



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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EDWARD G. RENDELL, Governor

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GOVERNOR RENDELL SAYS PA WEATHERIZATION PLAN FOR FEDERAL RECOVERY FUNDS READY FOR COMMENT

HARRISBURG – Governor Edward G. Rendell announced today that the commonwealth's proposed plan for federal weatherization assistance funding through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is now available online and will be open to public testimony, May 5, during a hearing in Harrisburg. Written comment is also encouraged.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide \$252.8 million to Pennsylvania over three years for the state's weatherization assistance program, which is designed to help low-income households decrease energy consumption and costs while increasing their comfort, health and safety. The commonwealth received 10 percent of its grant award on March 27.

The plan, which can be found at www.recovery.pa.gov, addresses how the state will expand capacity and prioritize projects, as well as workforce development issues, and oversight and reporting.

“This investment is what the stimulus is all about,” said Governor Rendell. “The additional funds will help conserve energy, put people to work by increasing demand for skilled weatherization pros, and help some of our most vulnerable people by reducing their energy bills. It's a massive investment in weatherization—more than seven times larger than this year's weatherization expenditures from the energy department and LIHEAP combined.”

The state plan calls for reducing energy use by the equivalent of 155,000 barrels of oil a year, weatherizing at least 29,700 more housing units over the next 2-3 years, and putting more than 900 people to work, Governor Rendell said.

Governor Rendell has committed to ensuring the public is able to monitor and provide feedback on how federal recovery dollars are being used by providing news, up-to-date information and regular reports on www.recovery.pa.gov.

The public hearing will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, in Hearing Room 4, Plaza Level, of the Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North St., Harrisburg. Additional information on the hearing is available on DCED's Web site, newpa.com

Anyone who wants to provide public testimony can contact Yvonne Adams at 717-787-1984 to be scheduled. Written comments may be submitted to Jameseta Reed, director, Center for Community Empowerment, 4th Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North St., Harrisburg, PA 17120 until 5 p.m. on May 5.

For more information and details on Governor Rendell's 2009-10 budget proposal to provide relief to struggling families and spark an economic recovery, visit www.pa.gov.

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The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his weekly newsletter, visit www.governor.state.pa.us.