

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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**DOE Congratulates New Mexico on Weatherizing More than
880 Homes under the Recovery Act**

Additional 950 homes weatherized with annual program year funding

Washington, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy announced today that New Mexico has weatherized 881 homes under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as of May 31, 2010. New Mexico is one of the country’s weatherization leaders and has now weatherized more than 30 percent of their total targeted homes. Through the Weatherization Assistance Program, the state is making low-income homes more energy efficient, saving families an average of more than \$400 on their energy bills, according to a recent study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The Recovery Act-funded program is also creating jobs locally. According to the state, nearly 50 workers were employed by state and local weatherization providers during the first three months of the year.

“What we see here today is that states like New Mexico are moving forward aggressively with the weatherization program, delivering energy and cost savings for the families who need it most,” said Cathy Zoi, DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. “This Recovery Act funding is helping to create jobs in local communities while putting America on the path to a clean energy future.”

As part of the weatherization program, states and local organizations are also investing in workforce development and green job training. On Friday, June 4th, the Department of Energy announced that the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority in Santa Fe, New Mexico was selected to receive almost \$1 million in additional funding to develop and expand New Mexico’s weatherization training programs. The main objectives of New Mexico’s \$919,579 project are to create a system for training the weatherization workforce in New Mexico by developing state technical standards and an online curriculum, equip a training center at Santa Fe Community College (SFCC), and train the existing weatherization workforce on the state’s new technical standards by 2012.

More information on New Mexico’s weatherization training award is available [HERE](#).

David Bates is a subcontractor with the largest local service provider in New Mexico, the Los Amigos Educational Resource Center in Santa Fe. “Jobs in New Mexico we getting thinner and thinner because there wasn’t much building going on. Because of the Recovery Act, I’ve been able to offer jobs and training to New Mexicans that make them employable for years to come,” said Bates. “I truly believe that the only way we can move to adopting clean energy is through energy efficiency. This program is paying off in all kinds of ways.”

Under the Recovery Act, New Mexico was allocated \$26.8 million for the weatherization program. The state previously had access to the first 50 percent of the funding. By weatherizing more than 30 percent of their total estimated homes and meeting a series of aggressive accountability and reporting milestones, New Mexico now has access to the full \$26.8 million to continue weatherizing homes across the state. New Mexico plans to weatherize a total of more than 2,780 homes with their Recovery Act funding. Since February 2009, the state has also weatherized approximately 950 additional homes under its annual weatherization program. Together with the Recovery Act funding, the state has now weatherized more than 1,800 homes since the Recovery Act began.

Under the weatherization program, states partner with local community action agencies or non-profit organizations to provide whole-home weatherization services. This includes conducting an energy audit in the home to identify the most cost-effective improvements and implementing solutions that range from installing additional insulation and weatherstripping, sealing windows and doors, caulking cracks in the building, and replacing inefficient heating and cooling systems.

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