

NASCSP Newsletter

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Message from our Chair: What to do with Green Eggs and Ham

by Vaughn Clark



On February 24th your presence is requested for a very special breakfast - the NASCSP MAKING THE CONNECTION event. It's a chance to get face time with staff from your governor's office in DC so you can get to know them and share information about your state's particular issues and concerns related to fuel and income poverty. We want to help you build your relationship with the National Governors' Association and with the Governors and staff in DC.

*Do you like green eggs and ham?
I do not like them, Sam-I-am.
I do not like
green eggs and ham.*

An article I read recently by Beth Bridges, the networking guru and blogger, got me thinking about our February event, and how much I'd like for each of you to gain the maximum benefit from it. If you're like many people in the business world today, networking may feel a bit like eating Dr. Suess's green eggs and ham. You need the nutrition, but you don't expect to enjoy it. Maybe you

started the New Year with a resolution to increase your program's visibility by connecting with industry experts and building relationships. But as the gray winter drags on, perhaps your enthusiasm is waning. A lot of people think they don't like networking. The sheer volume of how-to literature on the subject speaks to the lack of confidence many of us feel.

*I do not like green eggs and ham.
I would not like them here or there.
I would not like them anywhere.*

We all know networking is supposed to be a powerful professional and managerial development practice, but we don't always do it. Why not? According to Bridges, there are six major obstacles that people cite for not networking.

*I do not like them, Sam I am.
I do not like them in a box,
I do not like them with a fox.*

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One of the main reasons we don't network? We don't like it. Regardless of whether we've ever tried it, whether we've ever been successful or not, we just avoid it because it feels too far outside of our comfort zone. In truth, networking is not only good professional practice; it's a life skill that is just as powerful in the anti-poverty field as it is on Wall Street. But, just like any other skill, it needs to be honed through exposure and practice.

Another barrier to networking is that we just don't get it. We sometimes think of networking as "schmoozing." Some of us may even question whether networking is actually an asset for state government program directors. Isn't networking what slick-talking salespeople do to get recruits for pyramid schemes? Actually, networking events like this upcoming breakfast are opportunities to meet like-minded professionals in your field and to build mutually beneficial working relationships with people you wouldn't otherwise run into. Many successful state directors point to networking as one of the best tools in their toolboxes.

"I wish I had time to network, but ... the data is due next week, the contracts must go out, I have to prepare a training, the legislature is in session, the _____ is taking up all of my time..." As state directors, it's hard to see far enough beyond the crisis du jour or the next deadline to take the long view. I challenge each of us to focus on the value of networking and think about what's at stake - the lives of low-income working families. We're building relationships and contacts that may someday prove invaluable. You don't need to have an urgent need in order for networking to be valuable. In fact, others are more likely to respond to you when they sense that you're in it for the long-haul and not just because of a short-term challenge such as CSBG reauthorization or WAP's influx of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. We all have to consciously make time for this critical activity. We've set aside the time for you at the NASCSP conference. It's a great opportunity to step out and give it a try or do it again.

*I would not, could not, in a box.
I could not, would not, with a fox.*

Some of us are shy. If you're an introvert who would sooner choke down green eggs than work a room full of strangers, you're not alone. In fact, most people feel shy some of the time. But you have valuable information about your state's programs that other people want to know. You just need to show up and share your

knowledge. Plus, you won't be alone. We'll all be in this together. Use the buddy system and team up with your colleagues in CSBG or WAP and introduce each other.

Finally, feeling unprepared or not knowing how to approach a networking opportunity keeps many of us away from these events. If you prepare ahead of time for whom you want to talk to (your own gubernatorial staff) and what you want to say, you may feel more confident, and you'll certainly help make this event a success. Remember, the gubernatorial staff are there because they want to meet you.

*You do not like them. So you say.
Try them! Try them! And you may.
Try them and you may, I say.*

Let's look at some strategies to make this event painless and positive. First, **practice your elevator speech!** Fine tune a brief 30 second introduction about what you do and another about what CSBG and WAP do in your state. If you're not an old hand at it, the NASCSP Breakfast is the perfect chance to practice in-person. Next time you have to do this, it'll be that much easier.

