

## OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

“Catalyzing the natural linkage of energy, economics and environment”

### SUCCESS STORY: *Home Weatherization Assistance Program*

Ohio's *Home Weatherization Assistance Program* is a federally funded, low-income residential energy efficiency program. The program reduces energy use of low-income households, thus creating more affordable housing for those in greatest need. HWAP has served as the base for the development of conservation services in Ohio, which has been used by utility energy efficiency programs. Service providers cover all 88 Ohio counties. All programs are monitored annually for cost effectiveness and accountability by **Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE)** staff. Periodically, the State contracts for statewide program evaluations. A recently completed study of the program by the U.S. Department of Energy showed the Weatherization Program is one of the few federal programs that saves more money than it costs.

- ★ 250,000 homes in Ohio weatherized
- ★ 227 billion Btus saved this year
- ★ 48.6 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided

#### APPROACH

Households at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines or households participating in the Home Energy Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income qualify for this no-cost program. Services may include attic, wall, and basement insulation; blower door guided air leakage reduction; heating system repairs or replacements; and health and safety testing and inspections. All measures are provided based on an on-site energy audit and on cost-effective guidelines developed using the NEAT computerized energy audit. Individualized client education is an important component of this program.

*“The drafts are gone, the house is more comfortable and I have more money to spend on other bills. I couldn't have gotten this done without the program.”*

James Barnwell, Cleveland  
HWAP beneficiary  
Ohio's Home Power Boosters

#### RESULTS

Ohio was one of the first states to incorporate blower door usage, combustion appliance analysis for efficiency and safety, and client education as an integral part of the program. The Ohio Weatherization Training Center trains all field staff in state-of-the-art techniques for cost effectively and safely reducing the energy burden in all types of structures. Direct benefits of the HWAP for Ohio, apart from the economic and environmental benefits listed in the box above, include:

- ➔ Average household savings of \$184 per year on energy bills after weatherization; and
- ➔ Direct employment by the HWAP, statewide, of approximately 450 person skilled in providing energy conservation services. There are numerous other subcontractors and supplies that benefit from this work.

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#### OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

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