

Even with two new programs designed to meet the immediate needs of county residents, Dale and her staff haven't forgotten the long-term needs of the future.

Last year, the agency launched "Be the Change," its first ever major fundraising campaign. Inspired by the words of human rights leader Mahatma Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in the world," the campaign aims to raise \$150,000 in support of the agency's mission by December 2010. The funds will help ensure that no sudden loss of funding will mean a loss of important services to Madison County residents.

The agency has raised over \$63,000 toward its goal and is looking forward to hosting its next major fundraising event

this March, when Board and staff volunteers will host an Academy Awards mixer the Friday before the awards broadcast, complete with hors d'oeuvres, trivia, raffles, and movie clips from nominated films.

"This is a time of opportunity," says Dale.

"We're looking forward to superior service during a time of turmoil, agency and community growth during a time of change, and as always, living up to our mission of 'helping people, changing lives.'"

For more information about New York State's Community Action Partnership for Madison County, visit their website at www.capmadco.org.

WAP Corner: National WAP Evaluation

by Robert Scott

With all the major issues confronting the WAP network in trying to reach full production capacity with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, Weatherization Program Notice IO-II, announcing the National Evaluation of the Weatherization Assistance Program, may not have received the full attention and consideration it should have. Perhaps with all the attention on the WAP changes and ramping up issues, State and local WAP Managers took the notice about the Evaluation more as a FYI of something that DOE would conduct and that it would not require much involvement from WAP operators.

I have the privilege of being a member of the National Evaluation Network Committee, which met on January 26-27, 2010 in Crystal City, VA. I also served in a similar capacity in the Spring of 2005, when a first National Weatherization Network Committee convened in Washington, DC to provide guidance about what to include in an evaluation. At that time, the goal was to focus the evaluation on Program Year 2006, but was delayed. With the change in Administration, the go-ahead for the evaluation was given in Spring of 2009.

I remember being very impressed with the scope of the evaluation as it was developed in 2005. The present plan is even more ambitious. There will actually be two evaluations. The first evaluation, which is called a retrospective evaluation, will focus on WAP Program Years 2007 and 2008. A second evaluation will focus on WAP during the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act period. The retrospective evaluation is intended to provide a baseline

with respect to impacts, non-energy benefits, cost effectiveness, training, and program operation. Since the last full national WAP evaluation was nearly two decades ago, the results will be very valuable to the WAP network. In addition, this baseline will be used to compare results from the WAP ARRA period evaluation, and may provide answers to questions like what the impact on savings and cost-effectiveness of the increased maximum cost average to \$6500 is, and whether there was any effect on overall quality due to the fast ramp up and large number of new field workers.

The evaluation will have several components. First there will be an **impact** analysis to estimate national energy savings, program cost effectiveness, and non-energy benefits attributable to the program. Then, a comprehensive **process** evaluation will examine program operations and implementation, with a particular focus on procedures used for audits, client education, staff training, and quality assurance. There will also be **special technical projects** analysis which will focus on the performance of air sealing, duct sealing, furnace system tune-ups, and furnace system replacements, as well as the performance of refrigerator replacement activities and the potential savings from air conditioning. Lastly, two **special surveys** will be conducted of occupants and weatherization staff to assess energy knowledge, non-energy benefits, occupant health, and client satisfaction.

The scope of the undertaking will be very large. A projected 400 local agencies – nearly half of the country's

subgrantees – will comprise the sample to provide information on about one-third of their weatherized homes. All States will also be involved. The survey tools are very extensive. This will require a significant amount of focused effort to comply. The network needs to start planning how they can allocate the necessary resources, particularly the personnel time that will be needed, to complete the various surveys and required information. It is likely that staff will need to be assigned and maybe even new staff hired for this purpose. All resources pertaining to the evaluation should be allowed as a T&TA expense. The WAP network should be hearing a lot more about the evaluation in the near future.

With the many issues facing the WAP network in reaching full capacity to meet ARRA goals, the evaluation may seem

poorly timed. While the timing may not be opportune for program operators, NASCS SP fully supports the evaluation. It is not just long overdue, but is sorely needed to analyze today's Weatherization Assistance Program. The Program has undergone many technical advances in diagnostics, measures performed, and installations since the last evaluation. It is time to evaluate the results.

The evaluation results can be used to demonstrate the value of WAP to policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public. If there are any shortcomings, then those issues can be analyzed so improvements can be made. The WAP network and community needs to know exactly how we are performing and the whole impact of our collective efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

I04th 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 NASCS SP 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

2011 NASCS SP Mid-Winter Training Conference

Orientation—February 28-March 1, 2011

Conference—March 2-4, 2011

Hyatt Regency Bethesda

Bethesda, MD

nascsp@gove.org