



## New stimulus program teaching construction workers about weatherization

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*Denise Spidle reporting* Easter Seals has a new competitive program helping local workers to learn a new trade and get back into paying jobs. The federal government is investing stimulus dollars into energy-efficient programs for the state of Nevada, putting those in the construction industry back to work. But they're not building homes; they're working to improve existing homes. A mock home serves as a classroom for construction workers learning a new skill: weatherization. Home energy specialist Les Lazareck teaches them how to improve air and insulation quality in existing homes. The first step is to test for gas leaks. Trainees then learn to identify areas not properly insulated and how to seal the leaky culprits, including vents, walls, and doors. We can use a blower that simulates a 20 miles per hour wind on all surfaces of the home, Lazareck explains. Easter Seals CEO Brian Patchett says the new program serves two purposes. One, we need to become more focused on how we use energy more efficiently. The things we've heard over the last couple of years talking about the green economy, I think those things are true. Second, we need jobs in southern Nevada. We especially need construction jobs. And when the stimulus funds eventually run out, these workers will be able to continue working in a national home market, not just as weatherization professionals but as energy consultants and auditors as well. If you're interested in applying for training, log on to the Easter Seals web site at [www.eastersealssn.org](http://www.eastersealssn.org).

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