

DUBUQUE WEATHERIZATION CHALLENGE

What is the Dubuque
Weatherization Challenge?

Dubuque Weatherization Challenge is a one-day blitz to perform energy saving measures on over 100 homes of the elderly, disabled and low-income neighbors across the Dubuque community. Energy saving measures can be as simple as caulking, weather-stripping window plastic, door sweeps and other insulating techniques. The project aims to “keep the weather outside” for the targeted homes, reduce their home energy consumption, saving them money on their winter heating bills and provide educational materials on how to lower their home energy costs.



All targeted homes will be selected in advance by Operation: New View Community Action Agency or local churches. The agency will conduct a weatherization assessment of each home in advance to determine what measures are needed and to develop a list of needed supplies and materials.

Each team will consist of six volunteers who will weatherize two homes that day. All volunteers will meet at 8 am. At Westminster Presbyterian Church for breakfast and training before heading out to their assigned home(s). They will report back to Westminster Presbyterian Church after their homes have been completed.

Get Involved

We are looking for individuals and organizations to get involved in several ways! To volunteer your team, log onto DubuqueWeatherizationChallenge.com or contact Tom Stovall at Operation: New View Community Action Agency at 563/556-5130 extension 32.

Supplies and Materials

In-kind donations of weatherization supplies and materials are also needed and appreciated. For more information, call Tom Stovall at Operation: New View CAA at 563/556/-5130 x32.

The Dubuque Weatherization Challenge 2009 is a community partnership sponsored by Alliant Energy, Black Hills Energy, City of Dubuque, Diamond Jo Casino, Dubuque Area Congregations United, Iowa Utilities Board, Operation: New View Community Action Agency, Rentech Energy Midwest, Telegraph Herald, and Theisen’s Home Farm Auto.

**Operation: New View
Community Action
Agency**

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WEATHERIZATION



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PURPOSE

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a federal grant program established to help reduce the heating and cooling costs for low-income persons, particularly the elderly, disabled, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. The Weatherization Assistance Program has developed from a program that stressed low cost, temporary measures installed by volunteers, to a program that uses trained crews and contractors to install permanent cost effective measures that address both the building shell and the heating and cooling systems in the dwelling.



The installation of energy efficiency measures for each dwelling is based on a computerized energy audit which determines the cost effectiveness of each measure. Energy efficiency measures include high density wall and attic insulation and blower door—guided infiltration reduction. Because the weatherization procedures result in “tightening” homes, indoor air quality and other client health and safety measures include safety checks of all combustion appliances.

Beside the obvious benefit of conserving energy, the Iowa WAP also provides other benefits to Iowa and its residents. The program results in millions of dollars of additional value added to the Iowa economy. The program also mitigates certain health and safety problems in the clients homes, maintains affordable housing for low-income persons, reduces utility averages, and reduces environmental pollution.

The Weatherization Assistance Program enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. During the last 32 years, the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program has provided weatherization services to more than 6.2 million low-income families.

By reducing the energy bills of low-income families instead of offering aid, weatherization reduces dependency and liberates these funds for spending on more pressing family issues. On average, weatherization reduces heat-

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The total household income may not be more than 50 percent above the national poverty level. Preference is given to owner-occupied homes, elderly (60 years-plus) or physically disabled residents, families with children under 12 and households with a high energy burden (repeated high utility bills).

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Iowa, your household’s annual income before taxes must not exceed:

<u># of Individuals</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>
1	\$16,245
2	\$21,855
3	\$27,465
4	\$33,075
5	\$38,685
6	\$44,295
7	\$49,905
8	\$55,515

For larger households, add \$5,610 for each additional person in the home.



TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

- Adding insulation to the attic, walls and/or floors. If insulation is added, holes may be drilled in the siding and vents may be added to the roof. These measures will reduce the amount of heat being lost through the walls, ceiling and floors.
- The combustion appliances (heating systems, water heaters, stoves) will be safety-checked to ensure that they are not putting off too much carbon monoxide. If they are, depending upon your cir-

cumstance, the program may replace your appliance. This will ensure that health and safety problems are not created by tightening up your house.

- Your heating system may be cleaned and tuned, repaired, retrofitted, and in some cases, replaced.
- Energy efficient lighting will be installed.

Once your home has been weatherized, an agency inspector will visit your home and verify that the work was done completely and professionally. In addition, the inspector will answer any questions that you may have as well as instruct you on energy-saving measures you can take to make your home even more energy-efficient.

WEATHERIZATION TIPS

- Lower the thermostat 2 degrees or more in the winter.
- Change your furnace filter monthly during the heating season. If you have central air conditioning change the filter in the summer, too.
- Keep obstructions away from the hot and cold air registers.
- Lower the water heater temperature.
- Replace light bulbs with high efficient fluorescent light bulbs.
- Unplug secondary refrigerators and/or freezers not fully used.
- Wash and dry full loads of laundry. Hang clothes out to dry when possible.
- Clean dryer lint filter after each load.
- Turn lights off when leaving a room.

*OPERATION: NEW VIEW
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY*

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