

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) Challenges to Capacity Building

Stakeholders Advisory Group
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OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Learning From The Past

- ARRA 2009
 - IHWAP received 250,000,000 in ARRA Funding
- DOE ARRA funds were to have a two year sunset
- A massive ramp up ensued
- Quality suffered and as a result accountability increased
- Accountability continues to increase from all levels

Challenges for Ramping Up Staff & Contractors

- Weatherization is a specialized field that requires a specialized skill set
- New Energy Auditors and Inspectors require training and certifications
- New Contractors require training and certification
- Formal procurement process is required to add contractors

Challenges of Working on Low Income Properties



- Dilapidated housing stock
- Existing mold and or moisture concerns
- Budgets don't always allow us to mend all of the ailments of a home
- Code compliance issues (municipality)
- Overcrowded or cluttered homes



Difficult Housing Stock

Solving efficiency issues in mobile homes

- Insulation
- Duct sealing



Examples of insulation techniques for mobile homes



This technician is sealing duct boots in a mobile home

Difficult Housing Stock

Solving efficiency issues in less than ideal housing stock

- Dense pack cellulose insulation
- Attic air sealing



Examples of attic air sealing



Dense packed wall insulation being installed by a technician

Building Science

- Building Science is a technical, ever evolving field that requires specialized training with constant updates and refreshers



The Importance of Training in IHWAP

Client Safety is Paramount

- The house is a system
- Changes made during weatherization can have an adverse impact on appliance venting
- CO poisoning can result in illness or death
- Workers must understand the house as a system approach and be capable of diagnosing issues with appliance venting



The Importance of Training in IHWAP

Cost Effectiveness and Client Savings

- We only get one chance (Re-weatherization)
- Building a cost effective scope of work
- Client utility savings
- Knowledgeable assessors create efficiency in the process, fewer call-backs and change orders



IHWAP Training and Certification Requirements

Together with our training partners at the University of Illinois, Indoor Climate and Research Training Center – IHWAP has developed a curriculum to meet the needs of the ever-evolving building science industry.

- Training and Certification Program (10 week course)
- IHWAP Contractor Training Certification (1 week course)
- Building Performance Institute, Quality Control Inspector Certification



A group of students receiving HVAC training at U of I.



IHWAP Training and Certification Program

TCP Certification Curriculum

- Weatherization 101
- Heat Transfer
- Building Fundamentals
- Building Diagnostics (Blower Door)
- Infrared and Mid-Course Assessment
- Heating Systems (Basic)
- Heating Systems (Advanced)
- Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps
- Health and Safety
- Comprehensive Building Assessment and Final Exam



Training and Certification Program class at our Training Center at the University of Illinois in Champaign



IHWAP Quality Control Inspections

- All IHWAP final inspectors must obtain a Building Performance Institute (BPI) Quality Control Inspector Certification. This is a more advanced certification than required by most energy efficiency programs. The USDOE requires this certification for final inspectors.
- All areas of the home are inspected to ensure that quality work was performed and that no qualifying measures were left out of the original scope of work.
- A multitude of health and safety tests are also completed before the home can pass a final inspection.



**CERTIFIED
PROFESSIONAL**

Procurement (2 CFR 200)

- Procurement is a difficult process for local agencies
- 2 CFR 200 outlines the process for conducting open, competitive procurement
- Local agencies are responsible for their own procurement
- Solving procurement issues can help create efficiency in onboarding new contractors

Qualified Contractor Shortage

A shortage of contractors is a current challenge. Even the best procurement can be conducted, but if there are no contractors to respond, it makes production and savings goals difficult to achieve.

- Regional Approach to Procurement
- Market Transformation (Utilities)
- Educate Contractors on the current IHWAP Program

For more information

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