Grants for home repairs aid CAA’s growing mission

By Dennis Pelham
Daily Telegram Staff Writer

ADRIAN — Home repair help is becoming big business for the Community Action Agency.

A $300,000 grant is expected soon to start a new two-year program of housing rehabilitation and repair projects in Lenawee County. And CAA is administering a federal home weatherization program in Lenawee, Jackson and Hillsdale counties that has grown to $11 million.

The three-county agency was selected by the Lenawee County Commission this year to take over administration of a Community Development Block Grant program previously run by the city of Adrian. The money is to be used over the next two years to rehabilitate approximately 12 houses and make emergency repairs to about 13 others across the county.

“We’re taking names and addresses and telephone numbers,” said Burt Penby of the CAA office in Adrian. As soon as Lansing releases the grant funds, he said, application packets will be sent to interested homeowners.

Eligibility rules are stricter for the program than they are for the larger weatherization project, Penby said.

And the application process is much more complicated. But those who qualify for rehabilitation or emergency repair loans through the CDBG program can have major repairs and upgrades to their homes.

It’s a program for people who need assistance but can’t get it through a conventional loan.”

Dawn Flynn
Community Action Agency

The program, which now has grown from $5 million to $11 million in federal stimulus funds for the three-county area, has already been great and all contractors have done a really good job,” he said.

Projects start with a test to find where the most need exists. The Michigan Community Action Agency was selected by some stimulus programs for lower-income families to provide replacements for water heaters and air conditioners.

More information on the program is available by calling the CAA office in Adrian at 266-7081.

Repairs

Continued from page A1

Loans can be as large as $20,000 for families in need. For more, see REPAIRS, page A7.