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## Energy efficiency efforts will get \$130 million boost in Missouri

St. Louis Business Journal - by [Rick Desloge](#)

The Community Action Agency of St. Louis County and the **Urban League of St. Louis** can expect to share in an estimated \$130 million coming to Missouri to help insulate homes for low-income people.

The money will be divided among 17 regional community action agencies across the state and one city government, according to the **Missouri Department of Natural Resources**, which is administering energy efficiency programs financed by stimulus money.

**The Missouri DNR** is still determining how much each agency will receive. Allocations will be based on the percentage of low income households within the organization's areas.

Kerry Cordray, a DNR spokesman, said more families will be eligible for the program now. For example, to qualify last year, a family of four needed an annual income of \$31,800 or less. Under the stimulus legislation, a family of four making as much as \$44,100 would be eligible.

Merline Anderson, executive director of the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, said she expected both the amount her agency could spend to weatherize each home and the number of homes weatherized to rise. The agency weatherizes an average of 250 homes a year and currently spends about \$2,900 on each.

The weatherization program is expected to be the largest of stimulus-funded energy efficiency programs managed by the Missouri DNR, Cordray said.

A second program will provide an estimated \$61.6 million to local governments and school districts to make energy improvements to their buildings, and a third program is expected to have \$15.5 million for energy efficiency block grants for cities under 35,000 population and counties under 200,000, he said. In addition, DNR is waiting for federal guidelines and formulas on a fourth program, rebate funds for people who purchase high-efficiency appliances.