

THE RECOVERY ACT: GEORGIA CLOSE UP

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), created in 1976, assists low-income families who lack resources to invest in energy efficiency measures for their homes. Operated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and among Native American tribes, weatherization funds are used to accomplish the WAP 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.”*

More than 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 in funding to expand the current Program and achieve the purposes set forth in the Act. As a result, here is how *Weatherization Works* for Georgia and America!

What does the Recovery Act mean to Georgia?

The goal of the Recovery Act is to stimulate state and local economies quickly. Georgia will receive more than \$6 billion to invest in education, infrastructure, healthcare, public safety and energy projects. In addition, the funds will save or create jobs, while helping to protect essential state services that Georgians rely upon every day.

The **Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA)** directly benefits from the Recovery Act. The GEFA Weatherization Program Recovery Act budget is more than \$124 million. These additional funds are making a substantial impact on state and local weatherization program providers. From August 2009 through March 2010, the Georgia Weatherization Network has:

- created more than 200 jobs.¹
- purchased 80 vehicles.¹
- purchased 15 insulation machines.¹
- purchased 20 infrared cameras.¹
- weatherized more than 1,500 homes.¹

GEORGIA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	State Allocation	Homes Weatherized
DOE Weatherization Recovery Act Funding ²	\$124.76 million	13,871**
Program Year 2009	\$8.29 million	831*
Program Year 2008	\$2.91 million	832
Program Year 2007	\$2.62 million	841

WEATHERIZATION FACTS

Average annual utility bill savings per household (based on current pricing) ³	\$437
Average energy consumption savings for typical low-income home ³	35%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested ³	\$1.80

¹ Georgia Weatherization Program Report, April 2010.

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

³ ORNL/TM-2010/66, EIA Short Term Energy Outlook 2010.

* Projected Number of Homes Weatherized.

** Projected Number of Homes Weatherized during the Recovery Act time period. This projection is also based on an increased allowable expenditure per home than in previous years.



What's Next for Georgia

Atlanta's Pittsburgh neighborhood is a low-income community made up of single-family homes built in the early 1920s and others were constructed on infill lots between 2002 and 2007. The majority of these homes are two or three bedroom bungalows, which range from 1,100 to 1,500 square feet.

A recent study of the more than 1,100 homes in this neighborhood found that:

- Of the more than 1,100 homes, 70% of them are rental units.
- More than 75% or almost 800 of the residents would benefit from weatherization efforts.

To address this need, GEFA will launch a pilot venture with the **Atlanta Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI)**. The venture enables weatherization funds to be used to weatherize 100 to 200 rental properties in the Pittsburgh area. By allowing this change, everyone wins. GEFA can increase the number of eligible homes and the families that receive the assistance will benefit from lower energy costs.

The pilot will be done in conjunction with the **Annie E. Casey Foundation's Partnership for the Preservation of Pittsburgh Program**. The combined efforts will improve the conditions

in Pittsburgh and provide green and healthy housing. With an average of two children per home, this change will help 400 children live in healthier, more energy-efficient homes.

Local Job Creation

In addition to the weatherization opportunity, the pilot program will collaborate with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to start an innovative, new program: the **WAP Program Supportive Work Model**. Through this program, Pittsburgh residents will receive the training necessary to perform some of the weatherization work. More than 50 neighborhood residents will be trained in certified weatherization and green construction programs. The Center for Working Families Inc. (TCWFI) is currently working with Southface Energy Institute and Southeast Energy Assistance to help train and hire program participants for the program.

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,

This single family home in the Pittsburgh neighborhood is representative of the many homes that will receive weatherization assistance as part of the Atlanta Green and Healthy Homes Initiative.

but the overall quality of life for the residents.

For every \$1 invested in the program, weatherization currently returns \$2.51 to the household and society:

- \$1.80 in reduced energy bills
- \$0.71 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 24.1 million barrels of oil.

Weatherization truly works for Georgia and America!



For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, visit:

www.gefa.org/Index.aspx?page=193
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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MAY 2010

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