



Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation Weatherization Program

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OACAC AWARDED \$2,275,144 FROM ENERGIZE MISSOURI HOUSING INITIATIVE

The Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation's (OACAC) Weatherization Program serves low-income families in a 10-county area in southwest Missouri. The OACAC Weatherization Program will partner with the City of Springfield, area utility companies (Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc, Empire Electric Company, and Missouri Gas Energy), and Hamilton Properties to leverage additional funds to make the homes and/or apartments of income eligible clients more energy efficient which would result in a much needed increase of discretionary funds to use for other basic needs. Another goal would be to stop some of the deterioration of the homes by making emergency repairs and repairing/replacing heating sources. These partnerships would deliver energy-efficiency improvements to **646** households, create approximately **14** new jobs, improve housing quality for clients and improve clients' self-sustainability. The grant funding of **\$2,275,144** will begin July 1, 2010.

Many families with low income do not always have the means, and in some cases the ability, to make minor repairs on their homes, install energy conservation measures, clean and tune their heating sources, and test for dangerous gases. A reduction in energy consumption would be realized immediately and since energy conservation measures are lasting the homeowner will benefit for many years to come. In addition, these partnerships would stop some of the deterioration of the home and overcome some of the deficiencies by making minor repairs and installing energy conservation materials.

Partnership with City of Springfield

The City of Springfield will use rehabilitation money in two targeted neighborhoods to address major items that are not part of the Weatherization Program such as roof repair and replacement, wiring repair and replacement, window and door replacement and other exterior improvements. This partnership will include homes that OACAC Weatherization currently has to defer based on the issues explained above. After the city makes the appropriate repairs, OACAC Weatherization would do normal weatherization procedures to the home and replace all current gas furnaces that are not a 90% plus furnace with a 90% plus furnace. We anticipate weatherizing 40 homes.

The City of Springfield will also use their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to perform weatherization measures to 33 homes in the CDBG targeted area. OACAC Weatherization will then do our normal weatherization package to the home.

Partnerships with Associated Electric Cooperative, Empire Electric Company, and Missouri Gas Energy

The second area of need to be addressed by this proposal would be to reach dispersed, rural client populations by partnering with Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc (AECI), Empire Electric Company, and Missouri Gas Energy (MGE). AECI will contribute up to \$300 per home for measures on cost effective items for OACAC weatherization clients that are one of their members. Empire Electric and MGE will each contribute \$1,500 per home for OACAC to provide normal weatherization measures. Partnerships with Empire Electric and MGE have been in effect since 2006. AECI, Empire Electric, and MGE will contribute \$326,706 to weatherize 378 homes.

Partnership with Hamilton Properties

The third area of need to be addressed will be to improve the energy efficiency of multi-family homes. Through a new partnership with Hamilton Properties, OACAC will perform weatherization on 195 units.

Funds are made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Energize Missouri Housing Initiative and are administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Energy Center (MDNR/EC).

OACAC'S MISSION AND GOALS

In November, 1965, the Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC) was organized as a non-profit agency designed to work toward alleviating the causes and conditions of poverty in Southwest Missouri. Today, OACAC serves the low-income population in ten counties: Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster. OACAC is funded in part by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Throughout the years, programs have been implemented to focus on new issues, modified to meet the changing needs of the community and have been spun off to other agencies to meet the challenges in the Ozark area more effectively and efficiently. The agency has grown from a budget of \$2 million in 1965 to a budget of over \$30 million in 2010. OACAC continues to research needs of the low income population in the ten county area and operates programs to meet those needs.

Our Mission

To enrich the lives of families and individuals within our communities by providing opportunities, offering assistance and empowering people to make positive change.

OACAC Programs

Family Planning - offering reproductive health care for women including yearly exams, health screenings, birth control and STD screening and treatment on a sliding scale fee. 417-864-3410

Foster Grandparents - a volunteer program for low income senior citizens, who are 55 years of age or older, which provides an hourly stipend to seniors for time spent volunteering with at-risk children in the community. Volunteers work with students at local non-profit agencies and schools. 417-864-3420

Head Start - a pre-school experience for children, aged four to five, from income eligible families. Children are taught to have positive attitudes about themselves and their learning and children also receive dental and health screenings. Full and part-time services may be available. Expanded services include child-care for children birth to three and services for pregnant women. 417-864-3430

Housing Assistance - subsidizes rent for income-eligible households making it possible for them to live in a home which is decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable. Available in the ten counties OACAC serves, except within the Springfield city limits. 417-864-3444

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) - offers two programs; Energy Assistance provides a one-time payment for assistance with winter heating costs for income eligible households. Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) provides relief for eligible households to alleviate an energy-related crisis during the winter and summer months. Energy Assistance- 417-864-3460; ECIP- 417-864-3460

Neighborhood Centers— located in each of the ten counties OACAC serves. OACAC Neighborhood Centers are “the point of entry” for those in need of services. After making an appointment at one of our Centers, a Family Resource Specialist will meet with you and discuss your situation and refer you to the OACAC community programs that can help. Assistance is available for emergency and non-emergency needs. Income-eligibility and conditions apply.

Neighborhood Centers Administration Office: 417-865-7690, Greene County Center 417-447-0554

Weatherization - provides free service to income eligible homeowners or renters to make their home more energy efficient. 417-865-7797

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