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RGE AND consumer news

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Winterization Programs Provide Help For Local Residents

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This week our entire page is devoted to listing the programs available to help local residents make energy conservation home improvements.

An inter-agency committee in the community has gathered this information as part of a resource guide to prepare for problems which could be created by another severe winter. I thought publication of the information here would be a good way to reach those of you who might qualify for the programs, but might not know about them.

The programs vary. Some provide assistance for conservation improvements as part of a general home improvement plan; others specifically are for "winterization" improvements. All programs have the potential for saving heating energy, which is so important today.

If you think you qualify and would like further information, contact the programs directly at the telephone number or address listed.

Monroe County Home Improvement Program:

What it is: Monroe County is sponsoring a Home Improvement Grant Program designed specifically for low income homeowners who live in suburban Monroe County.

Supported with Community Development Act funds, this program will provide up to \$2,000 in grants to eligible owner occupants. These funds are to be used for general home improvement weatherization, flood proofing, and structural repairs.

Where: Participating local towns and villages will be responsible for administering the program for their residents.

Who is eligible: Low income homeowners, residing in one or two-family dwellings.

You must own and occupy the property to be improved. Your property must be located in one of the participating towns or villages.

You must have proof of income which may not exceed the following limits:

| Household Size (No. of Members) | Maximum Income |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$7,200 |
| 2 | 7,200 |
| 3 | 8,000 |
| 4 | 9,000 |
| 5 | 9,750 |
| 6 | 10,500 |
| 7 | 11,250 |
| 8 | 12,000 |

How to apply: Your village or town office will have application forms for you. They are responsible

for approving all applicants. If you are eligible and your requested repair is approved you may qualify for up to a \$2,000 grant. Once your application has been properly filed, the program administrator for your area will review the information, verify your request and notify you as to your eligibility.

The next step will be a visit by the town or village building inspector who will aid in determining exactly how much work should be done. In addition, he will assist you in preparing a work write-up which is to be used in getting estimates from reliable contractors, and will specify the type of repairs to be made on the property. You will be responsible for getting three estimates and selecting the contractor, although your grant amount will be based on the lowest responsible estimate.

Hand-In-Hand/WEDGE, Inc.

What it is: Two persons provide instruction and assistance to Brown Square residents who want to learn how to do their own basic home repairs, insulation and weatherization, or participate in a community gardening project. Program will operate until April, 1978.

Where: Brown Square area of Rochester, and neighboring communities such as Edgerton and Dutchtown.

Who is eligible: Residents of target area. There are no income guidelines.

How to apply: Contact WEDGE, Inc. — Michael Kliman, 172 Jay Street, Rochester, New York. Telephone: 325-3781.

Action for a Better Community (ABC) — Energy Conservation Program

What it is: Energy conservation home improvements up to \$350 per house include caulking and weatherstripping, repair or replacement of broken windows, installation of storm windows and doors, and attic insulation. The work will be done by Energy Conservation Program staff.

Where: Monroe and Ontario Counties

Who is eligible: Owner occupants who meet these guidelines for yearly gross income.

| Family Size | Non-Farm | Farm |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | \$3,712.50 | \$3,187.50 |
| 2 | 4,912.50 | 4,200.00 |
| 3 | 6,112.50 | 5,212.50 |
| 4 | 7,312.50 | 6,225.00 |
| 5 | 8,512.50 | 7,237.50 |
| 6 | 9,712.50 | 8,250.00 |

For additional dependents add \$1,200.00 - Non Farm \$1,012.50 - Farm

How to apply: Contact the Energy Conservation Program, 139 Central Park, Rochester, New York 14605, Telephone: 325-5116, Extension 254 or 255. Rural residents contact: Ellie O'Brien or Jack Widman, Telephone: 325-5116, Extension 235 or 236. Elderly residents contact: Regional Council on Aging, Vincent Minter or Ava Casolari, Telephone: 454-3224, Extension 21 or 22.

Program Funding, Inc. — Weatherization Program

What it is: Energy conservation home improvements include caulking and weatherstripping, repair or replacement of broken windows, installation of storm windows and doors, and attic insulation. The work will be done by Weatherization Program staff.

