

Ready for Recovery: Montana's Weatherization Program Ramp-Up

September 2, 2009

This report summarizes the investments Montana's weatherization providers have made to ramp-up their agencies' capacities and prepare to meet the Weatherization Assistance Program production goals set by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In anticipation of the release of ARRA funds for production, Montana's Weatherization Assistance program staff, local Weatherization agencies and the Montana State University (MSU) Extension Weatherization Training Center have all increased hiring and training and built-up their equipment stocks in preparation for ARRA ramp-up. The table below provides more details about the actions taken by these agencies from January through July of 2009:

MT Ramp-up at a Glance:

Hired as of 8/5/09	Count
People Hired*	81
Still Interviewing for *	17
New Contracting Companies	6
Workers Trained	58
Workers Still Training	71
Purchased as of 8/5/09	
Vehicles (all US-made)	51
Blower Doors	29
Insulation Machines	19
Truck-Mounted Generators	5
IR Scanners	10
Insight CO Detectors	3
Trailers	17
Computers/printers	26/11
Blower Doors Components	13
Warehouse Rented	5
Office Space Rented	5

* Includes individuals hired by contractors

Montana's Readiness Highlights:

- 81 program jobs created, including 8 created by contracting companies;
- 17 additional jobs will be filled shortly;
- 6 more contractors contracted;
- 51 people trained, with 71 to soon complete training;
- 66 pieces of diagnostic equipment and 37 units of office equipment purchased;

- 51 US-made vehicles purchased.



More on Real Results, Real Readiness:

- ☑ MSU Weatherization Training Center, a national and regional training provider to the program, has hired two (2) additional trainers, including a furnace expert;
- ☑ The MSU weatherization training sessions have been doubled in order to provide training to the new weatherization staff;
- ☑ MSU is renting an additional training facility to accommodate the influx of trainees and training sessions;
- ☑ Two (2) Local Furnace Contractors will retain staff and hire two (2) additional people each;
- ☑ Two (2) local General Contractors have retained staff and have hired two (2) additional people each;
- ☑ Three (3) local insulation contractors have retained staff and hired 4 additional workers. Anticipated layoffs were also avoided;
- ☑ The state Weatherization office will hire two (2) additional people;
- ☑ New warehouses are being used to store the increased volume of insulation and weatherization materials;
- ☑ The Weatherization agencies reported 671 completions for the quarter ending June 30, 2009. This is an increase of 45% over the previous three months;
- ☑ Five (5) office buildings have been rented.



From left: New warehouse rented by Action for Eastern Montana in Glendive, MT; New warehouse rented by Opportunities Inc. in Great Falls, MT; new warehouse/storage space rented by District 7 HRDC in Billings, MT.



From left: Newly renovated office building now being rented by District 7 HRDC, Billings; New office space now being rented by Opportunities Inc., Great Falls.

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