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State nets \$2 million extra for weatherization

Submitted by johnmurawski on 08/26/2010 - 16:13

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North Carolina will be able to weatherize about 800 homes more than previously expected with a \$2 million infusion from the federal stimulus fund.

The \$2 million announced today will add to the \$132 million previously allotted for the state's weatherization program.

The weatherization aspect of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, open to low-income households, is part of the Obama administration's strategy to improve the nation's energy efficiency. Weatherization typically involves free insulation, duct-sealing and other measures that cut energy waste and can slash utility bills for homeowners.

The federal program is limited to people on public welfare or those whose incomes fall below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, which would be \$44,100 a year for a family of four and \$21,660 for a single-person household.

North Carolina's weatherization program has set the average spending limit per home at \$6,000, an amount that can include air conditioner repairs or replacements.

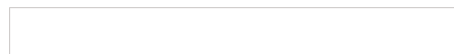
The state had originally planned to weatherize 22,000 homes but lowered the estimate to 14,000 to 16,000 this year. With the extra money, the state should be able to weatherize an extra 800 homes by the time the program expires in March 2012.

More than 4,000 have been weatherized so far.

The program is administered by the N.C. Energy Office but the work is overseen by 30 social-service agencies throughout the state.

The weatherization program for the 800 extra homes will be developed by the UNC Charlotte, which is receiving the stimulus grant.

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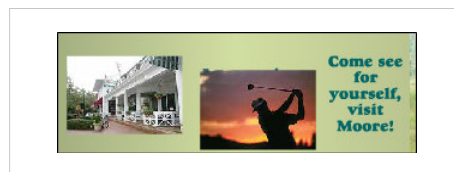
About the blogger



John Murawski has been a full-time newspaper reporter since 1991, with stints at Legal Times and The Chronicle of Philanthropy (both in Washington, DC), The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Palm Beach Post (in South Florida) before arriving at the N&O in December 2004. At the N&O he covers energy (nuclear, coal, renewable, efficiency), utilities (electric, natural gas, telephone) and telecommunications. His beat includes such publicly traded companies as Progress Energy, Duke Energy, PSNC Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, PowerSecure International, Tekelec, Cisco Systems, AT&T, among others. You can reach him at 919-829-8932 or e-mail him.

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