BetterBuildings for Michigan uses a community approach to deliver energy efficiency improvements for homes and businesses by providing access to incentives and affordable loans. The program is supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and developed by the Michigan Energy Office; Michigan Saves; the City of Grand Rapids; the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Detroit; and the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office.

The BetterBuildings for Michigan residential program provides direct support—including home energy assessments, incentives and access to affordable loan options—to Michigan homeowners looking to make their homes more energy efficient.

About Christina’s home:
- Built in 1920.
- A duplex in the Historic Hubbard Farms district.
- Her parents live in the other side of the duplex.

What energy-related problems did Christina face?
- High energy bills caused by air leakage.
- Very drafty living room, especially during the winter months.
- Because it is a historic home, the walls, doors and ducts had gaps, making it feel drafty and uncomfortable. Hot and cold air was leaking in and around the house wasting energy and raising Christina’s energy bills.

What improvements were made?
- Pinpointed sources of air leakage using a Blower Door Test.
- Sealed some of the major air leaks.
- Recommended additional air sealing around the rim joist and foundation of the home.

What were the benefits?
- Cost to the homeowner—$25.
- Air sealing reduced home air infiltration by 8%.
- Recommended additional work to improve the efficiency of the home.

“This was a wonderful opportunity to make my home more energy efficient. The BetterBuildings for Michigan team was friendly, polite and very efficient, and they worked hard for over four hours to fix all of the air leakage in my home.

The change in the way my house feels is incredible! I am already saving energy and money, and the time I spent was definitely worth it.”
— Christina Guzman, Detroit

To learn about the benefits of the BetterBuildings for Michigan program, contact the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office at (866) 402-1061. More information is also available at www.betterbuildingsformichigan.org.