



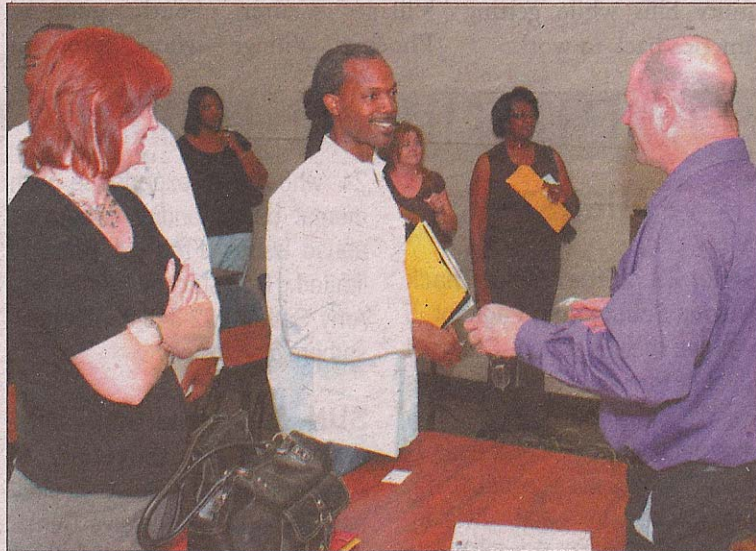
Orientation Offers Information About Stimulus Projects

Story and photo
By Floyd Alvin Galloway

Over the next three years the city of Phoenix's Neighborhood Services Department (NSD) will be working with an estimate of over 1,400 housing units in their weatherization program and other projects as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects.

They are in need of qualified contractors to do the work, which means jobs and money. The project funds are part of the Obama administration to help the country climb out of the deep recession it has been in, to generate more jobs and get people working which in turn will get people to spend more.

The NSD recently held a new



John Baxter (right) answers question posed by Desmond Peartree (center) about contractor responsibilities.

contractor special orientation providing information on how to participate in the weatherization project and others with the city.

Initially planned for 30 people, the interest was so overwhelming the organizers had to expand into another room.

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This outreach event was organized by Southwest Green in Cooperation with the City of Phoenix Arizona.

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Contractors Learn Ropes Of Stimulus Funded Projects

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“Our weatherization program serves Phoenix residents in saving energy while addressing safety concerns,” said Yolanda Martinez, a management assistant with NSD.

A child has to live in the home for it to be eligible for weatherization. In the 787 billion stimulus passed by congress in February the funds will increase the funding for the cities 33-year old project with a emphasis on energy conservation and the ability to help low-income families save on utility bills while getting America back to work.



The number of attendees at the workshops nearly tripled what organizers had expected.

Four areas of the city will be part of the cities comprehensive remodel initiative Issacs, Garfield, Village Center, South Phoenix Village where

exterior and interior issues can be addressed to help the resident meet code.

Also part of the program is a reconstruction program where the home

is such bad condition that it is more feasible to demolish the residence and build a new one.

Contractors have certain roles and responsibili-

ties in these projects that are different than some of the regulations of the past, which was one of the reasons for the orientation session by the city. John Baxter a housing rehabilitation supervisor in the NSD outlined some of those new rules.

Contractors who have question about participating in the program they should contact the Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department.

Other cities around the state are also undertaking such projects, which would make sense to check out those municipalities as well.