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**CONTACT:**

Gary Gilbert, Special Projects Director  
Sharon Wainman, Outreach Services Director  
Mid Michigan Community Action Agency  
989-832-7377  
lklamer@mmcaa.org  
www.mmcaa.org

**Weatherization, utility assistance, emergency services available in  
Midland County**

Individuals and families struggling to pay for heat and utilities may find some relief in Mid Michigan Community Action's Weatherization program.

Weatherization, the process of making a home more energy efficient through insulation upgrades, air leak reduction and other measures, has been available in Midland County for nearly two decades. However, due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Mid Michigan Community Action (MMCAA) has funding to greatly expand the number of homes it weatherizes each year.

"There has been a lot of talk about Weatherization, and we just want to make sure people realize that it is available to them, Gary Gilbert, MMCAA Special Projects Director, said. "With the expanded income guidelines, more people are eligible than ever."

The income eligibility was increased from 150% of the federal poverty guideline to 200%. This means that a family of four making up to \$44,100 would be income eligible for the service.

Weatherizing a home can save the homeowners 15%-50% off their annual energy costs; a significant decrease in budget burden that will last from year to year.

Assistance is also available for individuals and families that are struggling to pay their mortgage, utility or heating bills. MMCAA does not require a shut-off notice in order to assist with utilities.

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“We want people to realize that there is help out there; they do not have to struggle along as their situation worsens,” Gilbert said.

Eligibility and availability do apply to these programs; MMCAA staff will determine eligibility. Those interested in Weatherization or needing help with mortgage, heat or utility assistance can call MMCAA’s Midland County Outreach Office at 989-832-7377 for more information. More information can be found on the web at [www.mmcaa.org](http://www.mmcaa.org) as well.

*Mid Michigan Community Action Agency is a non-profit, human services agency serving Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Mecosta, Midland and Osceola Counties since 1966.*

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