



Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

We help make things happen

Press Release: Monday, February 23, 2009

Contact: Mason Gray
513-569-1854
513-884-4841 (cell)
mgray@cincy-caa.org

Millions of stimulus dollars go to local agency *Money spurs local jobs and sparks the local economy*

(Cincinnati, OH) – As stimulus money starts hitting the streets in coming weeks and months, the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) will manage millions of the \$787 billion dollar plan. Of the \$5 billion earmarked to weatherize modest-income homes, CAA anticipates receiving as much as \$6 million over the next two years to almost triple the number of homes it weatherizes in Hamilton County. These weatherization dollars will create dozens of new jobs, increase business for local vendors and contractors, and will result in financial savings on utility bills and environmental benefits that will last long after the these stimulus dollars have run out.

Job Creation & Increased Business - CAA alone expects to hire numerous new staff members to weatherize the additional homes. Furthermore, CAA's increased weatherization services will almost triple the amount of materials and tools purchased from local vendors and the amount of work contracted out to local companies, creating new jobs at these businesses as well.

More Families Eligible - Through the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP), CAA provides free home weatherization services to low- to moderate-income families. With the new stimulus dollars, HWAP expects to expand eligibility from 175% of the federal poverty guidelines to include families up to 200%. This means that a family of four earning \$44,100 or less will be eligible for services.

Lasting Financial Savings - By insulating walls, attics, and crawl spaces, caulking air leaks, weather stripping doors, replacing light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, servicing or replacing furnaces, and numerous other energy saving updates, weatherization allows home systems to operate more efficiently. Making homes more energy efficient can result in a savings of 30% or more on energy bills. By reducing the amount it costs to keep a home warm during the winter or cool in the summer, CAA will make it possible for Hamilton County families to pay their heating bills on their own for years to come.

Lasting Environmental Impact - In addition, inefficient homes waste our valuable energy resources and pollute our environment. Home weatherization reduces carbon dioxide emissions, making our environment cleaner and safer. Some experts report that the average home may be responsible for twice the greenhouse gas emissions of the average car. By investing in weatherization, the Obama administration is not only helping families afford their utility bills, but it is doing so in a way that meets another explicit goal of the administration - finding efficient and environmentally friendly solutions to the struggles facing the nation today.

HWAP is currently accepting applications from households that would like to receive this free service. Interested persons, in addition to vendors and contractors looking to partner with CAA and individuals looking for employment opportunities, should contact CAA's Home Weatherization Program at 569-1840.

###