



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
**& Economic Opportunity**

Pat Quinn, Governor

December 31, 2014

Dear Governor and Members of the General Assembly:

The Urban Weatherization Initiative (UWI) Act (30 ILCS 738/Article 40) requires the Office of Urban Assistance to administer the weatherization assistance program that is designed to increase employment opportunities and provide energy assistance for low income households by decreasing their energy usage through the process of weatherizing their residence.

UWI initially targeted five eligible communities during Fiscal Year 10 and was subsequently expanded to include the counties of Alexander, Cook, Kane, Kankakee, Lake, LaSalle, Macon, Madison, Peoria, Rock Island, St. Clair County, Stephenson, Will and Winnebago.

More recently, UWI Board made a determination to refocus the program to urban communities with unemployment rates exceeding 10% as reflected in the Illinois Department of Employment Securities April 25, 2013, documents. These communities are Alton, Cahokia, Cairo, Calumet, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Dolton Village, East St. Louis (including Washington Park / Brooklyn / Alorton / Centreville), Ford Heights, Harvey, Kankakee, Lansing Village, Madison, Maywood Village, Park Forest Village, Peoria, Rockford, South Holland Village, Waukegan, and Zion.

Below is an overview of the initiative and a summary of the FY14 program accomplishments, challenges, and goals for FY15.

**Program Summary**

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO) Office of Urban Assistance, in conjunction with the UWI Board of Directors, is responsible for administering and implementing the UWI Program. The purpose of UWI is to create green jobs, increase skills for the under-/unemployed, improve energy efficiency by decreasing energy usage and costs for residents in low income areas, and stimulate local economies.

The UWI Board of Directors has dedicated its time and expertise, while working with staff, to ensure that the program is running effectively and in a transparent manner. The Board currently has two open voting position and two open ex-officio member positions available.

The UWI Board members are:

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[www.illinois.gov/dceo](http://www.illinois.gov/dceo)

500 East Monroe  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1643  
217/782-7500 • TDD: 800/785-6055

James R. Thompson Center  
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 3-400  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3219  
312/814-7179 • TDD: 800/785-6055

2309 West Main, Suite 118  
Marion, Illinois 62959-1180  
618/997-4394 • TTY: 800/785-6055

**VOTING MEMBERS (2 vacancies)**

Percy Harris, Chairman  
Deborah Harrington  
Beth Delgado

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (2 vacancies)**

Senator Donne Trotter  
Representative Ken Dunkin

**Program Model**

The UWI program is built on a two-pronged approach by first providing skills training to Illinois residents through grants to community based-organizations through training courses and Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification, and second, by providing employment opportunities via the Residential Weatherization Program (RWP).

The training programs are designed to provide both classroom and hands-on training to participants on either a full or part-time basis within the eligible communities. This provides an opportunity for local community organizations to conduct market-relevant training and education, while creating a strategic path to employment and career advancement opportunities. Upon completion of the training program, participants are expected to achieve BPI certification.

In addition, the program stimulates local economies by utilizing local contractors, suppliers, distributors and/or manufacturers of equipment and supplies necessary for the weatherization work. Eligible buildings for the program include single family homes and multi-family dwellings up to six units in a census tract with high rates of unemployment, underemployment and poverty.

Eligible grant applicants included private, non-profit, and public entities that are able to provide weatherization training or services in collaboration with local community-based organizations. All grants are awarded via a competitive selection process up to \$500,000.00 per fiscal year.

