

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
before the  
NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
CORE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS  
2010 Program  
Docket No. DE 09-170

Testimony of

Dana Nute

On behalf of

Community Action Agencies

December 09, 2009

**Q. Please state your name, employer, business address, position, and qualifications.**

A. My name is Dana Nute. I work for Community Action Program Belknap -Merrimack Counties, Inc. My business address is 2 Industrial Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301. I am the Director of Housing Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation for the agency. I am a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston, MA with a degree in civil engineering. I have been with this Agency since 2000. I am a certified weatherization auditor in both New Hampshire and Maine. I am a member of the New Hampshire Weatherization Directors Association. I have represented the New Hampshire Association of Community Action Agencies ,which represents the six (6) Community Action Agencies, since 2003 in the CORE Docket filings.

**Q Have you testified before the Commission**

A I have presented written testimony on CORE Docket No. .DE 07-106

**Q Could you state the position of the New Hampshire Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in regards to the low income formula for the HEA Program.**

A The CAAs take no position on staff's various derivations of a low income formula for the Home Energy Assistance (HEA) Program but do support the current Utility Companies proposed 14% formula for the 2010 CORE Program. .

**Q Could you please provide the CAAs current status with the CORE Program**

A One of the many programs that the CAAs provide to eligible low income clients and communities is the HEA portion of the CORE Program. As a vendor in this program any increase in the funding to the HEA result in an increase of funding to the CAAs. It should also be pointed out that this results in an increase in the number of clients served and energy reduction.

**Q Are there any statistics or issues that you would like to present that would have direct correlation with the funding of the HEA Program whether it be historical, current or future?**

A The following issues are being presented as they have direct relevance to the CORE 2010 Settlement Agreement Filing.

### CAA WEATHERIZATION WAITING LIST

The CAAs have seen an increase in the “waiting list” clients(see footnote a). This is a direct result of the increase of income guidelines in 2009 from 185% FPG to 200% FPG.

The statewide number of Fuel Assistance certified applications in May, 2008 was 35,057 and in May, 2009 the total was 43,737 resulting in an increase of 21.9% which can be directly correlated to a waiting list increase.

### CAA WORKFORCE INCREASE

The CAAs have increased the number of auditors (employed by CAAs) from December ‘08 to December ‘09 by more than 100%

CAA crews (employed by CAAs) has increased by more than 75%

CAA weatherization contractors base has increased by more than 100% since December ‘08 and the CAAs are currently increasing the contractor base.

### HEA PROGRAM HISTORICAL

Since 2005 the HEA Program budget and production has exceeded the goals (see annual CORE filings)

YEAR	BUDGET (% goal)	CUSTOMERS (% goal)
2005	100	125
2006	108	121
2007	113	99
2008	128	125
2009 (as of 9-30-09)	95	104

The HEA Program has collaborated with the Weatherization Assistance Program has increasing from 55% in 2005 to 98% as of 9-30-09.

a-“waiting list” is derived from Fuel Assistance database for clients requesting “Weatherization”

### ARRA FUNDING FOR WEATHERIZATION (4-1-09 TO 3-31-12)

Statewide funding for the CAAs under the ARRA for production is \$18,112,248 which equates to \$6,037,416 per year for the three years. Funding will be completed on 3-31-12 resulting in a per annum production decrease. The CAAs have built capacity to maintain production at this funded amount. When the ARRA funding is complete the CAAs will need other funding to maintain the production and not revert to 2008 production levels which result in cutbacks to CAA and contractor employees. Future funding could be enhanced with increased HEA funding. (see TWH Testimony dated November 6, 2009, pg 31 line 5 for 2012 proposed funding level)

### THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan calls for the retrofitting of 30,000 homes per year (see RCI Action 1.2). Using the conservative rate of 18% (see Staff response to TWH1-4 page 2 of 26), low income households result in 5400 of these homes being qualified under the low income energy efficiency programs. At the current average this would require a minimum of \$18,000,000 per year.

### SUMMARY

The CAAs show a need for an increase in future funding in the low income production programs and current and historical data show the capability to meet production goals. The CAAs request that CORE funding in the HEA Program be addressed to “meet the needs”.

End of Testimony