



NEWS & INFORMATION

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September 17, 2008
For Immediate Release
17-08

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Huxley receives the Iowa Weatherization Challenge Community Grant

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB), in the fourth year of the Iowa Weatherization Challenge, today awarded the Huxley Enhancement and Recreational Organization (HERO) of Huxley with the first-ever \$5,000 Community Grant. This Community Grant was available to just one participating Iowa community, with a population of 10,000 or less. The grant funds are to be used to purchase supplies to weatherize homes in the community and educate residents on the importance of weatherization and energy efficiency.

In its grant application, HERO stated they hope to reduce the impact that rising energy costs have on residents in their community, especially those on fixed incomes such as elderly or disabled individuals. The group will host two free informational seminars for the community in mid-October and again in mid-November. One will focus on lowering home energy bills through weatherization and energy conservation and the other seminar will be geared toward mobile home residents, with specific recommendations for weatherizing and saving energy in those homes.

HERO will also organize a community weatherization event where trained volunteers will weatherize homes of elderly, disabled, and low-income residents of the community. The organization, with the help of local churches and schools, will identify homes and individuals that are in need of weatherization assistance. By creating community-wide awareness of energy use and implementing easy, proven ways to reduce its energy consumption, HERO hopes Huxley will serve as an example for other Iowa communities.

In addition to the \$5,000 Community Grant, the Iowa Weatherization Challenge also offers matching grants of up to \$500 for groups interested in organizing weatherization events. Participating groups or organizations applying for the matching grants are asked to raise initial funds up to \$500 for their projects. These grants must be used to help weatherize homes and provide educational materials in Iowa communities and projects are to be completed by November 30, 2008.

The IUB can provide educational support and materials, information for communicating with the media, training on weatherization methods, or informational presentations to groups in their local communities. For more information, please contact Brenda Biddle toll free at 1-877-565-4451. Grant information, including application forms and related materials, is available at www.state.ia.us/iub.

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