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Press Release

Agency Steps Up Home Weatherization Efforts

(EL PASO, TEXAS-Aug. 16, 2010) – Project BRAVO, Inc., El Paso’s community action agency, has weatherized the homes of 323 elderly, disabled and low-income residents in El Paso County so far in 2010 (through July 31, 2010). During the month of July, the agency exceeded its goal by weatherizing 150 homes – five more than projected for the month. The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the Department of Energy. The program is administered through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Project BRAVO received a total of \$8.7 million under the program to weatherize as many as 1,700 homes in El Paso County by the end of August of 2011.

Weatherization is intended to help needy residents reduce their energy costs by as much as 30-percent. The DOE and TDHCA have set an ultimate goal of reducing overall energy consumption, creating a healthier living environment and reducing the state’s overall demand for energy. Weatherization services may include installation of attic insulation, weather-stripping, window solar screens, smoke/Co2 detectors, and replacement of inefficient heating and cooling units.

Community action agencies are weatherizing as many as 31,000 homes per month across the United States, according to the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF). So far, more than 100,000 homes have been weatherized nationwide. The NCAF reports that the Weatherization Assistance Program is responsible for the creation of 12,987 jobs, making it No. 7 in the creation of Recovery Act jobs in the nation. In El Paso County, Project BRAVO has contracted with more than a dozen local contractors to conduct home weatherization.

Contact: Roy Ortega – Community Relations Manager, 915-562-4100 ext 122 or 261-5922 (cell)

Links:

Project BRAVO - <http://www.projectbravo.org/>

TDHCA - <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/ea/wap.htm>

NCAF - <http://www.ncaf.org/>

U.S. Department of Energy - <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/wap.html>