

DOCKET**09-OII-1**DATE MAR 12 2009RECD AUG 28 2009**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY****For Immediate Release**

March 12, 2009

Obama-Biden Administration Announces Nearly \$412 Million in Weatherization Funding and Energy Efficiency Grants for California

Part of nearly \$8 billion in Recovery Act funding for energy efficiency efforts nationwide that will create 100,000 jobs and cut energy bills for families

Washington DC -- Vice President Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Chu today announced California will receive \$411,904,061 in weatherization and energy efficiency funding – including \$185,811,061 for the Weatherization Assistance Program and \$226,093,000 for the State Energy Program. This is part of a nationwide investment announced today of nearly \$8 billion under the President’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – an investment that will put approximately 87,000 Americans to work.

“This energy efficiency funding for states is an important investment in making America more energy independent, creating a cleaner economy and creating more jobs for the 21st century that can’t be outsourced,” said Vice President Biden.

The funding will support weatherization of homes, including adding more insulation, sealing leaks and modernizing heating and air conditioning equipment, which will pay for itself many times over.

“Even as we seize the enormous potential of clean energy sources like wind and solar, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes a major investment in energy efficiency, which is the most cost effective route to energy independence,” Chu said.

The Weatherization Assistance Program will allow an average investment of up to \$6,500 per home in energy efficiency upgrades and will be available for families making up to 200% of the federal poverty level – or about \$44,000 a year for a family of four.

The State Energy Program funding will be available for rebates to consumers for home energy audits or other energy saving improvements; development of renewable energy projects for clean electricity generation and alternative fuels; promotion of Energy Star products; efficiency upgrades for state and local government buildings; and other innovative state efforts to help save families money on their energy bills.

The DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program allows low-income families to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient, reducing heating bills by an average of 32% and overall energy bills by hundreds of dollars per year.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.