

Sangamon County Board



Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEATHERIZATION

WHEREAS, On August 14th, 1976, President Gerald Ford signed H.R. 12169, also known as the Energy Conservation and Production Act, Title IV of this legislation instructed the administrator of the Federal Energy Administration (now the Department of Energy) to establish a weatherization program in order to “increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential energy expenditures, and improve their health and safety, especially persons who are vulnerable such as the elderly, families with children and households with high energy burden; and

WHEREAS, forty years later the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has provided critical weatherization services to over seven million low-income families in all 50 States; and

WHEREAS, The WAP’s impact on energy savings for families and society at large is well-documented by a study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory released in 2014 that examined over 30,000 dwelling units and 8,000 utility bills found that the WAP provided \$340 million on total energy cost savings.

WHEREAS, Nearly 9 million families across the nation live in unhealthy, energy inefficient homes, leading to \$82.4 billion in healthcare costs nationwide, this represents 3% of the total U.S. healthcare costs and of these costs, nearly \$20 billion are due to asthma –related illness; and

WHEREAS, The WAP and energy improvements play an important role in making housing healthier and safer and Weatherization often improves indoor air quality which can mitigate allergens and other asthma triggers, residents of weatherized units reported fewer colds and headaches, fewer hospitalizations and doctor visits and fewer bad mental health days; and

WHEREAS, When factoring in health and safety benefits, every dollar invested in weatherization returns \$4.10 to society; and

WHEREAS, In 2010 alone, the WAP led to an estimated 7,382,000 metric ton reduction in carbon, as well as playing a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and assisting in the transition to a clean energy economy; and

WHEREAS, The WAP supports the employment of weatherization professionals such as contractors and inspectors, the WAP program has supported over 8,500 jobs annually and also leads to improved energy efficiency technologies that have benefitted the entire industry

Now Therefore, We, the Sangamon County Board, do hereby proclaim, December 13, 2016 as Weatherization Day in Sangamon County, Illinois. Given under my hand on this 13th day of December, 2016 and hereto cause to affix the Great Seal of Sangamon County.

*Andy Van Meter, Chairman
Sangamon County Board*

