



Illinois Department of Commerce

& Economic Opportunity

OFFICE OF URBAN ASSISTANCE

Bruce Rauner, Governor

December 31, 2015

Dear Governor and Members of the General Assembly:

The Urban Weatherization Initiative Act (UWI) (30 ILCS 738/Article 40) requires the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (Department) to administer a weatherization assistance program designed to promote the State's interest in reducing the impact of high energy costs on low-income households. The program seeks to increase employment and entrepreneurship opportunities through the installation and manufacturing of low-cost weatherization materials. In particular, the program is intended to weatherize homes in urban areas with high rates of unemployment, underemployment and poverty. For your review, below please find a 2015 program summary, list grants awarded, and recommendations for change to insure effectiveness of the program.

UWI is operated within the Department by the Office of Urban Assistance and overseen by the Weatherization Initiative Board.

Program Model

The UWI program is based on a two-pronged approach: 1) to increase employment opportunities among Illinois residents through training that leads to Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification, and 2) to provide residential weatherization services in urban areas. Training and weatherization services are administered through grants to organizations. All grants are awarded via a competitive selection process.

The training programs are designed to provide both classroom and hands-on training to participants within eligible communities. Upon completion of the training program, participants are expected to achieve BPI certification. BPI is a national standards development organization for residential energy efficiency and weatherization retrofit work.

Weatherization services are provided to owner-occupied, single family homes and multi-family (6 units or fewer). 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

In addition to the employment opportunities and weatherization services provided, the program stimulates local economies by utilizing local contractors, suppliers, distributors and/or manufacturers of equipment and supplies necessary for the weatherization work.

Challenges & Goals

2015 Challenges

- Program suspension amid the state budget impasse impacted grantees in a range of ways. Some had to discontinue operations and lay off staff, and once the suspension was lifted, they were unable to recover before the grants ended. Training and weatherization performance metrics suffered because of program suspension.
- Lack of board quorum delayed some key decisions early in the year. However, board appointments have been made and the board can now make a quorum.

2016 Recommendations

- Address prevailing wage restrictions by decoupling weatherization work from state public works requirements, which will make the program more efficient. This will require legislative action.
- Award a new round of residential weatherization grants, pending passage of a budget, appropriation for UWI and availability of bond proceeds.
- Expand the residential weatherization grants to all eligible communities which completed training programs in 2015, increasing the capacity for homes weatherized and program participants employed.
- Pursue legislative changes to increase the per-home spending limit (currently \$6,500) and to increase the size of eligible multi-family units.

Key Highlights & Success Stories

Maurice was underemployed working in the weatherization industry. He initially took the Home Energy Auditor class with Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action (PLCCA) in order to secure steady employment. After excelling in the class and becoming certified, he was hired by the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA) fulltime and became a certified Quality Assurance and Home Energy Auditor for them. Maurice went on to complete Weatherization Specialist Training Program with the Coalition for Community Action-ORTC, Inc. and passed the BPI Residential Building Envelope Whole House Air Leakage Control Installer Exam. Because of all his BPI training, Maurice will be promoted to head supervisor on January 1, 2016.

Isaiah Young finished the weatherization training course with PLCCA. His training and certification helped him land him a fulltime position at PLCCA working as a weatherization specialist for the residential weatherization program. His work ethic and commitment to continual improvement have allowed him to lead projects.

Milton was a homeless, unemployed veteran who relocated from California to Aurora to be closer to his daughter. He came to the Quad County Urban League hoping to find a construction training program that would be the beginning of a new career and new path to self-sufficiency. He successfully completed an 11-week construction and utility training program in May 2015 and was recruited for the

Quad County Urban League's UWI Weatherization Specialist training program. Milton enrolled in and passed the training program and is pursuing certification.

Grant Award Summaries

FY15-17 RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM GRANTEES

Grant Period: 12/1/14 – 11/30/16

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

FY15-16 HOME ENERGY AUDITOR TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTEES

Grant Period: 12/1/14 – 11/30/15

GRANTEE	AREA COVERED	GRANT AMOUNT
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, Morgan Park, Hegewisch	\$250,000
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

GRANTEE	AREA COVERED	GRANT AMOUNT
Albany Park	Lincoln Square, North Park, Irving Park	\$250,000
Aurora Quad County Urban League	Kane County and Will County	\$250,000
Black Star Project	New City, West Woodlawn, Bronzeville, Douglas	\$250,000
Coalition for United Community Action	Jeffrey Manor, South Chicago, South Shore, East Garfield Park, Hyde Park	\$250,000
Emerson Park	Alorton, Belleville, Brooklyn, Cahokia, Centreville, East St. Louis, Fairview Heights, Granite City, Madison, Venice and Washington Park	\$250,000
FORUM	Pullman, Auburn-Gresham, Avalon Park, Grand Crossing, Chatham	\$250,000
Illinois Youth Build	Winnebago County, and Stephenson County	\$250,000
North Lawndale Network	East and West Garfield Park, & Austin	\$250,000
Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.	Peoria, County	\$250,000
REM Services	Macon County	\$250,000
Southwest Illinois College	St. Clair County & Madison County	\$250,000
Urban League of Metro St. Louis	St. Clair County	\$250,000
Utilivate	Chatham, Englewood, West	\$250,000

	Englewood, Calumet Heights, Roseland	
Vision of Restoration	Provision Township, Humboldt Park, South Lawndale, Pilsen	\$250,000
Youth Conservation Corps	Waukegan, Park City, Zion, North Chicago, & Beach Park	\$250,000

The Department and the Office of Urban Assistance are committed to supporting the Urban Weatherization Initiative and promoting the energy efficiency needs of our urban communities.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Schultz
Director