

FACT SHEET

January 24, 2007

**REQUEST: one-time
appropriation of \$1,500,000**

Funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program: Keeping Utahns Warm, Efficiently

The Utah Weatherization Assistance Program, administered through eight government and nonprofit agencies across the state, enables qualified low-income individuals and families to make their homes more energy efficient and reduce utility costs. Individuals, families, elderly people, and the handicapped who are at or below 125 percent of the current federal poverty income guidelines are eligible for help from Weatherization.

Through this program, Weatherization installs energy efficiency measures in the homes of qualifying residents free of charge. These are not expensive upgrades, but they are effective, and the energy savings pay for the upgrades within a few years.

KEY FACTS

- 1562 households were weatherized under the program in FY2006
- Weatherization positively effected approximately 5,155 lives in FY2006
- The average expenditure per home in FY2006 was approximately \$3,500 utilizing all funding sources
- Both owner-occupied and rental units are eligible for Weatherization
- Services:
 - Furnace replacement
 - Insulation
 - Air sealing
 - Refrigerator replacement
 - Compact fluorescent bulbs to replace incandescent light bulbs
- Services are determined following a detailed energy audit on each home

WEATHERIZATION IS WORTH BACKING:

Weatherization provides crucial support to some of society's neediest citizens, at the same time reducing energy dependency, improving the environment, and stimulating economic development in lower-income communities.

WEATHERIZATION NEEDS ADDITIONAL FUNDING:

Funding for Weatherization comes from many sources including the DOE, LIHEAP, Questar Gas, Rocky Mountain Power, and a small appropriation from the Legislature. Governor Huntsman has requested \$500,000 one-time State funding from the General Fund. The Governor's funds and an additional \$1,000,000 are needed to reduce the one-year waiting time and cut down on the backlog for weatherizing the homes of Utah's most vulnerable citizens.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION contact
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