Do your homework. Know what's going on politically in your state and what the governor has been up to. Be sure you know about anything positive they've done for low-income working families so you can thank them and use that as an entrée into further discussions about WAP and CSBG. Be ready with some ice breakers about state sports teams, events, or the weather back home.

Follow-up afterward. Attending networking events regularly will allow you to get to know people, and for them to get to know you, over a series of meetings. When people connect with you regularly, they trust you. We all prefer to do business with people we know, like, and trust. The more opportunities you have to rub shoulders with legislators and policymakers from your state, the more they'll feel they know you and the more likely that you can count on them to support your program in the future.

*Sam! If you will let me be,
I will try them. You will see.*

One thing you can do right now is to find out what the protocol is in your state for contacting your governor's office. Can you drop the governor's DC office a line and

give a personal invitation, letting them know you'll be there and hope to see them? Or, can someone closer to the governor's office remind them to attend? NASCSP will invite them, but they need to hear from you or someone in your state, too, so that they know attending will be worthwhile for them. Let them know who from your state will be at the breakfast and ask if there is any specific information they'd like to see. This personal home-state connection is key. We're counting on each one of you for this part.

*Say! I will eat them ANYWHERE!
They are so good, so good, you see!*

By now, some of you may be thinking, "What's in it for me, Sam?" Well, let me tell you. Your governor can open doors for you. If you want them to think of you positively and with affection the best strategy is to feed them while sharing important information with them.

*I do so like
green eggs and ham!
Thank you!
Thank you, Sam-I-am!*

If you haven't been a fan of networking before or even if you're allergic to green eggs and ham, think about the reasons for your aversion and start conquering your fears. Networking is a good investment, and this NASCSP event will yield benefits for years to come in the relationships and information-sharing that happens there. We'll need to keep at it and be strategic about doing more networking, but this is a great step. Remember Sam, that determined little pup? He didn't quit. He stayed on-message until his non-green-egg-eating friend caved. And they all lived happily ever after. See you in DC!

Beth Bridges Blog can be found at: <http://bethbridges.blogspot.com/>

Quotations taken from *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss. Random House Children's Books, 1960.

Thanks, David

by Arley Johnson

Over the last several months, NASCSP has worked hard to build up its ability to foster good working relationships with members of Congress, the Administration, and other organizations that share our mission, all to increase understanding of the crucial role that you, our members, play in the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). With the addition of new staff and our newly formed Government Relations Department, we're expanding our pool of Congressional and professional contacts daily. We're creating opportunities for each of you to forge relationships with your state executive and legislative leadership, such as the Making the Connection breakfast at the upcoming NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference. My recent visits to the Hill have been productive and informative. Legislators are eager to talk about solutions and to get the states' perspective on CSBG and WAP. We need these strong relationships to fulfill our mission of building up the states' capacity to respond to poverty issues.

Of course, our latest initiatives build on a foundation decades in the making. I recently had the opportunity to sit down with David Bradley, who surely needs no introduction in these pages. For many years now, he's been in the thick of the fight to keep Community Action alive and thriving. He co-founded the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) and has served as its executive director since 1981, advocating on behalf of local Community Action Agencies (CAAs). His passion and dedication is evident in everything he does. He loves the game of baseball, and his eyes light up like a proud father when he talks about the several teams he owns.

He gets that same light in his eyes when he tells his war stories about our network's development. He told me all about the early days of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), its demise, and the emergence of the CSBG. He vividly recalled the Congressional members and administration heavyweights who championed the cause of CSBG, Head Start, WAP and other programs that today form the web of anti-poverty and economic mobility

resources available to our most vulnerable citizens. He also told me about the narrowly-avoided mishaps that could easily have sunk Community Action altogether. Our talk took us right up through today's critical policy and legislative issues. It was a first step in a larger conversation that will help the Community Action Network prepare for even greater opportunities in the future.

Most of you know Mr. Bradley, though, through his regular legislative updates in this publication. For over twenty years, he's kept us up to the minute on developments on Capitol Hill that affect us all. He's faithfully fired the warning flares and sounded the clarion call to action. So it's with no small sense of the debt of gratitude we all owe to Mr. Bradley, and

an even greater sense of the immense shoes I have to fill, that I take up from him the tremendous responsibility of bringing you the legislative front news that impacts everything you work for.

