



Economic Development and Retail Services Department

March 17, 2009

Weatherization Assistance Program

<http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/improving.cfm>

The Weatherization Assistance Program enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. During the last 32 years, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program has provided weatherization services to more than 6.2 million low-income families.

By reducing the energy bills of low-income families instead of offering aid, weatherization reduces dependency and liberates these funds for spending on more pressing family issues. On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 32 percent and overall energy bills by about \$350 per year at current prices. This spending, in turn, spurs low-income communities toward job growth and economic development.

How Do I Apply for Weatherization?

It is easy to find out if you are eligible and to apply for weatherization. Usually you can do it in a weatherization agency near your home.

Am I Eligible?

20 to 30 million U.S. families are eligible for weatherization services nationwide. Services provided by individual states have slightly different criteria. All energy services are handled by local weatherization agencies.

If you receive Supplemental Security Income or Aid to Families with Dependent Children, you are automatically eligible to receive weatherization services. In other cases, states give preference to:

- People over 60 years of age
- Families with one or more members with a disability
- Families with children (in most states).

One of the primary factors affecting eligibility is income; you are eligible for weatherization if your income falls below the "125—150 percent poverty level".

How does the process work?

1. Call local agency (see listing below)
Individual states, not DOE, keep up-to-date lists of local weatherization agencies.
All weatherization services are provided by local agencies.
Most agencies are nonprofits that employ energy professionals.
Some are branches of local governments.
2. Come in and apply
Application form usually takes about 20 minutes to fill out.
Bring proof of income for the previous year. (For people on fixed incomes, this is usually easy to do).
Answer a small number of questions about your household, such as the number of people living in the home.
3. Eligibility is determined
If you are eligible, your weatherization agency will put you on a waiting list.
List is prioritized by need; those in greater need are often moved to the top of the waiting list.
Remember, if you rent, you must obtain permission from your landlord to meet eligibility.



4. Professional energy consultation includes:
 - Analysis of your energy bills.
 - Test infiltration of outside air using a blower door.
 - Inspect equipment to maintain optimum health and safety.
 - Outline of the most cost-effective energy conservation measures for your home.
5. Weatherization begins
 - Local weatherization agency schedules work.
 - Average expenditure per household is \$2,500.
 - All work must be energy-related but does not include new roofing, siding, or similar projects.
 - Work is typically completed in a day or two.
 - Your sign off is required upon final inspection.

Frequently Asked Questions about Eligibility and Applying for Weatherization

Low-income families often have a number of questions for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on how to apply for weatherization assistance or about DOE's role in the process. If you want to apply immediately for weatherization, you'll need to contact your state agency.

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/state_contacts.cfm

If I rent, can I still apply?

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.

If my income is within these national guidelines, will I be guaranteed to receive weatherization services?

Not necessarily. You will need to check your state's particular guidelines. Funding can also be an issue because Congress allocates a certain amount of funding for the program on a national level, and it varies from year to year. Please be patient if you are put on a waiting list. Your home will be weatherized as soon as possible.

If I'm not eligible for this program, who can I call for help?

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/>
Even if you are not approved for DOE-sponsored weatherization assistance, you might still be eligible for short-term assistance on your utility bill from the LIHEAP Program. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, LIHEAP serves low-income families. In addition, states often use LIHEAP funds for weatherization to reduce a family's energy bills over the long term.

Assistance to Individuals Involved in a Natural Disaster <http://www.fema.gov/assistance/>

The Federal Energy Management Agency (FEMA) provides a number of services to assist individuals who are victims of a natural disaster. These services include low-interest loans, some cash grants, and links to assistance from other agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service and the Farm Service Agency.

FEMA also lists services it makes available to older Americans who live in federally declared disaster areas, including Small Business Administration loans and FEMA grants.

<http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/business.shtm>

Why can't I call DOE directly to apply for assistance?

Because of the guidelines set down by the U.S. Constitution, the federal government does not provide assistance directly to individuals. Instead, this function is the responsibility of the states. DOE does not have an application form to give to individuals for weatherizing their homes. DOE does not accept applications from individuals. Since each state has a different procedure, all we can do is refer you to your respective state agency.

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/state_contacts.cfm



What happens to my home during the Weatherization Process?

The first step in the process is for your local weatherization agency to carry out an energy audit. This agency is a nonprofit weatherization organization, local governmental agency or sometimes a contractor trained in home energy services. The energy audit is a computerized assessment of your home's energy use and an analysis of which energy conservation measures are best for your home.

Once the audit is complete, the auditor or inspector from the local weatherization agency will meet with you and your family to explain how the work will be conducted. Depending on your needs, inspector's recommendations will vary. The average value of weatherization services provided is \$2,500.

Throughout the weatherization process, the health and safety of your family remain a priority. Following weatherization, an inspector will return to make certain everything works properly and that nothing was missed.

How will I benefit by participating in this program?

Weatherization reduces your energy bills for a long time. Some measures, such as insulating your walls or roof, for example, will continue to provide you savings for the lifetime of your house—30 years or more. Others, such as making your heating or cooling equipment more efficient, will provide savings for 10 to 15 years. On average, the value of the weatherization improvement to your house is 2.2 times greater than the cost of the improvement itself.

Kansas Contacts

Kansas Development Finance Authority

<http://www.kdfa.org/>

555 South Kansas Avenue

Topeka, KS 66603

785-296-5865

Questions about Administration

To contact the Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) director in the state, visit the LIHEAP Clearinghouse Web site. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/grantees/states.html>

The Kansas Development Finance Authority's Weatherization Program:

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Weatherization Program

Al Dorsey, Program Manager

785-296-2262

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Local Providers of Weatherization Services include:

Wyandotte County North of State Avenue

East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation

Don Hobbs, Weatherization Director

1-888-833-0832