Weatherization activities include:

- Repair/replacement of inefficient heating or cooling units
- Addressing air infiltration issues (e.g. weather stripping, caulking, window/door replacement)
- Repair/replacement of water heaters
- Installation/insulation of pipe duct
- Minor roof repair

**Challenges / Accomplishments / Goals****Challenges**

- UWI program manager vacancy
- Delayed completion of Joint Committee on Administrative (JCAR) rules

**Accomplishments in 2014**

- Program infrastructure completed
- Successful implementation of the RWP

- First year of working with a full complement of trained grant managers for entire program year
- Exceeded training goals for the Home Energy Auditor and Weatherization Specialist Training Programs
- Restructured the program goals to meet employment goals

#### **FY15 Program Goals**

- Implement final year of training grants for Home Energy Auditor and Weatherization Specialist Training
- Award the next phase of RWP grants to fund work directly on homes in June 2015
- Expand the Residential Weatherization Program (RWP) grants to all eligible communities which have completed the training programs in 2014, increasing the capacity for homes weatherized and program participants employed
- Sharply increase the number of homes completed and increase the employment of program completers
- Conduct an aggressive marketing campaign in order to provide notification to all communities regarding the UWI programs in the winter of 2015 to expand awareness of the program to major community stakeholders
- Complete legislative changes to provide program expansion

#### **Key Issues & Notes**

- FY15 training certification targets are reduced dramatically due to the program shifting from training to full time weatherization. This will involve a dramatic reduction in training providers and an increase in weatherization of homes.
- DCEO is discussing with legislative leaders a) revising the weatherization statute to allow collaboration with the Illinois Housing Development Authority to procure, repair, and sell homes, which would also employ certified weatherization program completers in the targeted communities; b) modifying the requirements for UWI Board Members; and c) increasing the funding limits for each grantee.

#### **Key Highlights & Success Stories**

*Roy is a single father and has expressed his gratitude for the work that was completed in his home. He stated that the difference in his house is enormous and that this summer he barely turned on the air conditioning. When he turned his furnace for the first time this season, the house warmed up immediately and he did not have to turn it up the way he did before. This speaks to the heart of the overarching goal of energy conservation.*

*Carol's daughter and 18-month-old grandson live in her home. They froze last winter because of an old and non-functional furnace. Following weatherization services, this family is warm now. Carol is eager to see the reduction in bills this winter.*

*Michelle, a single mom, is a UWI home energy auditor graduate. Unable to find work due to inexperience, she was given an opportunity by current UWI auditor Robert to train with him. With experience under her belt she has a much better shot at employment as an auditor and a career in weatherization.*

**Grant Award Summaries**

**FY15-17 RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM GRANTEES**

**Grant Period - 12/1/14 through 11/30/16**

| <b>GRANTEE</b>                          | <b>AREA COVERED</b>  | <b>GRANT AMOUNT</b> |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Comprehensive Community Solutions       | Winnebago County   | \$1,000,000.00      |
| Diversified Alliances Inc.              | Riverdale, Robbins & South Suburbs   | \$1,000,000.00      |
| Energy Savers Remodelers                | Maywood, Bellwood, Broadview, & Stone Park   | \$1,000,000.00      |
| Latin United Community Housing          | West Town, & Little Village,   | \$1,000,000.00      |
| Proviso Leyden Council Community Action | Bellwood, Berkeley, Broadview, Hillside, Maywood, Melrose Park, North Riverside, Northlake, & Stone Park | \$1,000,000.00      |
| Quad County Urban League                | Aurora, Batavia, Elgin, Montgomery Village (Kane County), Bolingbrook Village, & Joliet                  | \$1,000,000.00      |
| Urban League of Metro. St. Louis        | East St. Louis & St. Clair County  | \$1,000,000.00      |
| W & M Insulation                        | Thornton Township, Blue Island, Calumet City   | \$1,000,000.00      |

**FY15-16 HOME ENERGY AUDITOR TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTEES**

**Grant Period - 12/1/14 – 11/30/15**

| <b>GRANTEE</b>                    | <b>AREA COVERED</b>   | <b>GRANT AMOUNT</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Albany Park                       | Albany Park, Lincoln Square, North Park, Irving Park  | \$250,000           |
| Asian Human Services              | Uptown, Rogers Park, Lakeview, Edgewater, Lincoln Park, West Ridge, Ravenswood              | \$250,000           |
| Black United Fund of Illinois     | South Shore, Chatham, East Garfield Park, Woodlawn, Hyde Park, South Chicago, Jeffery Manor | \$250,000           |
| Diversified Alliances Inc.        | South Suburbs, Harvey, Robbins, Phoenix, Ford Heights, Dalton                               | \$250,000           |
| Genesis Housing Development Corp. | Grand Crossing, Chatham, Grand Boulevard, Auburn-Gresham, Ashburn                           | \$250,000           |
| Gordie's Foundation               | Riverdale, Washington Heights,  | \$250,000           |

