



New York State Community Action Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stimulus Works Weatherizing Homes and Training New Yorkers for Green Jobs

Syracuse, NY April 7, 2010 –Congressman Dan Maffei of the 25th District of New York, along with influential leaders in Weatherization and Community Action from across the State and country, gathered at the New York State Weatherization Directors Association's (NYSWDA) Training Center during the ***Stimulus at Work: Spotlight on Weatherization and Green Jobs*** event. This event promoted the success of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which delivered \$5 billion to the Weatherization Assistance Program in order to help get America on the right track and assist those who are most affected by rising prices and diminishing salaries.

The event highlighted how the Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families who are most affected by the recession live in more secure, more comfortable, and less energy-intensive homes, which helps reduce monthly household expenses and frees up money for other essentials such as food or medicine.

“All too frequently, families eligible for this service feel hopeless and find it unbelievable that they have been fortunate enough to receive this significant benefit,” said Amy Turner, Executive Director for the Mohawk Valley Community Action Association and Board President for the New York State Community Action Association.

“The stimulus has provided the Weatherization Assistance Program network with a platform to truly show what this program can do,” said Denise Harlow, CEO of the New York State Community Action Association. “In New York State, subgrantees to the Weatherization Assistance Program are operating at a high level of success. For example, Community Action Agencies such as Action for a Better Community in Rochester are at 38% of their total contract production goal after just one quarter of work. Here in Syracuse, PEACE is at an impressive 58%.”

To further promote ARRA and the Weatherization Assistance Program, this event showcased NYSWDA's week-long Weatherization Boot Camp with personal stories of recovery and live Weatherization demonstrations provided by Boot Camp trainees, ranging from air-sealing and insulating techniques to blower door set-up and use. This Boot Camp training is offered to individuals across New York State and provides hands-on-training in the latest in Weatherization. These skills will provide for a skilled workforce entering the green building industry.

“We are teaching skills for jobs that will have sustaining power beyond the stimulus,” said Andy Stone, Executive Director for NYSWDA. “The Weatherization Boot Camp trains people on the latest technologies, preparing for a skilled workforce entering the green building industry, which will help reduce national energy consumption and curb the reliance on foreign oil.”

“Weatherization works, especially here in New York,” said Turner. Trainees are receiving cutting edge skills and knowledge that will make them marketable in this rapidly growing arena of energy conservation. ARRA has given us the ability to offer this opportunity to more low-income unemployed individuals.”

About NYSCAA:

The New York State Community Action Association is the state association representing New York’s 52 Community Action Agencies. For more than 40 years, Community Action Agencies have been the proven local, grassroots, federally-designated network of anti-poverty agencies in New York State. With a statewide network that can reach every New Yorker, Community Action Agencies form a service delivery system that connects individuals and families to the services they need in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

About NYSWDA:

NYSWDA, celebrating their 25th anniversary, provides a collective voice and influences public policy for directors of the Weatherization Assistance Program across the State. This developed into a uniquely collegial relationship with the State and federal administrators and helped shape the New York State program into one of the best in the nation.

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