SCEP
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

Weatherization Assistance Program

KEY FACTS

1976
Congress established WAP

7.2 million
Number of households that have received WAP services since inception

$372
Average yearly energy savings per weatherized household
**Expressed in 2022 dollars*

8,500
Number of direct and indirect jobs WAP funds support[1]

35,000
Average number of homes weatherized annually using DOE WAP formula funds[1]

The nation's largest single "whole-house" energy efficiency program

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) State and Community Energy Program's (SCEP) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) reduces energy costs for low-income households. WAP's mission is to increase energy efficiency of homes, while ensuring health and safety.

Positive Impact for American Communities

WAP provides formula grants to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. territories who contract with over 700 local weatherization providers to offer WAP services to their communities. Many local weatherization programs work with home performance contractors and trades, which supports the local workforce and creates new job opportunities —all while uplifting the most vulnerable families in America.

For every **$1.00** invested in weatherization
$1.72 is generated in energy benefits and
$2.78 in non-energy benefits

$300+ Annual Cost Savings[1]
18% Annual Heat Savings[1]
7% Annual Electric Savings[1]

Weatherization also helps revitalize communities by stimulating economic growth and reducing environmental impact. Weatherization returns $2.78 in non-energy benefits for every $1.00 invested in WAP[1]. Non-energy benefits—such as improved health, safety, and comfort—are especially beneficial to low-income households that have been weatherized. After weatherization, low-income households save money on their monthly energy bills and lessen their overall environmental impact by the reduced consumption of natural resources.

Reduces energy burden for low-income families who spend 14% of income on energy vs. 3% for higher income households[2]

$538 savings in pay per year due to fewer missed work days[2]

$514 savings per year in a household's out-of-pocket medical expenses[2]

WAP's Role in Clean Energy Deployment and Adoption

WAP plays an essential role in the introduction and deployment of innovative energy efficiency technologies, increasing further adoption among the home performance industry. Skills developed by WAP have expanded this industry. In addition, WAP Innovation grants support the government-wide approach to mitigating the climate crisis by driving innovation that can lead to the deployment of energy efficiency retrofits and clean energy technologies, which are critical for combating climate change.

[1] Tonn, B., D. Carroll, S. Pigg, M. Blasnik, G. Dalhoff, J. Berger, E. Rose, B. Hawkins, J. Eisenberg, F. Uncar, I. Bensch, and C. Cowan. 2014. Weatherization Works – Summary of Findings from the Retrospective Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, ORNL/TM-2014/338.

[2] Rose, E., B. Hawkins. 2020. "Background Data and Statistics on Low-Income Energy Use and Burden for the Weatherization Assistance Program: Update for Fiscal Year 2020." weatherization.ornl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ORNL_TM-2020_1566.pdf

Ensuring Quality

WAP takes a whole-house approach that analyzes building systems—the building envelope, heating and cooling systems, electrical systems, and electric baseload appliances— through the completion of an energy audit. An energy auditor creates a customized work order, and then trained crews and/or contractors install the identified energy efficiency and health and safety measures which align to nationally recognized Standard Work Specifications. Certified Quality Control Inspectors conduct a final inspection to ensure that all work meets the required standards. To learn more about energy audits and approaches taken to ensure a safe and healthy living environment, visit Whole-House Weatherization: energy.gov/scep/wap/whole-house-weatherization.

Broadening Opportunities Through Innovation Grants

WAP Innovation grants include the Enhancement & Innovation grant, the Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers grant, and the Community Scale Pilot Project grant. Innovation grants are competitive funding opportunities that are available to WAP Grantees and Subgrantees and other nonprofit organizations.

Select Innovation grants, through place-based projects, enable deeper energy retrofits of low-income housing, support the local workforce, and further accelerate SCEP's deployment of clean energy technologies. Some grants go even further by utilizing the latest energy-efficient technologies and ground-breaking programmatic approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the energy efficiency of America's most vulnerable housing stock, and benefit low-income households by improving indoor air quality and reducing utility bills.

Allowable Weatherization Measures

Mechanical Measures

- Clean, tune, repair, or replace heating and/or cooling systems
- Install duct and heating pipe insulation
- Repair leaks in heating/cooling ducts
- Install programmable thermostats
- Repair/replace water heaters
- Install water heater tank insulation
- Insulate water heating pipes
- Install solar hot water heating systems.

Health & Safety Measures

- Perform heating system safety testing
- Perform combustion appliance safety testing
- Repair/replace vent systems to ensure combustion gas drafts safely outside
- Install mechanical ventilation to ensure adequate indoor air quality
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when needed
- Evaluate mold/moisture hazards
- Perform incidental safety repairs when needed.

Building Shell Measures

- Install insulation where needed
- Perform air sealing
- Repair/replace windows and doors
- Install window film, awnings, and solar screens
- Repair minor roof and wall leaks prior to attic or wall insulation.

Electric Baseload Measures

- Install efficient light sources
- Install low-flow showerheads
- Replace inefficient refrigerators with energy-efficient models.

Client Education Activities

- Educate on potential household hazards such as carbon monoxide, mold and moisture, fire, indoor air pollutants, lead paint, and radon
- Demonstrate the key functions of any new mechanical equipment or appliances
- Discuss the benefits of using energy-efficient products.

Did You Know?

The median energy burden of low-income households is

↑ 3.6 times higher

than that of non-low-income households.[2]

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