

What is the Weatherization Assistance Program?

The Weatherization Assistance Program (Weatherization) is an energy efficiency program that helps low-income households manage the increasingly high cost of energy. Weatherization work is performed on your home to help you stay warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. These services are offered at no cost to eligible households by local community action agencies, non-profit organizations, or local governments in every state, the District of Columbia, among Native American Tribes and U.S. Territories.

Not only will your weatherized home be more comfortable year round, you could save significantly on future energy bills! The average household saves \$350 or more per year on energy after the home is weatherized. With over 900 local Weatherization agencies in the United States, there is one in your area that could help you save on your energy bills.

The Application Process

While applying for Weatherization services varies from state to state, the general process involves filling out an application form, either from home or at your local agency. Once this form has been submitted, you will be contacted and notified as to your eligibility. If you are eligible, you will also be informed of when you can expect Weatherization services to begin. Be patient if you are put on a waiting list, your home will be weatherized as soon as possible.

Who is Eligible?

You may qualify for assistance. Whether you own or rent, live in a single-family home, multi-family housing complex, or a mobile home, you can apply for assistance. If you rent, you must get written permission from your landlord before Weatherization services can be performed. Preference is given to the elderly (over 60), persons with disabilities, and families with children.

If you receive Supplemental Security Income and/or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, you are automatically eligible. You may also be eligible for assistance if your income falls within the federally established poverty income guidelines shown in the table on the next page. The agency responding to your application will ask for proof of income.

THE BENEFITS

The Weatherization Assistance Program works to:

- Reduce energy costs and alleviate high energy burden for low-income families
- Decrease the nation's energy consumption and avoid related emissions
- Improve housing stock and neighborhood conditions
- Provide economic boost in low-income communities
- Educate consumers in energy efficiency practices



2009 ELIGIBILITY

Poverty Income Guidelines updated annually in the Federal Register.

Family Size Annual Income Range*

1	\$10,830 - \$21,660
2	\$14,570 - \$29,140
3	\$18,310 - \$36,620
4	\$22,050 - \$44,100
5	\$25,790 - \$51,580
6	\$29,530 - \$59,060
7	\$33,270 - \$66,540
8	\$37,010 - \$74,020

States may choose to use the 200% of Poverty ceiling or the ceiling for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program which may vary from state to state. Applicants should check their state web sites for the ceiling in their area.

These figures do not include Alaska and Hawaii. For each additional family member, add \$3,740-\$7,480.

Note: Income eligibility criteria determined by individual state.

A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.



U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy

For more information contact:

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

The Weatherization Process

After performing an energy audit, a professionally-trained Weatherization inspector will determine the best energy-efficiency measures for your home based on your heating and cooling needs. This individual will meet with you and other household members to explain how the trained Weatherization crews will conduct the work. You may ask any questions at this time. Throughout the Weatherization process, the health and safety of you and your family remains a priority. Following Weatherization, an inspector will return to make certain that everything is working properly and nothing was missed.

Some typical Weatherization work that may be performed on your home includes:

- Insulating the attic, walls, floors, water heater, and exposed pipes.
- Tuning-up, repairing, and if necessary, replacing the furnace or heating unit and, if you have one, the air conditioner.
- Installing ventilation fans including electric, attic, ceiling, or whole-house fans to increase air circulation.
- Eliminating air infiltration by weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows and replacing broken glass panes.
- Focusing on energy-related health and safety issues while performing all work.
- Providing instructions on the care of the Weatherization materials and simple, low-cost/no-cost tips on how to save even more energy and money after the Weatherization materials have been installed.