

The Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority partnership received a \$50,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Development to complete energy audits on its 2,700 public housing units. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires the Authority to complete energy audits every five years on all of its buildings, which range from high-rises to single-family homes, but doesn't fund those audits. "During these times of restricted funds, partnerships such as this can bring about fantastic benefits and savings," said Michael Williams, the Authority's maintenance director. He said the Authority's goal is to reduce its energy costs, currently 20-25 percent of the total budget, to provide funds for other needed projects.