As we at NASCSP move forward building new relationships and cultivating established ones on your behalf all over our nation's capital, the NASCSP newsletter will serve as but one of the ways in which we'll keep you abreast of the latest developments on Capitol Hill that affect your work in combating poverty in these United States. Stay tuned in the months ahead.



LEGISLATIVE CORNER

edited by Jovita A. Tolbert and Rebecca Stewart



HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL AT A STANDSTILL

In early January the White House became more directly involved with negotiations on the health care overhaul bill. And, because of the need to attract the votes of all 60 members of the Senate Democratic Caucus, there was buzz that the final bill would look much like the Senate version. This would have meant dropping the public option that was included in the House bill, creating a national insurance exchange rather than individual state exchanges, and implementing health coverage requirements starting in 2014 rather than 2013. It was also rumored that the final bill would include some form of the House's primary revenue raiser — a surtax on the wealthy — as well as the Senate's increase in Medicare payroll taxes on individuals making more than \$200,000 and families with incomes over \$250,000.

However, due to the January 19th Massachusetts Senate election results and the loss of a filibuster-proof Senate majority, Democrats in both the House and Senate have decided to effectively “let the dust settle” before deciding what to do next on health care overhaul legislation. Nonetheless, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has asserted that Democrats do still intend to enact health care legislation, though the method for its enactment is still under consideration.

President Obama has suggested that Democrats consider writing and passing a new, slimmed-down health bill made

up of only the most popular “core elements” of the overhaul. In contrast, many Republicans have urged Democrats to start over on the legislation with an eye toward a measure that could also garner some GOP support. Yet still, some lawmakers are discussing the possibility of using the filibuster-proof budget reconciliation process to enact a compromise House-Senate “corrections” bill, to make changes to the Senate-passed measure should the House somehow be able to pass that.

JOBS BILL

Senate leaders continue to sort through proposals for a Senate jobs package, which was expected to come to the floor once a final health care bill was passed. The Senate package is expected to be smaller than the \$154 billion measure passed by the House in December and will focus on infrastructure, small businesses, energy efficiency and aid to states.

FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS

Please note that CSBG has been level funded at \$700 million for FY 2010 and WAP is funded at \$210 million with \$30 million set aside for a pilot program.

We will keep you informed as things progress.

Source: Congressional Quarterly

CSBG Spotlight: Utah’s “Earn It. Keep It. Save It.” Initiative

edited by Tabitha Beck

Utah’s statewide “Earn It. Keep It. Save It.” initiative focuses on increasing fiscal literacy, improving budgeting skills, increasing the amount of money available to families, and encouraging families to save money.

One component of the initiative is organizing the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program throughout the state. The Utah Food Bank and the 211 system have assisted in connecting clients with tax preparation sites. IRS staff train tax preparation volunteers, and local businesses provide in-kind donations for volunteer recognition. A variety of other partner organizations offer a wide range of assistance, including colleges, faith-based organizations, Native American and disability groups, Wells Fargo, and Zions Bank.

The initiative is led by a broad statewide coalition of public, private, and nonprofit organizations. Local coalitions in Cache, Weber, Salt Lake, Utah, and Washington Counties work to implement the campaign at the local level in their areas. The Utah Community Action Partnership Association provides VITA services in other areas of the state. Sites placed all over the state allow the initiative to reach rural, limited English speaking, disabled, and low- to moderate-income populations.

For the 2009 tax season the initiative completed more than

14,000 returns totaling more than \$17 million for taxpayers. This included nearly 4,000 Earned Income Tax Credits, totaling approximately \$5.5 million of the total refunds. The 686 volunteers represented a 5% increase from 2008, but their more than 23,000 volunteer hours represented a nearly 60% increase over the previous year. In addition, this saved an estimated \$2.1 million in tax preparation services for the clients.

The initiative utilized approximately \$15,000 in CSBG funds statewide for staff time and resources to coordinate regional VITA efforts and Utah Saves. This included direct planning efforts, travel expenses, equipment, supplies, advertising, interpreters, staff time, and mileage reimbursement for staff and volunteer travel.

