



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Home Weatherization Assistance Program
Good for the Economy and the Environment**

Lebanon, OH July 6, 2009 – Thanks to recent stimulus funding through the federal government’s American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), Warren County Community Services, Inc. (WCCS) and its Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) will be stimulating the economy and reducing energy waste – one household at a time. HWAP is a no-cost energy assistance program designed to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly the elderly, people with disabilities, and people with children.

As a result of the funding provided by ARRA, eligibility for HWAP has been expanded to include consumers whose income is within 200% of the Federal Poverty guideline.

For example, a household of 4 with an income of \$44,100 would now qualify for the program. In addition to the drastic increase in the number of homes that can qualify to be weatherized, services offered have increased up to \$6,500 per eligible household.

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What this means for the economy:

- Jobs are created when agencies hire weatherization workers and contract with other businesses.
- The equipment and supplies purchased by weatherization programs – including vehicles, water heaters and furnaces, insulation supplies and other equipment – secure the jobs of the employees who manufacture and sell those items.
- Demand increases for skilled workers who may be out of work due to the changing labor market.

What this means for the individual household:

- A weatherized home reduces utility use by up to 30%, saving the average homeowner over \$400 per year and reducing the strain on taxpayer funded heating assistance programs.
- Increased energy efficiency equals reduced fossil fuel consumption and emissions meaning a smaller footprint on the environment.
- Weatherization can increase the comfort of a home by creating more consistent temperatures throughout the home.

“ARRA has created the potential to make a huge impact in the Warren County community.

WCCS will weatherize 200-300 homes in Warren County during the program period from now until March 31, 2011,” stated Larry Sargeant, Executive Director.

Serving Warren County since 1966, WCCS provides a wide range of programs that make a positive difference in the community. For an application or further information about this program or others, please call (513) 695-2100 or visit www.wccsi.org.

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