Weatherization Assistance Program Update

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LIFE Regional Meetings
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What is Weatherization?

- Intended to increase energy efficiency, reduce costs, improve health/safety
- Funded by US Department of Energy; follows DOE rules
- NYS receives about 8% of national funding
- Program administered in NYS by HCR Office of Housing Preservation, through local agencies
- Funding blended with LIHEAP
What Has Wx Done?

- Assisted more than 650,000 units
- Preserved affordable rental housing
WHAT HAS WX DONE?

- Created thousands of jobs
- Increased quality and standards
- Improved oldest housing stock in US
Offset New York State’s high energy costs – 2nd–highest in US

Installed renewables and other innovative measures
What Has Wx Done?

- Trained thousands of workers
- Built capacity of subgrantee network
- Set technical foundation for all other energy programs – it all began here
Air Sealing

Air seal roof by-pass
Insulation
Boiler Replacement
Electric Reduction Measures
Health & Safety

Figure 1: Mold growing in closet as a result of condensation from room air.
What We Plan to Do Next

- 2013 funding decreasing to $45 million
- 5,000 fewer households will be served
- Increased leveraging and coordination
- Improved quality, but more deferred units that have health or safety issues
- Review program policies, consider changes
Weatherization Funding, 2008–13


$60,000  |  $40,000  |  $40,000  |  $40,000  |  $40,000  |  $20,000

$0  |  $20,000  |  $20,000  |  $20,000  |  $20,000  |  $0

HEAP  |  DOE

19
What We Hope To Do

- HCR participating in national efforts to reposition the program
- New York represented on DOE’s State Energy Advisory Board
- Wx Plus effort seeks to improve Wx image through: communication, leveraging, higher work quality, new markets
- Healthy Homes coordination may lead to additional opportunities, better service
Healthy Homes

- Low-income families typically reside in the oldest, least healthy housing
- Lead paint, mold, dust, radon, carbon monoxide create serious health risks
- In many instances trained, certified Wx staff can identify or eliminate hazards
- But many housing units can’t be assisted without other resources
Healthy Homes

- Lead paint is the most common health hazard we see
- WAP staff work lead-safe to minimize risks during the course of regular WAP work
- Subgrantees frequently refer households to other rehabilitation programs
- Reduced funding overall = more deferred work
Asthma, Mold and Moisture

- Mold and moisture can worsen asthma and lead to other health problems
- Some problems can be minimized or eliminated by Weatherization work
- In other cases, work must be deferred until the condition has been corrected
CO and other common pollutants can cause illness or even death

Wx staff test for CO and can correct problems while installing Wx measures

When problems are too extensive, subgrantee must defer work
Healthy Homes – Next Steps

- With diminishing resources, coordination with other programs is critical
- HCR staff will assist with collaboration
- HCR will continue to provide training and other support
Weatherization Works!

Contact us at: weatherization@nyshcr.org

Also visit: www.waptac.org