

PROJECT TRACKER

Funds growing for home weatherization work in county

COST \$14.2 million **COMPLETION DATE** Until funding exhausted

The details

Region II Community Action Agency's allocations of federal money to weatherize homes of lower-income residents in Lenawee, Jackson and Hillsdale counties grew from \$5 million in 2009 to \$14.2 million now. The goal is to improve energy conservation in 2,000 single-family homes and some apartment buildings in the three counties, about 600 of them in Lenawee County. Community Action Agency also administers a low-income energy conservation program for Consumers Energy and DTE that replaces old appliances with energy efficient ones.

The progress

By the end of June, the Community Action Agency

program had completed weatherization upgrades of 1,679 homes, said Burt Fenby of the Lenawee County office. The utility company program provided qualifying residents with 633 refrigerators, 401 furnaces and 358 water heaters.

Community Action Agency has 10 contractors in Jackson County, five in Lenawee County and one in Hillsdale County providing 81 crews for weatherization projects, overseen by 12 inspectors. Inspectors determine what work will gain the most in energy conservation. Insulation and window caulking are the most common improvements, within a spending limit of \$5,000 to \$6,000 per home. A household qualifies

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for the federally funded weatherization program being within 200 percent of the poverty level, currently a \$44,100 annual income for a family of four. Applications are still being taken.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Call CAA's Lenawee County office at 263-7861 or visit its website by this link: tinyurl.com/caaweather.

— *By Dennis Pelham,*
Daily Telegram staff writer



Telegram photo by Vicki Schmucker

Al Thayer of Victor Brown Construction of Clinton installs a bathtub at a Lenawee County home as part of the Community Action Agency's home weatherization program.

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*Adrian,
Michigan*