

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Governor Chet Culver ★ Lt. Governor Patty Judge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2010

Contact:
U.S. Department of Energy
(202) 586-4940

Polly Carver-Kimm, Governor's Office
(515) 281.0173
polly.carver-kimm@iowa.gov

Culver: Iowa Moving Forward on Energy Efficiency and Green Collar Jobs

Nearly 2,200 homes weatherized and almost 300 new jobs created

DES MOINES –Governor Chet Culver joined with the U.S. Department of Energy today to announce that Iowa has reached a significant milestone under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – completing weatherization work for more than 30 percent of the homes the state had planned to weatherize. As of June 30, 2010, Iowa has weatherized 2,179 homes with Recovery Act funding, plus more than 1,300 additional homes with annual program funding. And according to the state, an additional 275 jobs were created by state and local weatherization providers. As a result of the progress in the program to date, the state will now have access to an additional \$40.4 million in Recovery Act weatherization funding to continue providing energy efficiency services to Iowa's low-income families.

"I'm very proud of our efforts to weatherize Iowans' homes and provide some amount of relief from high energy bills as part of our focus on becoming the first state to be energy independent," Governor Culver said. "We're pleased to have a partner in the federal government on this effort in cooperation with our local agencies. This success is due to the work of the community action network and other local weatherization providers around the state, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies."

"What we see here today is that states like Iowa are moving forward aggressively with the weatherization program, delivering energy and cost savings for the families who need it most," said U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu. "This Recovery Act funding is helping to create jobs in local communities while putting America on the path to a clean energy future."

The program is also creating new jobs locally. According to the state, approximately 275 workers were employed by state and local weatherization providers during the second quarter of this year. Joe Miller, who is now a Weatherization & Infrastructure Director in Sioux City, is one of the new workers employed under the Recovery Act. Previously, Miller worked in construction before losing his foreman job due to the economic recession.

“My misfortune last year turned out to be a blessing in disguise,” Miller said. “Though losing my job was a humbling experience, I love the work I do now. I have the opportunity to help people every day, many of whom have a similar story to mine. They are good, hardworking people who simply fell victim to an unforgiving economy. I’m truly proud to be a part of this extraordinary program.”

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families save energy and money by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. According to a recent study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, weatherization services save families an average of more than \$400 in energy costs during the first year.

Under the weatherization program, local agencies provide whole-home weatherization services, including conducting an energy audit in the home to identify the most cost-effective improvements, and implementing solutions that range from installing additional insulation and weather-stripping, sealing windows and doors, caulking cracks in the building, and replacing inefficient heating and cooling systems.