

# NOCAC the recipient of statewide recognition

By LISA NICELY

@CNLisaNicely

nicely@crescent-news.com

The Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC) has been honored with the Single Family Home Best Practice Award by the state.

"This is the first time we've tried this best practices program," said Katrina Metzler, section supervisor for weatherization through the Ohio Development Services Agencies, during a ceremony on Monday. "Out of every entry in the state of Ohio, this best exemplified the best practices for a single home."

The award was presented by the Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Community Assistance at a Harrison Avenue home on Monday. All grant recipients of the Home Weatherization Assistance Program were invited to submit entries for a best practice award in three housing categories.

There were 54 providers that provide home weatherization assistance in the state that were able to apply for the award.

NOCAC was named a finalist in the single family home category and received an on-site visit and evaluation by the Ohio Development Services Agency earlier this year. The agency evaluated a home on Harrison Avenue in Defiance that went through the home winterization program.

Metzler said that the written

*"Out of every entry in the state of Ohio, this best exemplified the best practices for a single home."*

**Katrina Metzler**

Ohio Development Services Agency

application for the home showcased energy savings, health and safety issues addressed as well as the leverage of resources used for the project.

Inspector Eric Sandys said the home had a lot of issues.

"The furnace was non-operational," he said, adding the water heater also had to be replaced. "There was major electrical issues, insulation was lagging and there were other odds and ends. ... The electrical had to be addressed first and foremost."

Field supervisor Chris Hageman said that NOCAC used the home to do basic weatherization training too.

Metzler said that NOCAC'S award application was one of the strongest received.

"The client was living with her daughter part of the time because of the issues," she said, adding that the client was able to return to her home through NOCAC officials' efforts.

The homeowner was very happy with the results.

"I still can't believe it all happened," she said. "Thank you so much. It's a blessing."



Greg Bollenbacher, fiscal director for the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies, presents Kelly Feeney, director of housing and energy with the Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission, with the Single Family Home Best Practice Award on Monday.