For the 2010 tax season, “Earn it. Keep it. Save it.” has taken steps to increase the success of the program, including expanded marketing. In addition to creating a monthly newsletter, the initiative has placed volunteer advertisements in the *Salt Lake Tribune* as well as other local newspapers. A television piece about VITA is in the works with *Studio 5*, a midday newsmagazine-style program. Lastly, Governor Herbert has agreed to do a commercial for EITC Day and VITA.

Source: FY 08 NASCSP CSBG IS Survey; CAP Utah

CSBG ARRA Success Story: New Mexico

edited by Tabitha Beck

New Mexico’s six Community Action Agencies all have active CSBG ARRA initiatives well underway. HELP New Mexico (HELP NM) and Southeast New Mexico Community Action Corporation (SNMCAC) are two examples of agencies with diverse job training and assistance programs.

HELP New Mexico

HELP NM’s CSBG ARRA Program provides services for individuals and families across its service area which include the nine counties and migrant/seasonal farm workers statewide. The program includes six major project activities including Employment Training and Specialized Solar Training.

The Employment Training initiative’s annual goal is to serve 133 individuals. During the first two quarters, a total of 66 individuals, or nearly 50%, have enrolled in Employment Training. HELP NM has been very successful in placing participants in a significant number of green jobs. Approximately 83% of those who have completed training entered the workforce in a green job. These jobs range from recycling to greenhouse worker to wastewater treatment operator. In addition to the green jobs sector, some placements have also been made in small businesses and the health care field.

HELP NM is in the process of collaborating with the New Mexico Solar Energy Association (NMSEA) for its

Specialized Solar Training to provide Photovoltaic Design and Installation classes for eligible clientele. The plan will outline specifics for each site as well as related costs for the solar training to be held in the following areas of New Mexico: Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Espanola, Las Cruces and Albuquerque. According to the NMSEA, the training will begin in February in the southern part of the state and work towards the north depending on the weather. Two HELP NM clients and five staff members have completed the NMSEA training, receiving certificates of completion. HELP NM is in the process of identifying area community colleges that may be able to provide the training as part of their regular curriculum.

Southeast New Mexico Community Action Corporation

The SNMCAC Job Training and Placement Assistance Program provides job training to unemployed and underemployed residents of Eddy, Lea, Chaves, Otero, and Lincoln counties. In addition to the Certified Nursing Assistant, Commercial Driver License with Hazmat Certification, and Energy Technology programs detailed below, the agency is also working on a Police Officer Certification Program.

Certified Nursing Assistant – As of November 30, 2009,

six students completed the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program. Three graduates obtained jobs, and one student works at a nursing facility and is waiting to take his certification test to become qualified for promotion to CNA. Seventeen new students have enrolled in the program, with an additional twelve students waiting to begin classes.

Commercial Driver License – Nine students received their Commercial Driver License (CDL) with Hazmat certification. Six graduates from the program obtained employment as CDL drivers. Eleven additional students are currently taking the CDL course, and eighteen students are waiting to begin.

Energy Technology – Fourteen students have begun their coursework in the Energy Technology Program. Six more will begin in February.

Source: Yvonne Rodriguez-Ulanowicz, NM CSBG Program Manager

NASCSP wants to spotlight ARRA Success Stories from your state! Please e-mail success story details to your CSBG Regional Specialist.

Recognition of Excellence

by Joan Harris

2010 NASCSP AWARDS

NASCSP's membership will recognize extraordinary contributions made to NASCSP and to the programs that NASCSP represents during the NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference in February.

The **Marjorie J. Witherspoon NASCSP Award** will be presented to a current or former NASCSP member for significant service or support of NASCSP and/or length of service to NASCSP. The **Ann Kagie CSBG Award** will go to an individual involved in CSBG activities at the national, state or local level and for significant technological or program contributions and/or tenure with the program. The **James Gardner Weatherization Award** will be presented to an individual in the Weatherization Program at the national, state or local level for significant technological or program contributions and/or tenure with the program.

