



Association for Energy Affordability to Partner with the Supportive Housing Network of New York and Seedco Financial to Weatherize Over 1,250 Supportive Housing Units with \$9 Million Award from NYS DHCR

A unique new partnership of nonprofit organizations led by the Association for Energy Affordability (AEA) with the Supportive Housing Network of New York and Seedco Financial, in cooperation with more than 15 nonprofit downstate New York Weatherization agencies, has won a \$9 million award to make over 1,250 units of supportive housing energy efficient.

The award was one of twelve announced by Governor Paterson on December 8th, disbursing federal stimulus funds to weatherize targeted portfolios of multi-family buildings statewide. The resulting contract will upgrade the energy efficiency of supportive and affordable housing in New York City as well as Rockland, Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Supportive housing is affordable housing with on-site services for low-income, homeless and disabled individuals and families. The three organizations will work together to overcome barriers to weatherizing supportive housing residences.

Deborah VanAmerongen, commissioner of the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal, said, “The Association for Energy Affordability and the Supportive Housing Network of New York are excellent partners who share DHCR’s commitment to build, preserve and improve affordable and supportive housing in New York. This most recent award will allow these groups and their partners to weatherize the homes and improve the lives of more than 1,250 households, and we are proud to help them with their efforts.”

Under the new award, AEA will provide energy audits and directly perform necessary upgrades, leveraging additional resources from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), National Grid and other utilities wherever possible.

Since 1993, the **Association for Energy Affordability** has been at the forefront of the effort to make New York’s low-income housing more energy efficient, especially the multifamily apartment buildings where most low income New Yorkers live. AEA provides technical services including energy audits and heating system upgrade specifications, as well as training to contractors and to its member network of nonprofits that deliver Weatherization services to residential properties throughout the counties of downstate New York. AEA is also the direct Weatherization subgrantee for a large portion of the South Bronx.

“In addition to using the increased resources available under ARRA to directly weatherize supportive housing properties ourselves, we plan to achieve outcomes that will outlast the project itself and benefit residents of these properties for years to come,” said AEA Executive Director David Hepinstall. “Our partnership will foster collaboration with funders, increase their understanding of Weatherization, and help to overcome

procedural hurdles that sometimes delay necessary approvals. Besides weatherizing supportive housing properties directly under this targeted program, this collaboration will result in increased numbers of nonprofit supportive housing providers' properties being weatherized by their local, neighborhood WAP subgrantees, both now and in the future.”

The **Supportive Housing Network of New York** represents more than 180 nonprofit organizations that have collectively created nearly 40,000 units of supportive housing for New York’s most vulnerable statewide. The Network will play key roles on the team, helping to educate providers about the program and to remove barriers that have sometimes deterred nonprofits from utilizing weatherization and other energy efficiency programs.

Some nonprofit owners of supportive and other affordable housing lack the financial resources, or do not have independent control over those resources, to come up with the funds they need to match Weatherization dollars. A primary goal of the project will be its work with supportive housing funders and financial backers to help providers meet program requirements that property owners contribute to the cost of improvements, by permitting providers to utilize their building reserve funds, or designating other private or public funds for this purpose.

“We are very excited by this opportunity to help our members bring the older supportive housing residences into the 21st century,” said the Supportive Housing Network Executive Director Ted Houghton of the new partnership with AEA. “Many of our member organizations have been at the forefront of building ‘green’ and retrofitting existing buildings, creating residences that not only save energy but provide significant health benefits for residents and the surrounding community. We see this new initiative as adding to our members’ already stunning achievements in creating housing that benefits all New Yorkers.”

Seedco Financial will work with the partners to develop affordable financing alternatives for nonprofits to help them meet the owner’s matching requirements of Weatherization when operating reserves or other resources are not readily available for the building. Seedco Financial has served as an Energy Smart loan provider for NYSERDA energy efficiency programs.

"Seedco Financial is pleased to provide access to affordable energy solutions and we look forward to working with our partners on this important initiative," Lesia Bates Moss, president of Seedco Financial, said. "Based on the success of our previous weatherization projects in New York, as well as other states, we know the value these efforts bring to communities in terms of financial savings, increased energy efficiencies, and long-lasting social impacts."

“Weatherization is about more than reducing energy use and costs,” said Mr. Hepinstall. “It is also about increasing the comfort and health of residents and helping to keep affordable housing affordable, especially for our most vulnerable populations.”

In addition to Weatherization, for the past 16 years AEA has administered energy efficiency programs for NYSERDA, Con Edison and National Grid, often in cooperation with its membership network of DHCR-funded Weatherization program subgrantees.

AEA is one of 12 Weatherization training centers recognized by the US Department of Energy. As an affiliate of the Building Performance Institute, AEA offers training leading to BPI certification to energy professionals, contractors and building operators working in apartment buildings and small homes at its Energy Management Training Center on Bruckner Blvd in the Bronx. AEA is also a Learning Center of the Center for Energy Efficient Building Science of Hudson Valley Community College. In the past year, AEA has collaborated with a variety of workforce development organizations to create and deliver new training and specialized curricula for both entry level and more advanced workers to help them obtain employment in the energy efficient buildings sector.

AEA is the founder and organizer of a series of national conferences on energy efficiency in Multifamily Buildings, and was recently announced as winner of a grant from the National Community Action Foundation in conjunction with Exxon Mobil to train Weatherization programs around the nation to address energy efficiency needs of multifamily housing stock.

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