



News Release

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

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CALIFORNIA RECOVERY ACT PROGRAM MAKES NEARLY 60,000 LOW-INCOME HOMES MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

State Program Celebrates Significant Milestone on National Weatherization Day

On National Weatherization Day, the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) announced that nearly 60,000 low-income homes have been made more energy efficient around the state under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) Weatherization Assistance Program.

“California’s weatherization program reduces energy costs for low-income families by improving the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring residents’ health and safety,” said CSD Director John A. Wagner. “Being able to reach so many homes under the program is a great achievement for California, and means that many more Californians will be able to live more comfortably in their homes, while benefitting from more affordable utility bills.”

The Recovery Act provided \$5 billion nationally to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) weatherization program, of which California was awarded \$185.8 million. With these funds, California was able to serve 59,066 low-income homes as of September 30, 2012 – three months before the end of California’s grant term. This significantly surpasses California’s original goal of reaching 43,150 households under the Recovery Act, by serving almost 16,000 additional homes than originally anticipated.

CSD partnered with 40 nonprofit and local government providers to deliver weatherization services to low-income households around the state. A breakout of homes weatherized by local service provider and county service area can be found by following this link: [Statewide Homes Weatherized Breakout](#).

“The weatherization program is particularly important to those who are struggling economically, especially seniors,” said Community Resource Project (CRP) Director Joan Graham. “Reducing energy costs for these families means they can live more comfortably in their homes, while making more of their income available for other necessary expenses such as food or medicine.”

CSD awarded the nonprofit agency CRP nearly \$10 million to deliver weatherization in Sacramento, Sutter and Yuba counties. CRP provided weatherization services to 1,973 homes in

these counties including the home of Mr. Lenard Scott who lives on Rancho Adobe Drive in Sacramento. Before receiving weatherization, Mr. Scott and his family could not use their home's heating and cooling system, as it was in bad disrepair and was causing a carbon monoxide hazard. CRP replaced the home's heating and cooling system, installed attic insulation, a new thermostat, low-flow shower heads, energy-efficient lighting, replaced a window and performed duct repair and home envelope sealing.

"Thanks to this program, I'm not afraid of the cold winter months," said Mr. Scott. "This program made a big difference in mine and my family's lives. I haven't had a working heater in my home for a long time, and now we can live more comfortably in our home."

Weatherization is a long-term solution to reduce the high energy burden faced by low-income families, who can pay significantly higher portions of their income on residential energy costs. Studies show that lower income households spend significantly more of their total income on their energy bills than other households. An [Oak Ridge Nation Laboratory study](#) found lower income households can spend over four times more of their income on energy costs than higher income households.

More Information About Weatherization

The weatherization program provides eligible low-income households, including homeowners and renters, with services designed to improve the energy efficiency of their home, thereby reducing energy usage and costs. Households are also educated on basic energy efficiency practices, and instructed on the proper use and maintenance of the measures installed. Weatherization measures include adding insulation, sealing ducts, and installing more efficient appliances, windows, doors, and heating and cooling systems. On average, weatherization reduces energy consumption for low-income households by up to 35 percent, saving them more than \$400 on their energy bills in the first year.

Additional benefits in the program include improved health and safety conditions, increased comfort for occupants, a reduction in homelessness and mobility and extended lifetime of affordable housing. Weatherization also creates non-energy benefits, such as increased property value, reduced likelihood of fire, federal taxes generated from employment, job training and workforce development, and reduced pollution.

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CSD is one of 13 departments and one board under the umbrella of the California Health and Human Services Agency. The Department partners with a network of private, non-profit and local government community service providers dedicated to helping low-income families achieve and maintain self-sufficiency, meet their home energy needs and reside in housing free from the dangers of lead hazards. CSD administers California's federal funding share for the Community Services Block Grant, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization Assistance Program and the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program. For more information about CSD and these programs, please visit www.csd.ca.gov.