

My Name is Darlene Gallant, I am the Community Services Director at Lynn Economic Opportunity Opportunity, Inc. and the Co-chair of the Massachusetts Energy Directors Association

I'm here to talk about good work LEO and other agencies do statewide to keep low income families warm and safe.

In FY 17 the total funding for HEARTWAP, the system repair and replacement program was \$9,750, 000.

Here's what it means in Massachusetts:

- 9077 households served
- 67% are 60 and older
- 34% have a disability
- 7% were children
- 82% were households with some combination of elderly, disabled or children
- 1667 heating systems replaced
- 5110 heating systems repaired
- 3770 CTE's conducted
- 608 fuel tanks replaced
- 278 fuel lines replaced
- 11, 712 measures completed

LEO statistics are

- replaced 65 heating systems
- 20 oil tanks
- weatherized 68 homes
- completed 92 appliance electric audits (amps)

DOE pays for full scale weatherization for about 900 units state wide with a funding of \$5.6 million.

In addition, the Massachusetts network is # 1 in the country per capita in leveraging utility funds to assist with our efforts. This is approximately \$30 million for our single family units but \$100 million for all types of housing combined. Utilities pay for weatherization and heating system replacements, plus installation of LED lighting and the replacements of refrigerators, freezers, A/C Units, dehumidifiers and clothes washers.

Our families work hard and heat is expensive. Our households would be unable to afford these measures on their own.

Statewide we assist 180,000 low income households with winter heating costs through LIHEAP. Those who apply for fuel assistance are referred to our energy conservation programs – one application qualifies households for all programs. Our agencies also use this application intake process to access household situations and connect them with other resources such as WIC, SNAP, daycare, housing, lead paint removal, educational and employment training programs to name a few.

We have made a concerted effort to reach more households and it's working. Statewide new applications are up 10%. We are finding new ways to engage our potential clients through social media, bill boards, press and door knocking. We want people to know we are here to help.

We are proud of the work we do. One household at a time, Massachusetts is making strides in keeping families warm and safe.