

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Leads to Free Weatherization for Riverside

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In February of 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 with the goals of increasing economic activity, creating new job opportunities, and developing greater levels of accountability and transparency in government spending. As a result, ARRA has helped to stimulate growth within the U.S. and has helped to improve the lives of many Americans, including citizens within Riverside County.

On Wednesday, May 19th, the Community Action Partnership of Riverside County (CAP Riverside) conducted weatherization demonstrations for two residential properties along Hillside Avenue. Under the Recovery Act, CAP Riverside has received funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), which weatherizes the homes of qualified Riverside residents at no charge.

Low-income families can apply for and qualify to weatherize their home or apartment through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which aims to make residences more energy efficient to permanently reduce energy bills. Under LIHEAP, each residence can use up to \$6500 to cover the total expenses for weatherization. WAP primarily focuses to improve the houses of families in need, using the latest technologies in the housing industry. From installing brand-new air conditioning units and energy-efficient refrigerators, to caulking broken glass and filling air leak holes, CAP Riverside fixes, replaces, and installs it all.

"We first go through an assessment of a house to see what's wrong," said Godwin Aimua, Energy Program Manager at CAP Riverside. "Then we decide what needs to be done." CAP weatherizes an average of 2.5 houses a day, depending on the specific needs of each residence.



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"We also educate people on how to save money and personal finances in addition to energy saving tips and weatherization," said Aimua. CAP Riverside also offers private consultations for interested WAP candidates and its other programs in permanent and mobile offices.

To apply for weatherization or for further information about ARRA's Weatherization Assistance Program, visit <http://www.capriverside.org/opencms/index.html> or call (951) 955-4900. The Recovery Act will fund the LIHEAP until 2012.



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