



NEWS & INFORMATION

350 Maple Street • Des Moines, Iowa 50319 • 515.281.5979

John Norris, Chairman

Curt Stamp, Board member

Krista Tanner, Board member

July 31, 2007

For Immediate Release

09-07

Contact: Rob Hillesland 515.281.3551

Email: rob.hillesland@iub.state.ia.us

Web site: www.state.ia.us/iub

Iowa Weatherization Challenge Begins, Submit Grant Applications to IUB

The 2007 Iowa Weatherization Challenge is underway. Groups planning energy-saving home weatherization projects in their local Iowa communities may apply to the Iowa Utilities Board for matching grants up to \$500, beginning August 1, 2007. Anyone wishing to participate in this year's initiative may obtain an organizing kit and a matching grant application form, along with requirements and instructions, online at www.state.ia.us/iub.

The IUB is again leading this annual statewide effort to help Iowans prepare for the upcoming winter heating season. The IUB looks forward to working with local community organizations across Iowa to recruit volunteers and solicit donations to help weatherize homes for Iowa's low-income families, elderly, disabled individuals, and others needing this assistance.

"This is a good way for Iowans to assist their neighbors in need before colder weather arrives and to help reduce energy use," said IUB Chairman John Norris.

The IUB can assist participating community groups secure training in weatherization methods for volunteers, receive donated or favorably priced supplies, locate appropriate weatherization sites, and communicate with the media. The IUB will also provide informational presentations about the Iowa Weatherization Challenge to groups and organizations in their local communities. Those interested in this may contact Brenda Biddle toll free at 1-877-565-4451.

Like last year, participating groups or organizations are asked to raise initial funds for their weatherization events in their local communities. However, the IUB is prepared to provide the additional funds of up to \$500 to groups that apply for matching grants and whose projects meet certain requirements. At least \$10,000 will be available for matching grants again this year. An IUB review committee will assess the applications received on a first-come, first-serve basis. Grants will be awarded based on the merit of proposed projects and whether they meet the requirements included on the grant application form. This will include submitting proof of matching funds, a proposed budget for weatherization projects, a completed substitute W9 vendor update form, and a signed contract. Local government and service organizations with 501(c)(3) (non-profit) status are eligible to apply, as are neighborhood associations and other community or social groups.

All grant awards will be earmarked for weatherization projects to be completed in Iowa by November 30, 2007. These grants must be used for related weatherization and educational materials.

###