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## **HOUSING RESOURCES OF WESTERN COLORADO AND THE OFFICE OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION CELEBRATE WEATHERIZATION'S 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

### ***Weatherization Day to be celebrated at Grand Junction Home, November 1***

**Grand Junction, CO, November 1, 2006**– The Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) and Housing Resources of Western Colorado (HRWC), a local service provider, are celebrating “Colorado Weatherization Day” on November 1, in Grand Junction. The event will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Colorado’s Weatherization program, highlighting its contributions, and showcasing its state-of-the-art energy efficiency techniques and measures used to improve homes.

In Colorado, income-qualified households receive free energy efficiency services through the Energy Saving Partners (E\$P) Program, which is a program of OEMC. E\$P manages the Colorado’s eight local agencies that implement weatherization throughout the state.

“For the past 30 years, Weatherization has provided Colorado’s neediest families with safe, warm, comfortable homes through energy saving measures and has weatherized more than 100,000 homes in Colorado. The average monthly energy bill is reduced by 15 to 30 percent after weatherization,” said Jeff Ackermann, senior program manager of E\$P.

HRWC, the Western Slope’s weatherization agency, will conduct a tour of the energy efficiency measures done at a Grand Junction home and provide tips on other ways to lower utility bills.

“Housing Resources of Western Colorado is proud to provide this essential service to Colorado’s Western Slope families which are most at risk. At each home, our technicians perform an extensive energy audit to determine the most cost-effective weatherization techniques, as well as assess health and safety conditions, such as carbon monoxide levels,” said Jon Lindman, HRWC community relations director.

In addition to safety measures, technicians use the audit to guide the energy efficiency investments made in the home. For example, adding insulation, efficient lighting, and replacing the refrigerator can significantly reduce energy usage. The year’s demonstration home will receive a new efficient furnace and wall and attic insulation to stop drafts and heat loss. HRWC expects these measures to save the fixed-income homeowner nearly \$100 a month in energy costs during the heating season.

Low-income households struggling with their utility bills can also receive help through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), which begins accepting applications on November 1, 2006. LEAP eligible households also automatically qualify for weatherization services. LEAP and E\$P work hand-in-hand: LEAP represents an immediate response to the situation, and E\$P offers a longer term solution. E\$P is funded through the U.S. Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Human Services, and Xcel Energy, Inc.

In addition to Grand Junction, Denver and Boulder held events to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Colorado’s Weatherization program. For more information or how to qualify, contact E\$P at 1-866-HEAT HELP (1-866-432-8435) or HRWC at (970) 241-2871. RSVP for Grand Junction’s “Weatherization Day” to Megan Castle at (303) 866-2262 or [megan.castle@state.co.us](mailto:megan.castle@state.co.us).

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