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2010
Year-End
Newsletter



Arizona Community Action Association
Advocating, Educating and Partnering to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty

In This Issue

- Year End Highlights



Suggestions for our next newsletter? Please email them to info@azcaa.org!

Letter from the Director

It always seems that a year has come and gone more quickly than we can fully appreciate or plan for, and so another passes as we prepare for 2011.

On behalf of all of us affiliated with ACAA, I want to thank you for your support this year. Your willingness to support us financially, through the service to your clients, through your willingness to stand up and speak out on behalf of the many families we strive to help. Thank you for your strength when situations seem particularly trying, when budgets are particularly low, when the need continues to climb. Thank you for your perseverance and optimism when that is also called for.

Throughout the year we have worked to achieve impactful results for our community and want to take a moment to share some of them with you, and thank you again for your participation in our success, and to congratulate you for your successes.

We look forward to working with you again next year when we will all need to be steadfast, committed, informed, strong and fearless to achieve the best results for our community, our family and friends.

Thank you, have a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year!

Cynthia

The Good News About Weatherization in Arizona

For low-income families who are hit hardest by high utility bills, the Arizona Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has provided \$57 million in funding

enabling families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Arizona has gone from weatherizing 800 homes annually statewide to weatherizing 3,483 homes in 15 months!

Here's more good news:

- Arizona's Recovery Act weatherization allocation is doubling and tripling their home energy efficiency efforts. Workers are being hired, homes are being improved, and families are being helped.
- More than 30,000 homes are expected to be weatherized monthly – the fastest pace in the 30 year history of WAP.
- Arizona is on track to complete 6400 homes by March 2012.
- As one of 12 Training centers in the Country, Arizona is home to The SouthWest Building Science Training Center, operated through the Foundation for Senior Living, and is a leader in home energy applications and a regional resource for energy efficiency practices and building science expertise. The center has trained and certified 1482 persons since 2004 and participants have logged in 25,189 training hours in such areas as basic energy, auditing, installation skills, conservation theory, advanced blower door diagnostics, combustion appliance testing, repair and replacement, indoor air quality concerns and consumer education.
- Weatherization stimulus funding in Arizona has created more than 130 jobs, and sustained and saved thousands more by putting contractors, electricians, plumbers, heating and cooling and insulation experts, and equipment companies to work.

The energy conservation resulting from Weatherization efforts in Arizona and nationwide of state and local agencies helps our country reduce its dependence on foreign oil and decrease the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes. Families receiving weatherization services see their annual energy bills reduced by an average of about \$437, depending on fuel prices. Because the energy improvements that make up weatherization services are long lived, the savings add up over time to substantial benefits for weatherization clients and their communities, and the nation as a whole.

An Exciting New Partnership Opportunity

ACAA is pleased to announce that we have undertaken an exciting new opportunity through USDA which will enable us to partner with community and faith-based organizations statewide to provide Nutrition Assistance outreach, education, and

enrollment opportunities. Through a draw-down mechanism, ACAA is able to provide financial and technical support for organizations throughout Arizona who help spread the word about Nutrition Assistance and provide resources for potentially eligible households to receive accurate information and apply for assistance in a safe and trusted environment.

If your organization is interested in becoming an outreach and enrollment partner, please refer to our website at <http://www.azcaa.org/nutrition-assistance-partnerships> or contact Katie Kahle at kkahle@azcaa.org for more information.

A huge thank you to the organizations which have already begun to partner with us for this important work: Catholic Community Services Pio Decimo Center, Community Food Bank, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, Rio Vista Center, and Tempe Community Action Agency.

People's Information Guide 2010 Edition is Now Available!

The long awaited and much loved People's Information Guide, a project of ACAA, has been updated for 2010 and is now available for distribution. If you would like to receive a Guide, please call our office at 602-604-0640 to request your free copy. ACAA can mail up to 2 copies to each individual free of charge. If you would like a larger quantity, please contact us so we may help you connect with an agency in your area which is storing Guides for distribution.

The Guide is also available on our website at www.azcaa.org, under the Publications tab.

The 2010 Edition is currently available in English only, and will be available in Spanish shortly.

A Special Thank You to our Utility Partners

ACAA would like to thank our utility partners statewide for their continued support of programs assisting low-income households. Your support for bill assistance programs and weatherization services has been a vital hand up for thousands of households throughout Arizona. Thank you to our friends at APS, SemStream Arizona Propane,

Southwest Gas, , SRP, TEP, Unisource Gas-Electric, and we look forward to working with you in 2011!

WACOG Receives HUD Funding

HUD announced the results of the HUD NOFA for Housing Counseling, and WACOG (Western Arizona Council of Governments) was one of six Arizona organizations funded to provide comprehensive Housing Counseling. After being approved as a HUD Local Housing Counseling Agency, LHCA, in April 2010 WACOG has been anticipating the award of funding for this much needed activity. This resource adds to WACOG's ability to deliver high impact strategies and long term solutions for Western Arizona clients. Thanks to Mary Lou Rosales atCAHRA, for her advice and help when WACOG started this process over 1 year ago and to WACOG's, A Hand Up Program staff, Thomas, Sherri, Jim and Regina for relentless attention to this process. And a huge congratulations to WACOG for their hard work!

What's Coming in 2011

ACAA has many exciting things coming around the bend in 2011 and beyond, and we hope you will join us along the way! We will be working to build new partnerships and strengthen those that already exist, reach households in need in new and innovative ways, build a movement around ending poverty, providing training and education opportunities, and more. We hope you will follow the things we do and learn a bit more about the myriad of issues ACAA is involved in by following us on Facebook (search Arizona Community Action Association) and Twitter (AZCAA). Please contact us at any time if you have questions, comments, or feedback!

Happy New Year!!

Cynthia, Katie, Kelly, Miquelle, Monique, and Norma