

## Low-Income Weatherization

Funding from ARRA

### For More Information

Richard Mathews, Energy Unit Manager

Ph: (503) 986-2097

Email: Richard.Mathews@hcs.state.or.us

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### Program Overview

The Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program provides weatherization and energy conservation services at no cost to households below 200 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines. Funding for the program is from the U.S. Department of Energy, with other funds from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, utility companies and the Bonneville Power Administration.

Many of these homes are aging and needing of energy efficiency retrofits, which will reduce the carbon footprint, as well as reduce the utility bills for the residents of these homes. This funding will also create jobs in the construction industry and spur developments in sustainable building/rehabilitation practices.

Weatherization improvements reduce space heating costs by 33 percent in gas-heated homes and 24 percent in electric-heated homes. These savings continue year after year.

The program has other benefits including:

- Reduced air pollution / carbon dioxide benefits
- An additional 1.66 new jobs for every home weatherized
- Extended life of affordable housing facilities from weatherization improvements

### ARRA Funding

ARRA provides \$5 billion nationally for the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program. Oregon anticipates receiving \$38.51 million.

### Eligibility

Income requirements for the ARRA Weatherization funds are 200% of the national poverty level.

### Other Requirements/Criteria

A qualifying household must apply through a local Community Action Agency. Once the household is determined to be eligible it is placed on a waiting list. The waiting period varies with each local agency depending on the area need. Households with senior and disabled members, and households with children under 6 years of age are given priority.

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### Implementation Process/Steps

There are thousands of low-income households on waiting lists identifying homes ready for weatherization. The weatherization network in Oregon has some capacity to increase the number of homes weatherized. Additional capacity is planned to meet the full scope of ARRA weatherization funding.

OHCS will monitor program delivery and quality assurance as required by USDOE and ARRA.

Additional ARRA Weatherization distribution information:

- The first ten percent of ARRA Weatherization funds was made available to states in March, 2009.
- States must apply to the U.S. Department of Energy for the next 40% of ARRA Weatherization funding by May 12, 2009.
- States will be required to submit quarterly ARRA Weatherization Program reports to demonstrate progress prior to receiving additional funding.
- States are required to spend 75% of their ARRA Weatherization funds by 2010.

*Last updated 4-14-09*

OHCS is the state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for lower income Oregonians. The agency also administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless and energy assistance community service programs.

