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## **Governor Doyle Announces Recovery Weatherization Program for Large, Multifamily Buildings**

### ***Encourages Interested Property Owners to Apply***

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today that funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be used for a new program to weatherize large, multifamily buildings. The new program aims to weatherize approximately 3,000 units in apartment buildings across the state over the next two years, reducing energy use and creating jobs.

“Wisconsin has always been a national leader in weatherizing the homes of low income, working families, and now we are reaching out to help low and moderate-income families in large apartment buildings by offering building owners a program to weatherize their large, multifamily buildings,” Governor Doyle said. “This new program, supported with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, will provide families living in the units with lower utility bills and create jobs in the local economy.”

Under the Recovery Act, Wisconsin will receive over \$141 million for weatherization programs for low and moderate-income families. The majority of the funds will help weatherize more than 33,000 homes over the next two years. Wisconsin recently received approval from the Department of Energy to use \$17 million of the recovery funds on this new initiative to weatherize large, multifamily units.

There is potential for substantial energy savings in weatherizing apartment buildings and Wisconsin’s new Multifamily Weatherization Recovery Project is expected to be a model for other states.

Unlike the current low-income weatherization program that contracts with local governments and non-profit organizations for weatherization services, the Department of Administration (DOA) will provide services directly for the new Multifamily Weatherization Recovery Project. DOA’s Division of Energy Services has expertise in weatherization and the Division of State Facilities has experience and expertise in working directly with contractors on state building projects, like remodeling dorms on campuses across the state, for example.

The Multifamily Weatherization Project is planning to weatherize approximately 3,000 units as part of the state’s Recovery Low-income Weatherization Program. The project aims to connect interested property owners with successful ways to decrease operational and energy costs while increasing comfort for their tenants.

Eligible participating property owners receive an energy assessment (audit) that looks at building performance and ways that energy efficiency can be improved. Energy efficiency improvements are offered to the owner when improvements will generate savings. Typical improvements may include

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heating system replacement, compact fluorescent light bulbs, ventilation, insulation, reduction of air leakage and refrigerator replacement.

A qualified property will contain 20-or-more units in one structure with a minimum of two-thirds of the tenants having an income at or below 60% of the state median income and will not have been previously weatherized through the state's Low-income Weatherization Program. There is no obligation for submitting an application and there is no direct cost for participation in the program.

Owners of low-income and working-poor properties of 20-or-more units in one structure are encouraged to contact the Wisconsin Department of Administration to learn more about participating in the program or to complete an application.

If you are interested completing an on-line application or want more information, please contact Home Energy Plus at 866-432-8947 (toll-free) or send an email to [WImultiunit@wisconsin.gov](mailto:WImultiunit@wisconsin.gov). Applications are due July 31<sup>st</sup> for the initial round of pilot projects and will continue to be processed through August 26<sup>th</sup>. Additional application cycles are anticipated.

Estimated guidelines for tenant income:

<b>Estimated 60 percent of State Median Income Guidelines - 2009-2010</b>		
<b>Persons in Family</b>	<b>Monthly Income</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>
1	\$1,953	\$23,435
2	\$2,554	\$30,646
3	\$3,155	\$37,856
4	\$3,756	\$45,067
5	\$4,356	\$52,278
6	\$4,957	\$59,488
7	\$5,070	\$60,840
8	\$5,183	\$62,192