

THE RECOVERY ACT: MASSACHUSETTS CLOSE UP

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. Operated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. Territories, Weatherization funds are used to accomplish the mission of WAP, *“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.”*

Over 900 local agencies apply energy-efficiency measures to low-income homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. The resulting energy savings help decrease energy costs for the families and our country’s dependence on foreign oil.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, WAP received \$5 billion of funding to expand the current Program and achieve the purposes set forth in the Act. As a result, here is how Weatherization *Works* for Massachusetts and America!

What does the Recovery Act mean to Massachusetts?

Massachusetts is estimated to receive over \$13 billion in Recovery Act funds¹ to invest in education, transportation, housing, public safety, energy and environment, workforce development and other projects and will save or create jobs while also helping to protect essential state services that Massachusetts residents rely upon every day.

The **Massachusetts Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** benefits directly from the Recovery Act. Through February 2010, Massachusetts has:

- created or saved 250 jobs.¹
- hired and trained 38 new energy auditors.¹
- purchased 32 blower doors.¹
- purchased 25 insulation blowing machines.¹
- weatherized 2,335 homes.¹

How is the Recovery Act Stimulating Massachusetts’ Economy?

Recovery Act dollars are helping Massachusetts’ 20 weatherization agencies hire and train additional private-sector weatherization and heating contractors, in addition to in-house Energy Auditors. All weatherization contractors are creating a Recovery Act-funded “ripple effect” in the Commonwealth by purchasing greater quantities of weatherization materials and additional equipment from their suppliers. The impact extends to the manufacturers of these items, that in turn must employ workers and buy raw materials from other companies to keep up with demand for their products. In Massachusetts, this includes a major regional cellulose manufacturer located in the western part of the state.

MASSACHUSETTS WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	State Allocation	Homes Weatherized
DOE Weatherization Recovery Act Funding ²	\$122.07 million	17,000**
Program Year 2009	\$11.79 million	1,670*
Program Year 2008	\$6.61 million	2,669
Program Year 2007	\$5.85 million	2,463

WEATHERIZATION FACTS

Average annual energy cost savings per household ³	\$350
Average space heating savings	32%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested ³	\$1.67

¹ Data provided by Massachusetts Program Update, February 2010 and funding information (<http://www.mass.gov/bb/arra/brec/ga/fedstim4catga.htm>)

² The Recovery Act Funding covers three years, from April 2009 through March 2012.

³ ORNL/CON-493, ORNL/CON-484, EIA Annual Energy Outlook for 2009, EIA Short Term Energy Outlook (Feb. 2008).

** Projected Number of Homes Weatherized. This projection is based on an increased allowable expenditure per home than in previous years.

* Projected Number of Homes Weatherized.



A weatherization crew member sprays expandable foam to seal air leaks within a client's attic in Massachusetts.

Weatherization Works

Weatherization provides long term solutions to energy and non-energy issues for low-income households. Challenges such as unsafe combustion systems or mold and moisture problems are addressed during the weatherization process when necessary. Addressing both energy and non-energy issues not only improves the efficiency of the home, but the overall quality of life for the residents. For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization currently returns \$2.73 to the household and society:

- \$1.67 in reduced energy bills
- \$1.06 in non-energy benefits
 - increased local employment
 - improved housing quality
 - better health and safety

Weatherization also reduces national energy consumption and curbs the demand for imported oil. Annually, Weatherization decreases the national consumption by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil.

Weatherization truly works for Massachusetts and America!



For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, visit:

- www.mass.gov
- www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization
- www.waptac.org

EERE Information Center
1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter

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MARCH 2010

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What's Next for Massachusetts

One key resource needed to address the Recovery Act work is additional high-quality weatherization contractors to "put boots in the attics" of client homes. All 20 weatherization agencies need more skilled private-sector contractors with solid technical knowledge. This need can be met by increasing the capacity of those contractors already participating in the program and by recruiting and adding qualified new contractors.

Improving contractor capacity is tied to providing consistent, high caliber training. In consultation with the State, a "Weatherization Boot Camp" was opened in mid-2009 before the Recovery Act ramp up. The Boot Camps teach introductory and advanced air sealing techniques and comprehensive, dense-pack installation training courses, all of which include both classroom instruction and field training. As of early 2010, the training was expanded to three locations to keep up with demand.

Looking to address both the short and long term needs for skilled weatherization workers and energy auditors, Massachusetts is investing up to \$1 million in Recovery Act WAP funds in the new **Massachusetts Green Energy Education Network Institute (MassGREEN Institute)** to "develop, maintain, and deliver workforce and career training for energy efficiency

and building science in Massachusetts." **Springfield Technical Community College (STCC)** will serve as a hub for this statewide network to develop, train and maintain a cutting edge "green" workforce that will speed the growth of the Commonwealth's energy efficiency sector, while expanding job opportunities. MassGREEN will target two primary audiences:

- building contractors and unemployed trades people looking to gain new green building skills
- unskilled or under-skilled workers who will perform work for contractors.

All 15 Massachusetts Community Colleges will act as regional training centers for MassGREEN. An energy efficiency training equipment "lending library" will be established at each regional training center, and MassGREEN will offer assistance to contractors interested in business start-up and expansion. This will also be an outstanding resource for the State's Weatherization Program. Massachusetts will encourage the weatherization subgrantee network, contractors and their partners to use the MassGREEN Institute as a training base for contractors and crews to enter this field and keep the technical skills current. For more information about MassGREEN visit, massgreentcc.com.