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Energy Efficiency Programs Help Families in Need Weather High Energy Bills

MADISON, Wis. (January 12, 2007) – While winter in Wisconsin has been unseasonably mild thus far, it is likely that the traditionally cold temperatures are on their way. When the temperature does drop, many Wisconsin residents will find themselves struggling to keep their families warm and pay their energy bills. Fortunately, programs exist that can ease the strain of high energy costs, helping those in need stay comfortable during Wisconsin winters.

Since 2001, the Focus on Energy sponsored Targeted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR[®] Program has teamed up with the Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (Southwest CAP) to help limited-income households make energy saving improvements on their homes and save money on their energy bills. These programs aim to improve the safety, comfort, affordability and energy efficiency of limited-income households.

“Homeowners that have participated in these programs in the past have saved an average of \$200 annually on their heating bill and \$50 per year on their electricity charges,” said Suzanne Harmelink, program manager for the Targeted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program. “This proves that by making a small investment of time and/or money, families can see payoffs that will benefit them today and in the future.”

Qualifying households will receive a home energy assessment and depending on the results, the program may provide the following energy efficiency measures: replace inefficient heating systems, water heaters, central air conditioners and refrigerators; add insulation to ceilings and walls, seal air leaks and install energy-saving devices such as water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators, as well as compact fluorescent light bulbs. These measures, depending on household size and income levels, can be provided at little or no cost to the participant.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS HELP FAMILIES IN NEED WEATHER HIGH ENERGY BILLS
-PAGE 2-

If a family’s annual income is at or below the maximum for Southwest CAP outlined in the table below, energy improvements to their home could be completed at no cost to them. If a family’s annual income is at or below the maximum for Targeted Home Performance outlined in the table below, 90 percent of the cost of energy improvements to their home could be covered.

Are you eligible?		
How many in your household?	Maximum Annual Income Levels	
	Southwest CAP	Targeted Home Performance
1	\$14,700	\$19,600
2	\$19,800	\$26,400
3	\$24,900	\$33,200
Each additional person, add	\$5,100	\$6,800

Note: Customers of some cooperative or municipal utilities may not be eligible for Targeted Home Performance.

Homeowners with questions about the Targeted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program or Southwest CAP Weatherization Services can call Focus on Energy at 800.762.7077 or Home Energy Plus at 866.432.8947, or visit focusonenergy.com.

About the Focus on Energy Targeted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership that provides energy efficiency and renewable energy information and services to the state's energy utility customers. Focus on Energy's Targeted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program assists qualifying Wisconsin residents in making energy efficiency improvements to their homes. The improvements are completed by program consultants at minimal costs to the homeowner and aims to make homes more comfortable, safe and energy efficient. Focus on Energy provides applications, with full program details, at 800.762.7077 or at focusonenergy.com.

About Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program

Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program, Inc. (Southwest CAP) is a private non-profit organization governed by a 24 member volunteer Board of Directors. Southwest CAP provided a focal point for anti-poverty efforts in Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland Counties in Southwestern Wisconsin.

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