

News Article  
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Dale Shuster 414-906-2702



## **Stimulus Dollars to Fund Local Weatherization**

The number of Wisconsin homes receiving weatherization services through a state program including those in the Milwaukee area will double, thanks to \$197-million in federal stimulus funding.

Governor Jim Doyle and Federal Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced the expansion of local weatherization efforts in front of a Southside Milwaukee home. The increase in funding is part of the recently approved Federal Stimulus package.

The home belongs to Barbara Ostovich who will save an estimated \$1,700 a year in energy bills because of the weatherization work done there. Governor Doyle and Secretary Chu along with other officials toured the home to view the energy saving work performed.

The house is one of hundreds of homes where the Weatherization Program of the Social Development Commission (SDC) is working. SDC and La Casa de Esperanza perform weatherization work in Milwaukee County. Both agencies predict they will be able to double the number of homes weatherized because of the funding increase that the state will funnel into Milwaukee County from the federal government. Statewide, Governor Doyle predicted that next year, 16,500 homes will be weatherized, compared to the 8,250 being done this winter.

Not only will an increased number of homes be made more energy efficient, the funding will also allow for more local workers to be trained to handle the increase demand for qualified weatherization workers. Vincent Montgomery of SDC's Weatherization Program said SDC will begin providing training for laid off and unemployed workers in the coming months to do the weatherization work.

Eligible Weatherization households are selected by the State of Wisconsin from the rolls of Energy Assistance Program clients by selecting the participating households with the highest energy usage. The

Weatherization work is designed to greatly reduce energy consumption in those homes and thus cut down on the need for future Energy Assistance.

For more information on the SDC Weatherization and Energy Assistance Programs, visit the SDC website at [www.cr-sdc.org](http://www.cr-sdc.org) and click on the “Our Programs” tab.

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