



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

December 30, 2021

Dear Governor and Members of the General Assembly:

The following report fulfills the statutory directive that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provide the Governor and the Members of the General Assembly with an annual report on the Urban Weatherization Initiative. The Urban Weatherization Initiative Act (UWI) (30 ILCS 738/Article 40) requires the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (Department) administer a weatherization assistance program designed to promote the State's interest in reducing the impact of high energy costs on low-income households, especially those in urban areas with high rates of unemployment, underemployment and poverty.

Program Model

The UWI program is based on a two-pronged approach: 1) to increase employment opportunities among Illinois residents through training that leads to Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification, and 2) to provide residential weatherization services in urban areas. Training and weatherization services are administered through grants to organizations. All grants are awarded via a competitive selection process. The program works to stimulate local economies by utilizing local contractors, suppliers, distributors and/or manufacturers of equipment and supplies necessary for the weatherization work.

Program Status

The UWI program has not been funded since Fiscal Year 2016. Without funding the Department is unable to execute the program. As such, no new grants were issued. As of November 30, 2016, all UWI grants have ended. The most recent UWI grant administered by the Department was for the Residential Weatherization Program. Eight grantees were selected to receive up to \$8 million each to perform weatherization work in homes. Due to the suspension of the program in Fiscal Year 2016, many grantees were unable to expend their grants.

Please feel free to contact the Department with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sylvia I. Garcia
Acting Director