

CAP Services' Fresh Start – Waupaca Final Report

ARRA Allocation - \$260,736 CSBG & \$58,050 Americorps.



The replication project created 9 trainee jobs in home construction, with a focus on energy efficiency training and applications. The Project created two new staff positions to oversee provision of academic, housing construction and energy training. One of the program's goals was to construct a 3-bedroom home in Eastgate Estates subdivision in Waupaca.

The Project resulted in 9 participants completing the program (89%). All those who needed a diploma/HSED/GED when they enrolled (5), obtained the academic credential. All received energy efficiency training and participated in the installation of a solar hot water system in the house. Four achieved certifications as Solar Domestic Hot Water Site Assessors in June, 2010. Five more received the Wisconsin Lead Safe Renovator Training. Each earned Americorps education awards that can be used to pay for future post-secondary training.

Six of those completing the program have obtained jobs: two work at Grayhill Industries, earning \$8 per hour and two at local farms, earning \$7.25 per hour. Another is enrolled in Fox Valley Tech's IT Technology Program and works at a local painting company at \$9.50 per hour (now on lay-off). One young person re-enrolled for second term of service with the Fresh Start Program. The eighth and ninth program completers continue to look for work. The individual who did not complete all components of the program is working on a farm, earning \$8 per hours and plans to attend Northwest Technical College in the for automotive technology.



All were involved with home construction activities, including the installation of a solar hot water system and enhanced insulation (R25 sidewalls and R50 ceilings). The solar and insulation applications could save this homeowner as much as \$344 annually. The home was sold to a single mom with three daughters in May, 2010.

Program participants have also provided assistance with a number of community service projects, with a total contribution of 188 hours of community service work. This has included trail development/boardwalk construction along the Waupaca River Trail.

Members also dismantled a solar boiler for shipping to Haiti (pre-earthquake), now used to boil water for consumption and some work to assist with needs of the aging.

Participants said:

- “The house is an accomplishment and it feels good to be done.”
- “The program helped me get my GED and when I finish the program, they will help me find a job.”
- “I'd like to move into the house with my family.”