

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WAP Reauthorization: A Critical Program at a Critical Time



The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. Borne out of the oil-crisis of the 1970s, WAP has become the nation's largest whole-house home energy upgrade program. The Program operates in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. Territories. Local providers use funds to improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry.

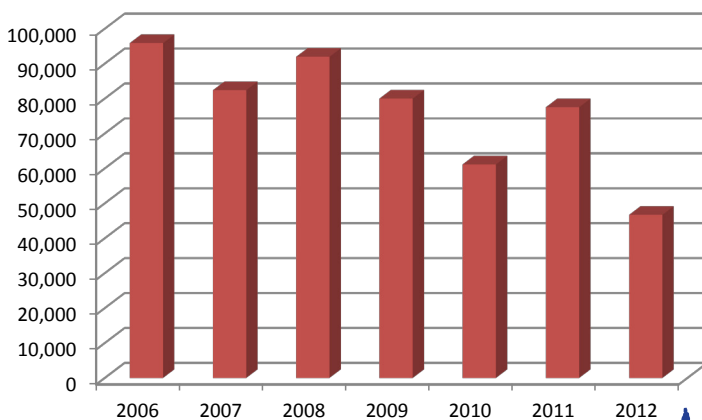
The Mission

To reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.

Weatherization Works!

The energy conservation resulting from the efforts of state and local agencies helps our country reduce its dependence on foreign oil, reduce carbon emissions, and decreases the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes. The Program reduces energy costs for low-income families an average of \$250 to \$450 per year in energy costs, depending on their housing type, location, and fuel source, increasing disposable income for families in need.

DOE Homes Weatherized



*Chart includes only homes weatherized with DOE regular appropriations

The Need

Despite having served 7.4 million families, over 30 million homes remain eligible for weatherization. Low-income families, on average, spend 14% of their annual income on energy costs compared to 3.3% for other households. Reducing energy costs means these families have more money to spend on food, medicine, and other essentials.

NATIONWIDE IMPACT

- 7.4 million families served to date
- 15,000 living wage jobs supported
- Workers are highly trained, making up the largest energy efficiency retrofit workforce in the nation

INVESTMENT

- For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$2.51 to the household and society nationwide.
- For every \$1 invested by DOE, the Program leverages \$2.40 to households and society.

AMERICAN BUSINESS

- 10,000 local, American businesses supported by WAP activities
- The WAP provides a marketplace for innovation in the energy upgrade industry and supports the growth of American businesses



A Pioneer in Home Performance

With its longevity of service, consistency of place and broad national reach, the WAP serves as a valuable proving ground and market outlet for the tools and ideas that advance the greater energy efficiency industry. Weatherization has the ability to take the best ideas and technologies available in the industry and deploy them on a national level.

The ability to deploy along with the technical expertise inherent in the program makes the Weatherization Assistance Program the right place to develop work specifications, training and certifications that are focused on the actual implementation of energy.

The Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals is a collaborative effort to engage the home performance industry in developing a suite of resources that include work quality specifications, training program accreditation, job task analyses and certifications for workers. The goal of the Guidelines project is to help the WAP demonstrate the quality of the program as well as serve a national need to create a vital and robust home energy upgrade industry. Through these tools, Weatherization will help define residential energy upgrade work as a distinct and professional industry as well as an easy to define product for consumers.

Objectives of WAP Legislation

The proven success of the WAP underscores the necessity to ensure it remains the backbone of the home performance industry. The Program must continue nationally to provide these crucial quality standards, workforce, and needed services. The stakeholder community that cares about the WAP encourages the following:

- Reauthorize and extend the program through 2018
- Develop competitive, leveraged grant program for non-profits that have a track record of success
- Require minimum professional standards for WAP contractors and workers, and require an independent quality assurance program
- Explore other ideas that build and strengthen WAP

Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals



The Guidelines effort is about achieving quality in any given home energy upgrade task. To do that, the Guidelines take a three pronged approach in alignment nationally recognized needs:

Define the Work:

The Standard Work Specifications for Home Energy Upgrades

The SWS are intended to define the minimum acceptable outcomes for any weatherization or home performance task to be effective, durable and safe. The SWS have recently been published.

Validate the Training:

Job Task Analyses and Training Program Accreditation

The Job Task Analyses (JTA) for the four major energy upgrade job classifications define what a worker needs to know and do. The accreditation of energy efficiency training programs verifies that organizations training workers in the industry are qualified to teach to those JTAs. Training program accreditation has been available since 2011.

Certify the Worker:

National Home Energy Professional Certifications

Four new Home Energy Professional worker certifications are part of and aligned with the other Guidelines efforts and target a worker's capacity to demonstrate practical ability to perform the work of the industry. The new worker certifications were piloted in late 2012.

