



Agency Happenings

WSOS Receives Award for its Green Ohio/Weatherization Works Corps Program

During the 2011 Community Action Partnership Annual Convention in San Francisco, WSOS received a Community Economic Development Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award for its Green Ohio/Weatherization Works Corps program. This is the second year that CAP has presented their Community Economic Development Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards, which recognize exemplary programs in community economic development for the Community Action Network. WSOS was one of four recipients of the award this year that honors Community Action Agencies for their outstanding leadership and innovative operations to create change for low-income individuals and families.

WSOS's Green Ohio program was designed to identify, equip and prepare at-risk youth to fill the growing demand for existing and developing technologies across various energy and alternative energy fields. The Green Ohio program immersed participating members in the "real world green job" market of today and tomorrow through a mentorship with existing weatherization staff. WSOS worked with Community Action Agencies throughout the state to deliver this mentorship program that provided training, technical assistance and capacity building that included an introduction to "green" careers, preparation for specialized training and college entry standards, career-related work experience, transition to post-secondary education and/or career employment, and other needed social supports. After program enrollment, trainings were determined based on corps members' needs.

More than 130 young adults age 18 to 24 participated in the program and assisted in weatherizing 1,648 homes around Ohio. Specific activities program members participated in included recruiting and managing volunteers, performing home repairs, providing outreach assistance to find homeowners to serve, building community partnerships, creating "green" programs and delivering presentations. Congratulations WSOS!



Kerrie Carte, WSOS Development Specialist (left) and Ruthann House, WSOS Vice President (far right) accept award from two 84 Lumber Representatives (middle)