2ND ANNUAL NATIONAL WEATHERIZATION AWARDS

The Awards, sponsored by State & Local Energy Report, the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP), the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), and corporate sponsors including Retrotec, PDS Consulting, Conservation Services Group (CSG), Fluke Manufacturing, and BPI, will be given to 2009's best projects in the following areas: single-family home weatherization or renovation, multi-family building weatherization or renovation, and new residential construction.

The Awards application and details are available at www.stateenergyreport.com. The NASCSP-selected panel of judges will announce the 2009 winning projects in February during the 2010 NASCSP Mid-Winter Conference in Bethesda, Maryland.

WAP Corner: Training for Recovery

by Robert Scott

As soon as there were rumors of a significant increase in program funding associated with a potential Stimulus Bill, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) network realized there would be a need for a major ramp up of the program's training efforts. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) awarded \$5 billion for the WAP, with a major goal of providing jobs and utilizing the vast expertise in the weatherization network to help grow the training infrastructure needed to support a national residential energy efficiency retrofit market. The bill doubled the percentage of Training and Technical Assistance Funds to 20%, making \$1 billion available for this purpose. To put some perspective on that figure, the average amount of annual T&TA funds in the past several years has been somewhere in the \$22.5 million range, making the total ARRA T&TA funds approximately 40 times greater than the recent annual funds awarded for that purpose.

Anyone with any degree of in-depth knowledge about the Weatherization Assistance Program knows that training has always been an essential element in insuring a quality program that best serves program recipients with the greatest possible energy savings while addressing any potential health or safety problems. A well-trained workforce is a vital prerequisite for achieving a truly cost-effective, state-of-the-art program. The WAP network has made major advances in the national training effort over the history of the program. Computerized energy audits and diagnostic testing, utilizing blower doors, digital combustion analyzers, duct leakage testing, and measuring electricity use of refrigerators is now commonplace in the program. More and more programs use infrared camera technology in auditing, installations, and inspections. Whole house weatherization technology has become the accepted approach, treating the dwelling as an interrelated system rather than an assortment of unrelated pieces. Practices such as dense pack sidewall insulation, advanced insulation techniques in mobile homes, and electric baseload measures are performed routinely in today's program. Many of the practices seen as the most technologically advanced in the emerging residential energy efficiency retrofit market were first developed, tested, and implemented by the WAP network.

Weatherization Program managers and trainers recognize and acknowledge that both technical and management/administrative WAP personnel need frequent and consistent training, and that buy-in to a well-planned training program from all levels of the program is needed. The unprecedented funding of ARRA has necessitated a rapidly accelerated training effort, particularly to train new workers on the program diagnostics, technologies, and installation methods quickly, while maintaining quality control with dramatically increased production requirements. This challenge has tested Weatherization operators throughout the network.

In the past few years, training resources have been more readily available than ever before. The ease of electronic dissemination of documents and materials facilitates information sharing and exchange. The Weatherization Core Competencies, developed by the Trainers Consortium, is a widely utilized document explaining the necessary knowledge and specialized skills needed for the various identified worker classifications in the Weatherization Program. Field Standards, Field Guides, and Best Practices are frequently exchanged between states and agencies. There are increased resources for online training. The Department of Energy has prioritized the development of training centers as part of their Training and Technical Assistance plan, with \$30 million targeted for that purpose. States are collaborating and forming partnerships with community colleges, trade schools, Workforce Investment Boards, and other organizations. While there are better resources than ever before, the need for a greatly expanded and properly trained workforce in very quick order is confronting the network.

Even before ARRA, the Supplemental DOE Grant in the Fall of 2008 and an increase in LIHEAP funds in many states helped pave the way for an increased training effort. New York State WAP Manager Tom Carey stated that the increased New York training effort began before ARRA funds were contracted. Mr. Carey stated "Our 2009 program was already a huge increase due to the release of the DOE supplemental funds and the large increase in LIHEAP. This allowed agencies to ramp up with regular funds and we did a lot of training." The state

of Maine is another that got a jump on training before ARRA funds were contracted. Jo-Ann Choate, Maine Weatherization Manager, said that “We trained basic weatherization to approximately 358 people. We have trained over 472 auditors over the years, most of them for this current ramping up.”

