

Orleans
Community
Action
Committee, Inc.



Established 1965

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An extensive human service agency committed to enriching the quality of life for people in Orleans and Genesee Counties

Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire state Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

October 13, 2005

Re: **Case 05-M-0090**

Dear Ms. Brillling:

The Weatherization Program here at Orleans Community Action Committee, Inc. (OCAC) would like to submit comments about the Assisted Home Performance Program that is a part of the SBC III Residential Programs.

Under the current circumstances, the heating situation in our area will continue to be a heavier burden over the next few years as prices rise. Through NYSERDA, OCAC's implementation of the Assisted Home Performance Program will benefit the poor of Orleans and Genesee Counties that bear this burden. With the state aid, clients will effectively partner with the state to improve not only their personal residence, but the community as a whole. Once fully underway, the AHP Program in this area will have an enormous positive effect.

In fact, the Assisted Home Performance Program should be expanded, especially for the low-income section of the population. Low-income programs need 15% of funding to continue to be effective and expand the client base. A program that focuses on natural gas customers would also be an important and effective addition for clients who live in more urban areas. The residential aspect of the program deserves at least equal consideration compared to the commercial aspect, especially as safety is an emphasis in the AHP Program. The livelihood and safety of the clients come first. In order for this program to be truly effective, Orleans Community Action Committee, Inc. respectfully requests that funding increase above the current level and that SBC III extend beyond the proposed five year span.

The Assisted Home Performance Program is a benefit to clients in western New York and its impact will only increase as word gets out. Please give this program and SBC III the opportunity to succeed by supporting its growth. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Edward F. Fancher, Executive Director

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