

Gov. Ivey awards \$5.8 million in grants to Alabama's Weatherization Assistance Program

Gov. Kay Ivey has awarded grants totaling more than \$5.8 million to agencies that help low-income residents lower their energy costs by weatherizing their homes.

The grants support Alabama's Weatherization Assistance Program, which provides funds to improve the energy efficiency and safety of qualifying homes. Priority is given to people with disabilities, the elderly and low-income households with children.

"A change in the weather can lead to a spike in home heating or cooling costs, forcing many to make difficult decisions about how to use their limited funds," Gov. Ivey said. "These grants will help low-income households make upgrades that will significantly reduce heating and cooling bills."

An energy audit is conducted of each home that qualifies for weatherization assistance to determine the most cost-efficient measures. Common improvements include installing extra insulation in the attic, walls and floor; sealing air leaks around doors and windows; repairs or tune-ups for air conditioning and heating units; and replacing incandescent light bulbs with high-efficiency bulbs. In addition to lowering energy bills, the improvements can reduce the risk of fire and other hazards.

Gov. Ivey awarded the grants to 13 community agencies throughout the state that manage the program at the local level and accept applications from individuals seeking assistance.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the grants from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Making a home more energy efficient is a lasting solution to lower utility bills," ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell said. "ADECA joins Gov. Ivey in support of these local agencies that assist families with long-term improvements that make a big difference in monthly energy bills."

Below is a list of each grant, the recipient agency, counties served and the agency telephone number and, where available, the agency website:

\$338,587 to Community Action Agency of Talladega, Clay, Randolph, Calhoun and Cleburne Counties Inc. (Clay, Randolph, Talladega, Calhoun, Cleburne) (256) 781-0004.