Several states implemented a Weatherization “boot camp” to provide quick yet comprehensive training for new hires. Pat Costello, T&TA Supervisor for the New York WAP, commented that the “boot camp is designed to provide a week-long training for up to 30 new employees including blower door technology, air sealing methodology, health and safety awareness and testing, insulation installation, and lead safe practices.” In Ohio, approximately, 350 weatherization workers have been trained through a boot-camp style program since January 2009, including 100 Inspectors, 130 existing heating contractors, as well as approximately 40 Inspector and 10 Heat Tech recertifications.

Most WAP managers and trainers know that training is an ongoing process with a need for continual and repeated reinforcement after the initial training on a subject. On site field training is generally considered the most effective means of training. Along those lines, Kate Drexler,

Weatherization Grants Manager for the Colorado Governor’s Energy Office, states “A major emphasis of our training plan is to develop local on-the-ground employees dedicated to training agency staff on a day-to-day basis.”

With the very large investment of T&TA funds in ARRA, and the open acknowledgement that the vast expertise in the weatherization network can be a gateway to support an emerging national residential energy efficiency retrofit market, the WAP network needs think not just in terms of insuring quality work on ARRA production, but to consider future sustainability of their training efforts. Pat Costello recognized this in stating “In order to accommodate this exponential growth, additional facilities are now in the planning stages, allowing us to provide training on an even grander scale. New York DHCR’s WAP is focused on creating a weatherization training infrastructure that will remain long after ARRA is concluded.”

Training has been and continues to be a cornerstone of the Weatherization Program network. A well-trained workforce is one of the best guarantees that current and future work quality and maximum energy savings can be achieved. The WAP network remains committed to this objective.

WAP Recovery Act Success Story: Idaho

by Rebecca Stewart

This is the third in a series of articles which will take a closer look at some state and local programs which have excelled in rolling out American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) funds and rapidly ramped up their programs to meet the Obama Administration’s goals. States already highlighted: Ohio, Colorado.

Idaho residents are benefitting from \$30,341,929 of American Recovery and Reinvestment of 2009 (ARRA) funds for the Weatherization Assistance Program. While the state plan was approved in July of last year and the Davis Bacon Wage determination received on August 31, 2009, the first agency to produce homes with ARRA money began doing so in August, while the rest followed with all six agencies producing with ARRA funds by November of 2009. In December, Idaho hit its production targets and as of January 14, the state has already hit 76% of their production target, with several

weeks of the month remaining. What is their secret?

Planning was a major component of the Idaho approach to the ARRA funding increase. Management conducted a risk analysis session in February of 2009 to address issues before they became pressing. For instance, agency Directors expressed concerns about cash flow and the necessity for cash advances from the state to allow large purchases of equipment. While previously, the Department of Health and Welfare had interpreted the state’s rules and regulations as not allowing advances, this was identified as a barrier to meeting Ramp Up and production demands. Genie Sue Weppner, Program Manager of the Weatherization Program in Idaho says, “Leadership in the Department stepped in at the appropriate time to encourage staff to take another look at the states regulation in light of the opportunities presented by the ARRA funds. As a result, a process to provide ‘advance’ funding in the

form of an ‘award’ was developed.” This kind of problem solving is exactly what is needed to manage the increase in funding and scrutiny provided by the Recovery Act.

Agency Directors also identified a need to improve communication between each other and the State as a potential barrier to ARRA Ramp Up and communication. Weekly phone calls have been instituted to facilitate information sharing between Directors, Weatherization Program Managers, The Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho (CAPAI) and State staff. State and agency staffs were held accountable to be present at these phone calls. In addition, quarterly face to face meetings including the same individuals were scheduled.

Training of adequate field staff is of utmost importance when planning for funding and production increases. Says Ms. Weppner, “One of the most critical barriers to meeting the production requirements was identified as the need for trained Auditor/Inspectors. Without enough trained Auditor/Inspectors, it would not matter how many homes we could weatherize if we could not assure the quality, nor could we consider those homes completed if we did not have enough qualified inspectors.” As a direct result, one of the first outcomes of expansion planning was to secure a qualified trainer and a training facility so that sufficient staff would be prepared and ready.

