



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contacts: Don Mathis: 202-449-9774
410-322-0510
Rob Doherty: 301-656-0348
202-277-5503

**COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY LEADERS FROM ACROSS AMERICA
TO VISIT STATE-OF-THE-ART WEATHERIZATION TRAINING CENTER**

Leaders to View Training Demonstration at Louisiana Facility
As Recovery Funds Kick In to Expand Weatherization of Homes in Low-Income Areas,
Create Green Jobs in 2010

What: Seventy leaders of Community Action Agencies from 28 states set to visit the Louisiana Association of Community Action Partnerships new state-of-the-art training facility to see a demonstration of the latest in weatherization technology and techniques. The visit comes as funding included in the economic recovery bill kicks into gear to expand the number of homes weatherized in low-income neighborhoods and to create green jobs in 2010.

When: Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1-3 p.m. CST

Where: LACAP, Inc.'s Weatherization Training Center
11637 Industriplex Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Editors' note: *To interview the participating leaders, please call Don Mathis or Rob Doherty at the numbers above.*

BATON ROUGE, La. - Community Action Agency leaders from across the country will get a demonstration of the latest in weatherization technology and techniques on Tuesday, Jan. 12, as their organizations prepare to fulfill their role in the major expansion of the federal program to retrofit the homes of low-income families to make them more energy efficient.

The leaders, whose agencies administer Weatherization Assistance Program funding, will visit the Louisiana Association of Community Action Partnerships new state-of-the-art weatherization training center for the demonstration and then take that knowledge back home with them to help in meeting President Obama's goal of weatherizing a million more houses.

The event will include a news conference that will provide those involved in weatherization the opportunity to discuss their efforts. Among those expected to take part are workers who have recently been trained to weatherize homes, a homeowner whose house has been weatherized, and state and local officials.

Since it was created in 1976, the Weatherization Assistance Program has provided services to more than 6.2 million low-income families. The \$5 billion included for the program in the economic recovery legislation last year is intended to take the program to a whole new level -- meaning more green jobs, lower utility bills for poor families and more energy-efficient homes in 2010.

"The Weatherization Assistance Program is important on so many levels, including the creation of new green jobs," says Donald Mathis, president and CEO of Community Action Partnership, which represents more than 1,100 Community Action Agencies working to fight poverty at the local level. "Community Action Agencies have been involved with the program for more than 30 years, and we know it works well and is cost effective.

"We are ready, willing and able to do our part to meet the president's goal."

The federal government estimates that for every dollar invested, weatherization returns \$1.65 in energy-related benefits and \$1.07 in other benefits such as reducing pollution, unemployment and adverse health concerns.

Low-income families save \$350 or more a year on their energy bills after their homes have been weatherized, according to the Department of Energy.

LACAP, Inc.'s Weatherization Training Center, which opened in Baton Rouge last September, utilizes the country's only "pressure house," "Smartboard" technology, "diagnostic cabins," an "insulation house," and a "lead safety house" to provide hands-on instruction to employees of community action agencies from across Louisiana as well as contractors and agencies from surrounding states.

"We believe our facility can help make the state of Louisiana and the region more knowledgeable about energy efficiency and more skilled in weatherizing homes," says Jane Killen, LACAP's executive director. "We are excited to share what we are doing here with our Community Action colleagues from around the country as we all work to weatherize more homes this year."

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The Community Action Partnership is the nonprofit, national membership organization representing the interests of the 1,100 Community Action Agencies across the country that annually help 15 million low-income Americans achieve economic security. For more information, go to <http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/>

The Louisiana Association of Community Action Partnerships, Inc. is dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. For more information, go to <http://www.lacapinc.org/>