|  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
|  | Morgan Park, Hegewisch  |           |
| North Lawndale Network                       | North Lawndale, East and West Garfield Park, Austin               | \$250,000 |
| Proviso-Leyden Council Community Action      | Provision Township, Humboldt Park, South Lawndale, Pilsen         | \$250,000 |
| Quad County Urban League                     | Kane County, Will County  | \$250,000 |
| Reassemble Education & Training, Inc.        | Washington Park, Avalon Park, Pullman, Burnside                   | \$250,000 |
| REM Services                                 | Macon County  | \$250,000 |
| Resource Center for the Westside Communities | Avondale, Logan Square, Hermosa, Horner Park, Roscoe Village      | \$250,000 |
| Southwestern Illinois College                | Madison County and St. Clair County                               | \$250,000 |
| Tri-County Urban League                      | Peoria County   | \$250,000 |
| Utilivate                                    | Bronzeville, Englewood, West Englewood, Calumet Heights, Roseland | \$250,000 |
| XL Academics                                 | Winnebago County  | \$250,000 |

**FY15-16 WEATHERIZATION SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTEES**

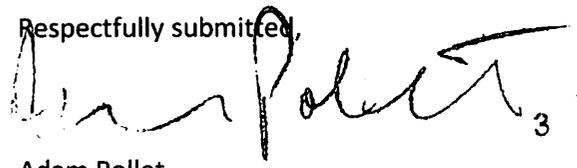
**Grant Period - 12/1/14 – 11/30/15**

| <b>GRANTEE</b>   | <b>AREA COVERED</b>  | <b>GRANT AMOUNT</b> |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Albany Park  | Lincoln Square, North Park, Irving Park  | \$250,000.00        |
| Aurora Quad County Urban League                          | Kane County and Will County  | \$250,000.00        |
| Black Star Project                                       | New City, West Woodlawn, Bronzeville, Douglas  | \$250,000.00        |
| Coalition for United Community Action                    | Jeffrey Manor, South Chicago, South Shore, East Garfield Park, Hyde Park   | \$250,000.00        |
| Emerson Park   | Alorton, Belleville, Brooklyn, Cahokia, Centreville, East St. Louis, Fairview Heights, Granite City, Madison, Venice and Washington Park | \$250,000.00        |
| FORUM  | Pullman, Auburn-Gresham, Avalon Park, Grand Crossing & Chatham   | \$250,000.00        |
| Illinois Youth Build                                     | Winnebago County, and Stephenson County  | \$250,000.00        |
| North Lawndale Network                                   | East and West Garfield Park, & Austin  | \$250,000.00        |
| Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. | Peoria, County   | \$250,000.00        |
| REM Services   | Macon County   | \$250,000.00        |
| Southwest Illinois College                               | St. Clair County & Madison   | \$250,000.00        |

|                                 | County  |              |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Urban League of Metro St. Louis | St. Clair County  | \$250,000.00 |
| Utilivate                       | Chatham, Englewood, West Englewood, Calumet Heights, Roseland | \$250,000.00 |
| Vision of Restoration           | Provision Township, Humboldt Park, South Lawndale, Pilsen     | \$250,000.00 |
| Youth Conservation Corps        | Waukegan, Park City, Zion, North Chicago, & Beach Park        | \$250,000.00 |

DCEO and the Office of Urban Assistance are committed to supporting the Urban Weatherization Initiative promoting continued development of Illinois' workforce while addressing the energy efficiency needs of our urban communities.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Pollet  
Director