



Briefing Notice

Weatherization: A Success Story

Friday, September 28, 2012

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Congressional Meeting Room North - Capitol Visitor Center

One million low-income households will have benefited from the federal **Weatherization Assistance Program's (WAP)** Recovery Act funding by the time October rolls in, with a total of 7.4 million homes weatherized since the program's inception 35 years ago. The benefits from this federal investment have been both immediate and long-lasting: housing made more affordable and more comfortable, as well as lessening of the carbon footprint through energy retrofits and the creation of new skilled jobs. The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute** and the **National Association for State Community Services Programs** invite you to a briefing hosted in coordination with the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition that will discuss what has made this program such a success story, and what policies will ensure that WAP can continue to help low-income families save money, improve America's energy security, and create skilled jobs that cannot be outsourced. Speakers are:

- **Mark Wolfe**, *Executive Director, Energy Programs Consortium; State and Local Energy Report*
Introducing a clip from "Filling the Gaps, The History of the Weatherization Assistance Program"
- **David Hepinstall**, *Executive Director, Association for Energy Affordability*
Mr. Hepinstall is a veteran of the New York State weatherization program.
- **John Joseph, Ph.D.**, *Principal, JAI Associates; Professor of Economics, Thomas College*
JAI Associates develops energy conservation software for weatherization companies.
- **Richard W. Caperton**, *Director of Clean Energy Investment, Center for American Progress Action Fund*
The Center will release a new issue brief on the weatherization supply chain at the briefing.
- **Brad Penney**, *General Counsel, Advocates for The Other America*

Weatherization reduces energy waste by sealing air leaks, adding insulation to the building envelope, and many other strategies. This lowers monthly household energy bills – by approximately 19 percent for electricity and 33 percent for natural gas – which represents substantial savings for low-income families who spend an average of 14.4 percent of their income on energy (compared to 3.3 percent for middle income families).

Not only has the Weatherization Assistance Program reduced the energy costs for a million low-income households since 2009, but it has also spearheaded the rapid creation of thousands of jobs in a supply chain that is almost entirely based in the United States. WAP was a beneficiary of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which allocated \$5 billion to the program over three years (previously, Congress had appropriated on average between \$210 and \$240 million per year for the program). An estimated 15,439 direct weatherization jobs have been created thanks to ARRA funding, and many more indirect local jobs have been sustained through the Weatherization Supply Chain. Much can still be done: an estimated 34 million households nationwide are eligible for weatherization assistance, while new training centers and instructors are ready to get to work on their behalf. They represent an important and incredibly valuable building block for the development of a sophisticated and entrepreneurial nationwide home retrofit infrastructure.

This event is free and open to the public. No RSVP required.

For more information, contact Amaury Laporte at alaporte@eesi.org or (202) 662-1884.

