



Nebraska Energy Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10/27/2016

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Low Income Weatherization Assistance Celebrates 40 Years *Program Assists Individuals with Energy Efficient Improvements*

LINCOLN –For 40 years, the Weatherization Assistance Program, the nation’s largest residential energy efficiency program, has been making homes more energy efficient, safer and healthier for those with low and moderate incomes. To recognize the work of the program and its 40th anniversary, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts has proclaimed October 30 as Weatherization Day in Nebraska.

Administered by the Nebraska Energy Office since 1979, the program is operated by seven non-profit community action agencies as part of their efforts to help people sustain themselves and advance economically and socially. Since the Weatherization Assistance Program began, over \$195 million has been spent to make energy efficiency improvements in more than 68,000 Nebraska homes affecting the lives of thousands of Nebraskans, many of who are elderly, disabled, and families with children. The program helps them conserve energy and save income for other basic needs.

Clients apply through the community action agencies who then determine eligibility and conduct an inspection of the residence to determine what measures should be taken. Weatherization measures include addition or adjusting of weather-stripping and insulation, replacing broken glass in windows, and performing an efficiency inspection on furnaces and water heaters. Improvements typically last 20 years so the current and prior year’s improvements will result in energy savings of over \$4.4 million this year.

“Our seven community action agencies who perform the weatherization services for the clients are meticulous in the work performed and ensure the clients receive all available weatherization improvements,” said David Bracht, Nebraska Energy Office Director. “Clients are identified by income and other factors, and then receive services as part of the program.”

Weatherization efforts contribute to the state’s economic, social, and environmental progress by creating jobs; purchasing equipment, materials and other goods and services; improving the housing stock; stabilizing neighborhoods; reducing homelessness; eliminating carbon emission; and reducing the risks of fire. The program has gained the growing support of public and private interests due to its proven effectiveness and recognized potential to do more for the common good.

Measurable impacts from the program in a typical year can be seen in energy impacts of over \$180,000 for electric and natural gas dollar savings, with a present discount value of future savings of over \$1.1 million. Impacts to the economy include an output of over \$1 million, labor income of over \$740,000 and the creation of just over 20 jobs a year.

For information about who to contact for services, please visit <http://www.neo.ne.gov/wx/wxindex.htm#contacts>.

The Nebraska Energy Office was created in 1977 to promote the efficient, economic and environmentally responsible use of energy. It is an authoritative voice and comprehensive resource center for energy issues in the State of Nebraska, and plays an important role in fostering new growth in our renewable energy industry. For more information, please visit www.neo.ne.gov. Join the Energy Office on [Facebook](#) and follow on [Twitter](#).