



New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$1 MILLION AWARDED FOR WEATHERIZATION TRAINING CENTER

New Mexico One of 27 States to be Funded

ALBUQUERQUE: The U.S. Department of Energy announced today that the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority will receive almost \$1 million to create a weatherization training center in New Mexico. The award is part of \$29 million the department is funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help build America's clean energy economy. The New Mexico award is one of 34 competitive projects to be funded in 27 states.

"This additional stimulus money will allow our weatherization program to grow into one of the best in the nation," said Lt. Governor Diane Denish, chairwoman of the MFA board. "The state-of-the-art training we can now provide to our weatherization professionals will not only increase the quality and cost efficiency of their work, but it will prepare them to move into the private weatherization market when the stimulus funding is gone."

MFA's weatherization training will be a multi-tiered approach that includes:

- On-line curriculum covering weatherization theory and procedure
- Classroom instruction using props to illustrate how energy flows throughout a house in a controlled environment
- House of Pressure, a miniature house that uses smoke and fans to demonstrate how everyday household activities impact the energy efficiency of a home
- Field training rig containing every piece of equipment needed to weatherize homes in New Mexico
- On-site training providing hands-on training in typical New Mexico homes
- Client education on comprehensive energy efficiency practices

"This is another good investment in New Mexico's workforce with long-term benefits as we continue training for a green economy," said former Governor Toney Anaya, executive director of the New Mexico Office of Recovery and Reinvestment. "Stimulus funds continue to employ thousands, rebuild our infrastructure and support public schools across the state."

Last year, MFA received \$26 million in stimulus funding, which it will use to weatherize almost 3,000 homes over the next three years. Homeowners and renters who earn up to 200 percent of poverty level income are eligible for

weatherization services that average \$6,500 per household at no charge. The weatherization measures that each home receives are determined by an energy audit, which is performed on each prospective home. Services may include replacement or repair of furnaces, doors and windows. Installation of attic and sidewall insulation, weather stripping and caulking is common to most projects, as well as refrigerator replacement.

MFA is a self-supporting agency that was established by the New Mexico State Legislature in 1975 to help provide safe, decent affordable housing for low- and moderate-income New Mexicans. In addition to providing low-interest rate mortgage loans, down payment assistance and affordable housing construction, MFA administers more than 30 programs that range from homelessness prevention to weatherization services.

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