

## **Governor Sebelius Encourages Kansans to Weatherize Homes**

For Immediate Release

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TOPEKA - Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a proclamation encouraging Kansans to join in observance of Kansas Weatherization Day by taking steps to weatherize their homes. The Governor invited staff of Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, local weatherization contractors, and members of the Weatherization Policy Advisory Council to witness the signing and to discuss the importance of energy efficiency and the need for Kansans to weatherize their homes.

The Kansas Weatherization Assistance Program reduces energy costs for low-income families, targeting the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children by making house repairs that improve the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety. Kansas Housing Resources Corporation distributes federal funds to local agencies so that they can utilize the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry to make low-income dwellings more energy efficient.

State records indicate that 1,400 Kansas homes were weatherized by local agencies and contractors with federal funds allocated by Kansas Housing Resources Corporation in 2003.

According to Larry Bentley, program manager of the Kansas Weatherization Assistance Program, "Weatherizing is such a cost-saving service because on the national level, for every \$1 that is invested in the program, it returns \$2.79 in energy and non-energy impacts." Bentley added that home weatherization both increases savings and positively impacts the environment by conserving fossil fuels and reducing harmful emissions.

*Kansas Housing Resources Corporation staff offered the following quick tips for homeowners regarding weatherization:*

- 1) Repair and weatherize leaky doors and windows.
- 2) Locate leaks in the home by using a lit incense stick, and then seal the holes with caulking material that can be found in hardware stores.
- 3) Set the thermostat on the temperature you are comfortable with; KHRC recommends 68 in the winter months, 75 in summer months for optimum savings.
- 4) Allow the thermostat to be lowered in the winter, and higher in the winter when the house is unoccupied for extended periods of time.

For more information about weatherizing your home, contact Kansas Housing Resources Corporation at 1-800-752-4422.