Where: Local areas include Wayne County and parts of western Monroe County.

Who is eligible: Migrants and seasonal farm workers who meet these guidelines for yearly gross income

| Household Size | Income |
|----------------|----------|
| 1 | \$ 3,713 |
| 2 | 4,913 |
| 3 | 6,113 |
| 4 | 7,313 |
| 5 | 8,513 |
| 6 | 9,713 |
| 7 | 10,913 |
| 8 | 12,113 |
| 9 | 13,313 |
| 10 | 14,513 |

For additional dependents, add \$900 per person

How to Apply: Contact Program Funding, Inc., Suite 730, Powers Building, Rochester, New York 14614. Telephone: 716/546-7180.

City of Rochester — Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP)

What it is: A 35% subsidy on home improvement loans of up to \$5,000. Any permanent home improvements are eligible, including energy conservation improvements, such as furnace repair or replacement, and installation of storm windows and doors and insulation. Homeowners select their own contractors or do the work themselves.

Where: City of Rochester — citywide

Who is eligible: Owner occupants of single or multiple dwellings, who meet these guidelines for yearly gross income:

| Household Size | Income |
|----------------|----------|
| 1 | \$ 9,950 |
| 2 | 12,750 |
| 3 | 14,300 |
| 4 | 15,950 |
| 5 | 16,950 |
| 6 | 17,950 |
| 7 | 18,900 |
| 8 | 19,900 |

How to Apply: Contact a participating bank or credit union to fill out an application for a subsidized home improvement loan. Make sure to mention the HILP Program.

City of Rochester — Home Improvement Grant Program

What it is: A grant up to \$3,000 for low income residents, and up to \$3,500 for very low income residents who do not qualify for HILP loans, to correct code violations and ensure safe and sanitary dwellings. Home improvements appearing on the City list of priority items are eligible, including energy conservation improvements, such as furnace repair or replacement, and installation of storm windows and doors and insulation. Homeowners select their own contractors or do the work themselves.

Where: City of Rochester — citywide

Who is eligible: Owner occupants in single-family house, double or multiple dwelling up to four units, who meet these guidelines for yearly gross income

| Household Size | Low Income | Very Low Income |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 | \$ 7,950 | \$ 4,800 |
| 2 | 10,200 | 6,350 |
| 3 | 11,450 | 7,150 |
| 4 | 12,750 | 7,950 |
| 5 | 13,550 | 8,600 |
| 6 | 14,350 | 9,250 |
| 7 | 15,100 | 9,850 |
| 8 | 15,900 | 10,500 |

Homeowners 65 years or older can claim an additional exemption in the very low income category.

How to Apply: Low income homeowners first apply for a HILP loan at a participating bank or credit union. If turned down due to insufficient income to carry a loan, the low income grant is applied for in the same procedure as a very low income grant.

Very low income owner-occupants go directly to the Office of Neighborhood Reinvestment Services, IBM Building, Fourth Floor, 150 State Street, or the Southside Office, 826 Genesee Street. Call first for an appointment at 428-6890. For further information, or the list of participating lending institutions, call 428-6890.

City of Rochester — Section 312 Loan

What it is: A 3% Federal loan up to \$17,400 per dwelling unit to help investor-owners and owner-occupants, who do not qualify under HILP, rehabilitate their properties in order to bring them up to building code standards, plus make general property improvements. Construction costs over \$10,000 must go to public bid, with a minimum of 2 bids. Under \$10,000 owner may negotiate with one or more contractors.

Where: City of Rochester — Within "Primary Target Area"

Who is eligible: Investor-owners of dwellings housing low to moderate income residents.

Owner-occupants of 1-4 units who do not qualify under HILP, or whose rehabilitation work exceeds \$5,000, if property is free of all liens and applicant can show adequate capacity to repay the loan.

How to Apply: Contact the Department of Community Development, 150 State Street, Rochester, New York 14614 Attention: Helen Butler, Telephone: 428-6888

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: CJ-53
 Dept. 34, Rochester Gas and Electric,
 89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649
 546-2700

I would like more information on the following items:

Name _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 Town _____ Zip Code _____