Weatherization Assistance: The Energy/Housing Nexus

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Low Income Forum for Energy
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Energy Cost is a Housing Issue, and Housing Conditions are an Energy Issue

• NYS Housing Conditions - most severe in US?
  – 40% of renters cost-burdened (>30% income for housing)
  – 70% of low-income households have cost-burden or housing condition problems

• Often, energy costs are the difference
  – Weatherization can reduce cost-burden by up to 10%

• About 60% of housing >55 years old
  – Older units: more health, safety, energy deficiencies
  – e.g., higher incidence of lead hazards, unsafe heating
  – Housing conditions make efficiency harder to achieve
Weatherization Funding

• Federal funding threatened (US DOE, HHS)
  – NYS leading national efforts to restore DOE Wx funding and support use of HEAP for efficiency
  – FFY 2015 outlook uncertain

• Need to get the word out on benefits of Wx
  • Quality work
  • Effective at reducing costs
  • Preserves affordable housing
  • Health & safety and other non-energy benefits
IN 2009, NYS received $395M in ARRA Funds
Weatherization Assists Thousands of Low-Income Household Every Year

- PY 13 - $53 million invested, 8,200 units so far
- PY 14 - $48.9 million, will assist 7,500 units
- Program supports hundreds of jobs
- Each year’s funding saves the equivalent of 40,000 barrels of oil annually
- Subgrantees prioritize HEAP clients, elderly, disabled, families with children
- About 60% of assistance to rental units
- Helps preserve affordable housing
Weatherization Initiatives

• Quality management initiative
• Automating field operations/monitoring
• Coordination with NYSENERDA and PSC:
  – Renewables, especially in multifamily
  – Gas conversion (National Grid pilot)
• Healthy homes
• Keeping focus on whole-house approach
• Supporting the assisted housing stock
• All while maintaining production levels
Getting the Weatherization Message Out

- Program uniquely designed to address needs of low-income households, older homes
- Weatherization provides quality work, it’s effective, & it moves families out of poverty
- Health & safety and other non-energy benefits
- Work is done in every county across the State
- HCR has new resources for client education
- Take advantage of State and national partners
Resources

• www.nyshcr.org – see “Programs,” “DHCR-Managed Programs,” “Weatherization”

• www.waptac.org

• Webinar for Weatherization agencies May 30

• HCR NY Region Safe and Healthy Homes training June 3
For more information, contact HCR regional offices – call (518) 474-5700, (212) 480-6700 or see list on web site www.nyshcr.org