



# NEWS & INFORMATION

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## **Cresco Chamber receives Iowa Weatherization Challenge Community Grant**

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) has awarded the Cresco Area Chamber of Commerce with this year's \$2,500 Iowa Weatherization Challenge Community Grant. The Community Grant is available to one 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, the Cresco group stated plans for community volunteers to weatherize at least 20 homes. Two informational seminars for citizens will be held in Cresco. In one seminar, local vendors and a Black Hills Energy representative will inform customers about energy efficiency, weatherization techniques and materials, energy efficient appliances, and utility rebates that are available to them. The other seminar will be geared towards local business owners and focus on effective means of weatherizing businesses and saving money on energy bills in other ways.

To help identify homes in need of weatherization, sign-up sheets will be placed at the educational seminars and Cresco City Hall, in addition to referrals being sought from local churches. Black Hills Energy will mail postcards to all its residential customers in Cresco, inviting them to the first educational seminar.

In addition to the \$2,500 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. Some \$500 grants are still available with applications being accepted through September 25, 2009. 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, 2009.

The IUB can provide educational support and materials, information for communicating with the media, training on weatherization methods, or informational presentations to groups in 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](http://www.state.ia.us/iub).

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