

## THE RECOVERY ACT: WASHINGTON 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 Washington and America!

### What does the Recovery Act mean to Washington?

The goal of the Recovery Act is to stimulate state and local economies quickly. Washington State has received over \$2 billion so far to invest in education, infrastructure, healthcare, public safety and energy projects and will save or create jobs while helping to protect essential state services that Washingtonians rely upon every day.

The **Washington State Department of Commerce’s Housing Improvement and Preservation (HIP)** unit directly benefits from the Recovery Act. Commerce’s Recovery Act budget for Weatherization is over \$59 million. These additional funds will make a substantial impact for the state and local weatherization program providers. Since September 2009, Commerce has:

- created or retained 145 jobs through December 31, 2009.<sup>1</sup>
- weatherized 1,901 homes through February 19, 2010.<sup>1</sup>

### WASHINGTON WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	State Allocation	Homes Weatherized
DOE Weatherization Recovery Act Funding <sup>2</sup>	\$59.55 million	7,170**
Program Year 2009	\$7.24 million	2,164*
Program Year 2008	\$4.52 million	1,429
Program Year 2007	\$4.06 million	1,683

### WEATHERIZATION FACTS

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

### How is the Recovery Act Stimulating Washington’s Economy?

In addition to the purchase of vehicles, tools and equipment from Washington State businesses, the program has been able to hire construction and other skilled workers that had been unemployed for months. Now these new Weatherization workers have steady work and a paycheck to provide for their families.

<sup>1</sup> Washington Weatherization Assistance Program Update, January/February 2010.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

Weatherization workers on a multi-family project in Washington State.



**Local Job Creation & Training**

The additional Recovery Act funding is showcasing innovative partnerships that go beyond the immediate job and Weatherization opportunities.

In September 2009, **Washington Service Corps (WSC)**, in partnership with the **Washington State Dept. of Commerce**, deployed 31 AmeriCorps members across 11 out of the 26 local Weatherization Agencies to assist with the dramatic expansion of weatherization services. The primary goal for the AmeriCorp members is to increase the efficiency, quality and effectiveness of the Recovery Act Weatherization activities at all levels. By the end of December 2009, the 11 weatherization offices, with assistance from the WSC AmeriCorps members, were able to assist and identify over 1,500 priority applicants eligible for weatherization services. In addition, Conservation Education was provided to 2,482 priority clients. The WSC AmeriCorps members provided a great resource by helping increase capacity and services to priority clients.

The Department of Commerce is also partnering with the **State Board for Community and Technical Colleges** for the **Low-Income Weatherization Training Program**, which will provide \$2.7 million to community and technical colleges for employee training for weatherization network providers of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This program was made possible with additional funding through the Recovery Act.

**What's Next for Washington**

Washington State is looking toward the future by awarding a \$2.1 million grant to help establish a statewide training center through the Building Performance Center in Bellingham.

This new facility in Bellingham plus satellite training affiliates in Spokane and Lacey will provide hands-on instruction and certification programs for both weatherization technicians and energy auditors. The new facility in Bellingham includes classrooms, a computer lab, video conferencing, renewable energy work stations as well as hands-on work stations for dense pack insulation, combustion safety and lead safe work practices.

The State of Washington is also coordinating with state and county **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** to get the word out about Weatherization and training. In 2009, Weatherization and LIHEAP partners held a joint training in Spokane to discuss working together towards a stronger energy future.

**Weatherization Works**

Weatherization provides long term solutions to energy and non-energy issues for low-income households. Challenges such as unsafe combustion systems, mold or 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 Washington and America!



For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, visit:

- [www.commerce.wa.gov/site/500/default.aspx](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/site/500/default.aspx)
- [www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization](http://www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization)
- [www.waptac.org](http://www.waptac.org)

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

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