

The no-cost Home Weatherization Assistance Program helps people increase efficiency and safety. Crews insulate floors, walls, attics and water pipes and even repair or replace furnaces.

Jacobs said WSOS expects to help more than 1,000 households within 21 months. Crews weatherize homes, and the agency is reimbursed with stimulus funds.

In an average year, the program helps about 200 households; with the stimulus money, WSOS is on track to help 700 this year.

Funds also enabled the commission to double its crews, and Jacobs said the agency is looking to hire more.

To be eligible, a one-person household must have income less than \$21,660. For two people, the income level is \$29,140; three people, \$36,620; four people, \$44,100, five, \$51,580; six, \$59,060; seven, \$66,540; and eight, \$74,020.

People who want to apply can call WSOS at 419-334-8911, or visit [www.wsos.org](http://www.wsos.org).

Jacobs said the best part of his job is getting thank-you cards from the people he helps.

He hangs each card up as a reminder -- as do the laborers who work on the homes.

Tony Gladieux, who worked with WSOS for three years, said he collects thank-you cards and touts the work the crews do.

"The way we do our work is better than any private contractor," he said.

Inspector Chris Stout makes sure of it with the help of stimulus money -- funds that enabled upgrades in technology.

"I was looking for a job that I really enjoyed," Stout said.

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