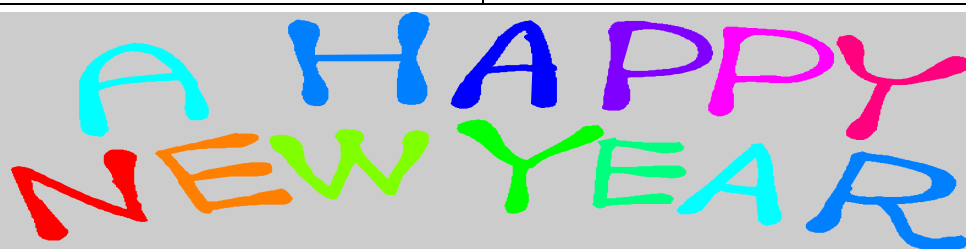
Sixty-nine individuals have been trained to date for the Weatherization Program. Idaho requires that all trainees pass Saturn online training. In addition, the state has developed its own classroom and field training and contracted with a nationally recognized trainer that has developed a curriculum and classes. This trainer, Thomas Brodbeck, came to Idaho from Portland, Oregon. Ms. Weppner comments, “He has 20 plus years experience in the Weatherization program and 18 years of training experience and has provided training at Energy OutWest and National DOE conferences.” CAPAI developed a temporary training center with classroom space, a mobile home, and mockup structures that provide visual and hands on learning opportunities. Idaho is keeping the training center open at the moment as it moves forward with a

technical assistance plan put together by a technical assistance committee made up of community action and CAPAI personnel.

Technological concerns also posed a considerable road block towards full production. Ms. Weppner comments, “The weatherization automated systems were identified as a barrier because they were fragmented, unreliable, and based on a platform that was not compatible with current hardware.” The State and Community Action Partnership Association worked together to identify a provider to update and improve the system. That system is expected to be available for use in February.

Other concerns that delayed production and expenditures included delayed DOE Plan Approval, the hold on the ability to spend funds on production early in the ARRA stages, delayed Davis Bacon Wage determination, and the new Davis Bacon Wage determinations being issued without authorization from DOE to implement. Despite these problems, Idaho has forged ahead and is running a successful and effective Weatherization Program.

When asked for tips or techniques to share with the Weatherization network Ms. Weppner comments, “I think the most important thing Idaho did was determine that the ramp-up and production management related to the ARRA Weatherization funds needed to be conducted by hiring a project manager who would use the principals of project management to assist the agencies to set and meet production goals.” Ms. Weppner says that this individual was identified and brought on very early in the ARRA process and met with stakeholders in the state in February 2009. There, the group discussed and agreed upon goals and objectives, identified barriers, and committed to the process. The common vision of the group is, “We will have a healthier and more robust CAP network at the end of the two year Ramp-up.” Setting goals and tracking them at the 30, 60, and 90 day marks has allowed agencies to see where they need to be at any given point. Idaho shows that Weatherization truly does work!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Innovate to Motivate 2010

February 8-11, 2010
The Hotel Monteleone
New Orleans, LA
www.innovatetomotivate.com

New York's Energy Star for Homes

February 10-11, 2010
Saratoga Hilton & Saratoga Springs City Center
Saratoga Springs, NY
www.affordablecomfort.org

Agricultural Outlook Forum 2010

February 18-19, 2010
Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel
Arlington, VA
www.usda.gov/oce/forum

2010 NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference

February 22-26, 2010
Hyatt Regency Bethesda
Bethesda, MD
nascsp@gove.org

Credit and Collection for Utilities

February 23-24, 2010
Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
Orlando, FL
www.events.platts.com

ACI New Jersey Home Performance Conference & Awards Banquet

March 4-5, 2010
Trump Plaza Hotel
Atlantic City, NJ
www.affordablecomfort.org

Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

March 9-11, 2010
Seaport World Trade Center
Boston, MA
www.nesca.org

ACI Home Performance 2010

April 19-23, 2010
Renaissance Austin Hotel
Austin, TX
www.affordablecomfort.org

104th GFOA Annual Conference

June 6-9, 2010
Atlanta, GA
Georgia World Congress Center
www.gfoa.org

2010 National Energy Assistance Directors' Association Meeting

June 13-14, 2010
Hyatt Regency San Antonio
San Antonio, TX
www.neuac.org

CAPLAW National Training Conference

June 16-18, 2010
Savannah Marriott Riverfront
Savannah, GA
www.caplaw.org

NCSL Legislative Summit

July 25-29, 2010
Kentucky International Convention Center
Louisville, KY
303.364.7700

2010 NASCSP Annual Conference

September 21-24, 2010
Charleston Marriott
Charleston, SC
nascsp@gove.org

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 40th Annual Legislative Conference

September 22-25, 2010
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC
www.cbcfinc.org

Save the Date!

