

**URBAN WEATHERIZATION INITIATIVE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: April 16, 2010 Meeting was called to order at 10:45am by Karin Norington-Reaves

Attendees: Karin Norington-Reaves, Charlene Raickett, Larry Dawson, Jeff Stauter, Camille Lilly, Kurt Summers Jr., Deborah Harrington, Percy Harris, Lester McKeever Jr., participating by phone was Earl (on behalf of Sen. Donne Trotter)

Apologies: none

Introductions: Ms. Norington-Reaves greeted the Board and all Board members discussed their educational and professional background.

The Board reviewed, revised and approved the minutes from the March meeting.

Conflicts of Interest: This item will be discussed at the May 14, 2010 meeting.

IL Weatherization

Overview:

Mr. Dawson, Deputy Director, DCEO Office of Energy Assistance, presented an overview of the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program. The main goal of the program is to reduce energy costs to low income households, promote energy conservation, expand opportunities with green job development, and make one's home a safer, healthier place to live. Funding sources for the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program come from the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Illinois Supplemental Energy Assistance Fund. DCEO works with 35 Local Administering Agencies throughout the state to help identify those in need of assistance. When a potential client applies for funding and eligibility is confirmed, the home is assessed by the staff and a work schedule is arranged convenient to both the crew and client. Based on the initial inspection, weatherization efforts include adding insulation in the ceiling, walls, and/or attic, install energy efficient light bulbs, seal drafts, and even replacing refrigerators. Once the crew renovates the home, per the computer generated work order, the property undergoes a final inspection to ensure that all work is properly completed. If problems arise, the crew will return to finish the job.

Training for both the Energy Assessors (Auditors) and Contractors is free of charge. The state's training curriculum for Contractors most closely follows that of the US DOE. Initially, contractor training was only provided in Chicago or Springfield. However, partnerships were established with 13 Community Colleges throughout the state so trainees would not have to travel more than 45 minutes away from their residence.

Mr. Dawson explained that if a potential client is eligible for the LIHEAP program, they are automatically deemed eligible for the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program, but that a separate application needs to be submitted for each. Even though most clients are homeowners, there are no ownership requirements for potential Weatherization funding (The Urban Weatherization Initiative requires all homes to be owner-occupied) and single- and multi-family homes are eligible. Previously, owners of multi-unit buildings were required to pay half the costs. As a result, the program was only able to assist about 7%-8% of low income homes. When ARRA provided additional funding to the program, this requirement was lifted, thereby enabling the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program to reach 25%-30% of low income homes. The ILHWAP now requires multi-unit buildings that receive services through this program remain "affordable units" for 1 year following weatherization.

Mr. Dawson stated that on a national level, weatherizing homes leads to a 30% savings in utility

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bills for the homeowner; if funding per unit were to increase, that number could reach 50%. The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program aims to weatherize 25,000-27,000 homes per year. Unfortunately, there are some instances where a home is in such poor condition that the \$6,500 maximum funding for the unit would make absolutely no difference in costs to the homeowner. In these cases, the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program has no choice but to decline funding assistance. On the flipside, in cases where weatherization measures are taken and homeowners see the difference reflected in their utility bill, they are most appreciative and happy.

DCEO Energy Programs

Overview: This item will be discussed at the May 14, 2010 meeting

Board Chair Election: At the recommendation of Mr. McKeever, the election will be postponed until exact details surrounding the position of Board Chair are outlined (i.e. length of term) and all members are confirmed by the Senate.

Miscellaneous: Ms. Norington-Reaves informed the committee that staff will draft program guidelines for the May 14th meeting and a draft RFP will be prepared by the June 18th meeting.

Upcoming Meetings: May 14, 2010 10am-12pm at JRTC/DCEO
June 18, 2010 10am-12pm at JRTC/DCEO

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm by Karin Norington-Reaves

*Respectfully Submitted,
Claudine Najjar
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity*