



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

Pat Quinn, Governor

December 31, 2013

Dear Governor and Members of the General Assembly:

The Urban Weatherization Initiative (UWI) Act (30 ILCS 738/Article 40) requires the Department to administer a weatherization assistance program designed to increase employment opportunities and provide energy assistance to low income households by decreasing their energy use through weatherization improvements.

UWI initially targeted five eligible communities during FY10: Cook County, East St. Louis, Kankakee, Peoria, and Rockford. Subsequently, UWI was expanded to include the counties of Alexander, Boone, Bureau, Clark, Franklin, Grundy, Kane, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Macon, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Peoria, Putnam, Rock Island, Stephenson, Union, Will and Winnebago.

Recently, the UWI Board decided to refocus the program on urban communities whose unemployment rate exceeded 10%, according to Illinois Department of Employment Security's April 25, 2013 documents. These communities are Alton, Cahokia, Cairo, Calumet, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Dolton Village, East St. Louis (including Washington Park / Brooklyn / Alorton / Centreville), Ford Heights, Harvey, Kankakee, Lansing Village, Madison, Maywood Village, Park Forest Village, Peoria, Rockford, South Holland Village, Waukegan, and Zion. Detailed below is an overview of UWI and a summary of the FY13 program accomplishments, challenges, and a plan of action for FY14 and beyond.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office (DCEO) of Urban Assistance, in conjunction with the Urban Weatherization Initiative Board of Directors, is responsible for administering and implementing the UWI program. UWI's purpose is to: 1) create green jobs, 2) increase skills for the under-/unemployed, and 3) decrease energy use and costs, through energy efficiency, for residents in low income areas.

The UWI Board of Directors, working with DCEO staff, has dedicated its time and expertise to ensure that the program is running effectively and in a transparent manner. Currently, the Board has one open voting position and two open ex-officio positions. Current UWI Board members are:

VOTING MEMBERS

Percy Harris, Chairman
Deborah Harrington
Melissa Williams
Beth Delgado

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Senator Donne Trotter
Representative Ken Dunkin

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PROGRAM MODEL

The employment component of UWI is built on a two-pronged approach which a) provides skills training to Illinois residents through grants to community based-organizations to fund training courses, and b) provides employment opportunities via the Residential Weatherization Program (RWP).

UWI training grants offer opportunities for individuals wishing to become Home Energy Auditors and Weatherization Specialists. Eligible grant applicants include private, non-profit, and public entities that are able to provide weatherization training or services in collaboration with local community-based organizations. All grants have been awarded via a competitive selection process and received up to \$500,000 per fiscal year.

The training programs are designed to offer classroom and hands-on training to participants within the eligible communities on either a full or part-time basis. This provides an opportunity for local community organizations to conduct market-relevant training and education while creating a strategic path to employment and career advancement opportunities. Upon completion of the training program, participants are expected to obtain Building Performance Institute Certification. Certified participants are then eligible to be hired through RWP.

In addition to the employment component, UWI also delivers much needed weatherization services to low income residents. Targeted buildings to be weatherized include single family homes and multi-family dwellings, up to six units, in a census tract with high rates of unemployment, underemployment, and poverty.

Weatherization activities include:

- Repair/replacement of inefficient heating or cooling units
- Addressing air infiltration issues (i.e. weather stripping, caulking, window/door replacement)
- Repair/replacement of water heaters
- Pipe duct installation/insulation
- Minor roof repair.

Finally, an active UWI program can stimulate local economies by utilizing local contractors, suppliers, distributors, and/or manufacturers of equipment and supplies.

HISTORY

- The UWI Program was initially created in 2009. Early on, the program was challenged with limited staff resources, inadequate funding to award the first round of grants, lack of program guidelines, operating procedures and administrative rules to guide the fundamental implementation of the program. In addition, the UWI program dealt with Board continuity and high turnover.
- In June 2011, the UWI Board awarded the first round of Home Energy Auditor Grants. In July 2011, the UWI Board reviewed the first round of Weatherization Specialist Training Grant applications, which were executed in December 2011.

- In April 2012, DCEO hired a program manager and two grant managers for UWI. The new team focused on monitoring the existing grants and verifying all processes were being implemented correctly.
- In May 2012, the UWI team began working with the University of Illinois to develop a standardized curriculum for the next round of training programs. In addition, they also developed a quality assurance process to ensure that the weatherization work completed on the homes met current field standards.
- In June 2012, UWI released a Request for Application for RWP in the five service areas that included Cook, Kankakee, East St. Louis, Peoria and Rockford.
- Both training grant applications were released in October 2012.

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- RWP grants awarded in December 2012 were funded fully in March 2013, and the RWP grants were executed in June 2013.
- During March 2013, the RWP procedure manual was completed.
- In April 2013, UWI gained two additional staff for the Chicago area, and in June 2013 UWI gained an additional staff member to cover the downstate area.
- Training grants were initiated on June 1, 2013, and welcome meetings were held on July 1, 2013, for all programs.

2013 UWI GRANTEES

RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM GRANTEES

Grant Period: 5/1/13 through 4/30/14

GRANTEE	AREA COVERED	GRANT AMOUNT
Black Star Project	Chicago, IL	\$500,000.00
City of Harvey	Harvey and Markham, IL	\$500,000.00
Comprehensive Community Solutions	Rockford, IL	\$500,000.00
Genesis Housing Development Corp.	Chicago, IL	\$500,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	Chicago Heights, IL	\$500,000.00
Kankakee Community Services	Kankakee, IL	\$500,000.00
Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.	Peoria, IL	\$500,000.00
Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis	East St. Louis	\$500,000.00
Westside Health Authority	Chicago, IL	\$500,000.00
W & M Insulation Services	Thornton Township	\$500,000.00

HOME ENERGY AUDITOR TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTEES**Grant Period: 6/1/13 through 5/31/14**

GRANTEE	AREA COVERED	GRANT AMOUNT
Albany Park	Cook County	\$500,000.00
Black United Fund of Illinois	Cook County	\$500,000.00
North Branch Works	Cook County	\$500,000.00
North Lawndale Network	Cook County	\$500,000.00
Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action	Cook County	\$500,000.00
Quad County Urban league	Kane County	\$500,000.00
REM Services	Kane and Macon County	\$499,982.95
Reassemble Education & Training, Inc.	Cook County	\$495,416.00
Southwestern Illinois College	Madison & St. Clair County	\$500,000.00
Tri-County Urban League	Peoria	\$500,000.00
Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis	St. Clair	\$495,866.80
XL Academics	Rockford & Winnebago County	\$500,000.00

WEATHERIZATION SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTEES**Grant Period: 6/1/13 through 5/31/14**

GRANTEE	AREA COVERED	GRANT AMOUNT
Albany Park	Cook County	\$250,000.00
Aurora Quad County Urban League	Kane County	\$250,000.00
Black Star Project	Cook County	\$250,000.00
Coalition for United Community Action	Cook County	\$250,000.00
Delta	Cook County	\$250,000.00
Emerson Park	St. Clair County	\$250,000.00
Genesis Housing Development Corp.	Cook County	\$250,000.00
Illinois Youth Build	Lake and Rockford County	\$250,000.00
Lincoln Land Community College	Montgomery County	\$250,000.00
North Lawndale Network	Cook County	\$250,000.00
Vision of Restoration	Cook County	\$250,000.00
Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis	St. Clair	\$247,477.00
Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.	Peoria, IL	\$247,499.13

UWI GRANT AWARD TOTALS

FY 11-12 HOME ENERGY AUDITOR TRAINING GRANTEES	\$ 1,600,000
Grant Period 06/1/11 through 10/31/12	
FY 12-13 WEATHERIZATION SPECIALIST TRAINING GRANTEES	\$ 4,998,444
Grant Period -1/1/12 through 12/31/12	
FY 13-14 RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM GRANTEES	\$ 5,000,000
Grant Period -5/1/13 through 4/30/14	

FY 13-14 HOME ENERGY AUDITOR TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTEES	\$ 5,991,265
Grant Period -6/1/13 through 5/31/14	
FY 13-14 WEATHERIZATION SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTEES	\$ 3,244,976
Grant Period -6/1/13 through 5/31/14	
FY 14-15 RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM GRANTEES	\$ 5,000,000
Grant Period -5/1/14 through 4/30/15 (funds not dispursed yet)	
	\$ 25,834,685

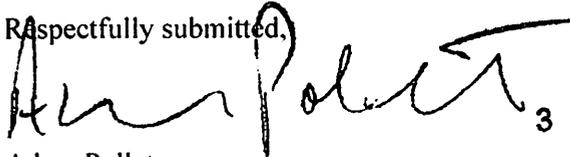
FY14 PROGRAM GOALS

UWI's overarching programmatic goal is to increase the scale and reach of the program. The RWP grants will be expanded to eligible communities which have completed the training programs in 2014, increasing the capacity for homes to be weatherized through the program. The UWI team will conduct a marketing campaign in all eligible communities to expand awareness of the UWI program to major community stakeholders. In addition, the next round of training grants for the expanded set of counties will be posted and awarded with an anticipated start in June 2014. Also in June 2014, it is anticipated that the next phase of RWP grants will be posted and awarded for the expanded counties.

In parallel with the increased scale of the program, the UWI Board has standardized the curriculum for the training programs which has resulted in increased certification rates for the program participants.

It is DCEO's goal to expand employment opportunities in low-income areas in an effort to increase participants' marketability for jobs in the green energy sector, decrease energy cost for low-income residents, and improve local economies through the utilization of local businesses when purchasing supplies and materials required to weatherize homes. DCEO's Office of Urban Assistance is committed to ensuring success the Urban Weatherization Initiative, allowing continued development of Illinois' workforce while addressing the energy efficiency needs of our urban communities.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Pollet
Acting Director