

# News Release



**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **October is Energy Efficiency Month in Ohio**

The State of Ohio recently recognized October as Energy Efficiency Month in acknowledgement of the successful efforts of the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) to reduce energy usage and boost local economies throughout Ohio. Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Department of Community and Economic Development administers the HWAP program with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program. This program provides permanent solutions to reduce the energy burden on low-income families in Summit County by installing cost-effective, energy-efficient materials and services.

"As the cold weather approaches, most families across the country are turning up their thermostats to combat the dropping temperatures. For low-income families, however, cranking up the heat is not always an option," said Executive Shapiro. "These families pay 14% or more of their annual income for energy compared with only 3% for other non-low-income families. Unable to pay big balances or hefty reconnection fees, some families are considering how they will survive this winter without heat."

It is anticipated that weatherization services will be provided to over 150 homes in Summit County in the next year. In the past, weatherization clients have saved an average of 30% annually on their energy bills after weatherization work is completed.

"The Summit County Weatherization Program makes a difference every day for low-income families," said At-Large County Council Member Clair Dickinson. "Weatherization makes homes warmer in the winter, cooler in the summer, and safer all year round."

Weatherization inspectors use computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic technologies to determine the most cost-effective measures for each home. They also assess related health and safety conditions. The County of Summit partners with FirstEnergy, Cleveland Housing Network Housing Partners, the City of Green, the City of Barberton and Direction Home to provide additional weatherization services.

For information on applying for the Weatherization Program, contact 330-643-2537.

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