

ACC Chair, Kristin Mayes Takes Hands-On Weatherization Tour Maricopa County Weatherization Assistance Program

Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) Chair, Kris Mayes, made a 'hands on' visit to a Maricopa County Weatherization site in Tempe this past month. She observed firsthand measures taken on the home with contractor, Al Lopez, from a rooftop vantage point. Chairman Mayes has long been an advocate for weatherization and other energy efficiency measures. Recent rulings by the ACC in APS, Southwest Gas, and TEP/UniSource rate cases have resulted in ACC rulings mandating and increasing the funding of weatherization and repair/replacement services.

Maricopa County, one of the 10 Community Action Agency providers of the low-income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), will weatherize approximately 1600 units – individual homes and multi-family complexes - by March 2012, utilizing Department of Energy American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, a program managed locally by the Department of Commerce Energy Office.

Weatherization measures, which typically include installing insulation in walls, floors and attics; reducing air infiltration and pressure imbalances; sealing and repairing ducts; tuning and repairing heating and cooling units lowers energy consumption and reduces energy costs. These measures also benefit the community by reducing energy consumption, improving housing stock and neighborhood conditions. Weatherization also offers valuable employment opportunities and provides practical information and training to residents. In Arizona 132 direct jobs have been created through the Weatherization Assistance Program stimulus funding, and hundreds of indirect employment opportunities have been created. The Weatherization stimulus program nationwide has been credited with funding more than 8000 direct jobs and thousands more of indirect employment nationwide.



Flex duct for new HVAC air delivery system waiting for installation



Eileen Albillare, Weatherization Manager for Maricopa County explains weatherization application process to: (from left) Cynthia Zwick, Director Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA), Vinnie Pedalino, Foundation for Senior Living (FSL), Giancarlo Estrada, Assistant to Kris Mayes, Chair, Arizona Corporation Commission, Miquelle Scheier, Weatherization Outreach Manager ACAA, Eileen Albillare, and Carrie Smith, Director In Home Services FSL



Phoenix contractor Al Lopez explains process for new HVAC installation to ACC Chair, Kris Mayes.



Chairman Mayes looks on as contractor Al Lopez talks about the benefits of new HVAC system.