

Weatherization Works: Saving Energy and Supporting Low-Income Communities



The **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** provides eligible Americans with resources to reduce energy consumption through deploying energy efficiency measures, including home insulation, space-heating equipment, repair of air leakage and water heaters. In addition, WAP is also vital to improving the health and safety of homes, all while supporting economic stability for those vulnerable populations. The Department of Energy (DOE) formula grant program, which was first established in 1976, sends funding to state governments/territories and then to local governments and weatherization agencies which is then distributed to eligible families at or below the 200% poverty income threshold.¹



WAP Benefits:

Low-income households carry a significant energy cost burden with 13.9% of total annual income spent on energy expenses compared to 3.0% for average households.² Low-income households often choose between spending money on health care, medicine, groceries and childcare or their energy bills. **WAP is essential for helping low-income families reduce their energy consumption, reduce energy costs and maintain an energy-efficient home.** In addition to lowering annual consumer energy costs, WAP helps reduce arrearages and the costs associated with disconnecting and reconnecting customers. Overall, this program helps ensure that low-income customers achieve energy savings which in turn reduces the strain on federal (and state) energy assistance programs like the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Cost Savings:

- WAP achieves **\$340 million in energy savings** annually.³
- For **every \$1 invested in weatherization, it returns over \$4** in energy, health and safety benefits.⁴
- WAP also provides **18% in annual heating savings**.⁵
- WAP makes families' homes more livable, which results in fewer missed workdays (e.g., sick days and doctor visits) and a decrease in medical expenses, equal to **\$514 in annual benefits**.⁶
- In addition, WAP **returns \$2.78 in non-energy benefits for every \$1 invested**, resulting in an estimate of health-related benefits – including limiting deaths, injuries and hospitalizations resulting from fire, carbon monoxide poisoning and extreme temperature exposure for each unit weatherized equal to an average of **\$14,148 in savings**.⁷
- **8,500 direct and indirect jobs** supported by WAP.⁸



Request to Keep WAP Funding

Federal funds account for 76% of the WAP network resources.⁹ Funding sources include the U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), utility partnerships funding and state funding sources.

Future funding will be directed towards low-income households to help install energy-efficient materials, make energy repairs and enhance competitive grant funding opportunities for WAP's Enhancement and Innovation (E&I), Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) and Community Scale Pilot Program (CSPP) subprograms. These competitive grants help combine multiple funding streams, which will help low-income communities and harness opportunities for emerging clean energy technologies such as combined heat and power and gas heat pumps.

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/scep/wap/how-apply-weatherization-assistance#:~:text=Under%20DOE%20guidelines%2C%20households%20at,to%20Families%20with%20Dependent%20Children.>

² https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021/01/f82/WAP-fact-sheet_2021_0.pdf https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021/01/f82/WAP-fact-sheet_2021_0.pdf

³ <https://weatherization.ornl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/WAPNationalEvaluationWxWorksv14blue8515.pdf>

⁴ https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/wap-fact-sheet_0622.pdf

⁵ https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021/01/f82/WAP-fact-sheet_2021_0.pdf

⁶ https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/wap-briefing-book_01312024_0.pdf

⁷ https://weatherization.ornl.gov/wp-content/uploads/pdf/WAPRetroEvalFinalReports/ORNLTM-2014_345.pdf

⁸ <https://nascsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/PY22-WAP-Annual-Funding-Report-1.pdf>

⁹ <https://nascsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/PY22-WAP-Annual-Funding-Report-1.pdf>