February 22 – 26, 2010
 NASCSP
 Mid-Winter Training Conference
 Hyatt Regency Bethesda Hotel
 One Bethesda Metro Center
 Bethesda, MD 20814
 (301) 657-1234

2010 NASCSP Awards

NASCSP's membership proudly recognizes extraordinary contributions made to NASCSP and to the programs that NASCSP represents. Recipients of 2010 recognition awards will be announced during the NASCSP Annual Winter Training Conference on Friday, February 26th.

The Marjorie J. Witherspoon NASCSP Award

To a current or former NASCSP member for significant service or support of NASCSP and/or length of service to NASCSP.

The Ann Kagie CSBG Award

To an individual involved in CSBG activities at the national, state or local level and for significant technological or program contributions and/or tenure with the program.

The James Gardner Weatherization Award

To an individual in the Weatherization Program at the national, state or local level for significant technological or program contributions and/or tenure with the program.

LEARN THE BENEFITS OF BEING A PART OF THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM!

What: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) **FREE** Webinars

General Public Sessions:

- Monday, February 8: 11:00am-12:00pm EST
- Tuesday, February 23: 11:00am-12:00pm EST
- Thursday, February 25: 3:00pm-4:00pm EST



Each summer, 18 million students are at risk of going hungry when the school year ends and school lunches are no longer available. For many children, school meals are the only complete and nutritious meals they eat, and in the summer they go without. This summer, the need will likely increase. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) can help to fill the summer meal gap for low-income children. Faith-based, community and private non-profit organizations can make a difference in the lives of hungry children by serving meals with SFSP, a *federally funded program* administered by states that *reimburses organizations* for meals served to children during the summer. Your organization may become a SFSP site where meals are served, or a SFSP sponsor that both serves meals and keeps track of the accounting and paperwork. Sponsors are reimbursed for all meals served that meet USDA's nutrition standards.

Registration Link: <http://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/17fb9g426e9>

Questions? If you have any questions, please contact: Emily Buckham Buday, Outreach Strategist, USDA FNS OSIPO, Emily.buckham@fns.usda.gov, 703-605-0772

2010 NASCSP MID-WINTER TRAINING CONFERENCE



IT'S TIME TO MAKE YOUR PLANS
 HYATT REGENCY BETHESDA
 FEBRUARY 22-26, 2010
 PLAN TO BE THERE!!!!

NASCSP STAFF

Timothy R. Warfield
 Executive Director
warfield@nascsp.org

Tabitha Beck
 Data Analyst
tbeck@nascsp.org

Jenae Bjelland
 Director, Research, CSBG
bjelland@nascsp.org

Jeannie Chaffin
 CSBG Senior Program and Policy
 Specialist
jchaffin@nascsp.org

Joan Harris
 Director, Special Projects
jharris@nascsp.org

Arley Johnson
 Director, Government Relations
ajohnson@nascsp.org

Terry Joyner
 Director, Member Services
tjoyner@nascsp.org

Gretchen Knowlton
 Special Assistant to the Executive
 Director
gknowlton@nascsp.org

Natalya Lozovaya
 Research Assistant, CSBG
nlozovaya@nascsp.org

Robert Scott
 Director, Weatherization Services
rscott@nascsp.org

Rebecca Stewart
 Program Assistant, Weatherization
 Services
rstewart@nascsp.org

Mark Schmeissing
 Research Assistant, CSBG
mschmeissing@nascsp.org

Jovita Tolbert
 Director, Program Services
jtolbert@nascsp.org



NASCSP Mission:

"Building capacity in states to respond to poverty issues."