



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE 10-11
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 10, 2009

SUBJECT: NATIONAL EVALUATION OF THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To evaluate energy and cost savings and other aspects of the Weatherization Assistance Program

BACKGROUND: The Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs (OWIP) has authorized Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to implement the national evaluation of the Weatherization Assistance Program. The evaluation design is consistent with the preliminary plan previously developed in conjunction with the Weatherization network and approved through an extensive peer review process in 2006. For further details please see *National Evaluation of the Weatherization Assistance Program: Preliminary Evaluation Plan for Program Year 2006*, [ORNL/CON-498](#) and other documents at <http://weatherization.ornl.gov>.

The project will be conducted by a competitively selected independent subcontractor evaluation team lead by Apprise, Inc., which also includes the Energy Center of Wisconsin, Michael Blasnik & Associates, and Dalhoff Associates, LLC.

This evaluation will address energy and cost savings, non-energy benefits, program cost effectiveness, and program operations. Special technical studies related to air and duct sealing, furnace work, refrigerators, and air conditioning will also be conducted. The evaluation will now focus on Program Years 2007 and 2008. The project was kicked-off on September 2, 2009. The research team is expected to be in the field collecting data by December 2009.

A session about the national evaluation was held at the 2009 National Weatherization Training Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on Tuesday, July 21, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. Project team members are available to answer questions about the national evaluation during this session and throughout the Conference.

ACTION: The evaluation team will be contacting each grantee office and local weatherization agency to complete surveys related to program operations. A random sample of approximately 400 local agencies (subset of agencies) will be selected and contacted to provide more detailed information on weatherization activities in Program Year 2008 and homes that were weatherized during Program Years 2007 and 2008 and on waiting lists in Program Year 2009. This information will be used, in part, to allow the evaluation team to contact various utilities to collect billing histories. The evaluation team will also work with the subset of agencies to implement a national occupant survey, the special technical studies, multi-family and mobile home studies, a weatherization staff survey, and propane and fuel oil studies.

Grantees and subgrantees have previously been requested to acquire signed waivers authorizing the release of vendor billing data of clients to the program. All grantees and subgrantees are urged to continue this process as the Program implements expanded Weatherization activity for PY 2010 and PY 2011.

The sample of homes to be surveyed in the evaluation will not be large enough to provide statistics on a state-by-state basis. Grantees had previously been given the option of having additional homes surveyed at their own expense in order to create individual grantee reports and a number of grantees had expressed an interest in doing this. ORNL renews this offer and asks grantees interested in these supplements to contact Bruce Tonn at the email address below. ORNL asks each grantee interested in a supplement to determine whether it would prefer to contract directly with the subcontractor Apprise, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 non-profit research firm, or with ORNL.

This evaluation will be the first of several studies that will be conducted during the next several years to assess the Weatherization Assistance Programs past performance as well as program implementation and design under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Results of this research will be critical to the design of the future Weatherization Assistance Program as it plays its expanded role in achieving the Administration's objective of weatherizing one million homes a year. DOE, ORNL, and the evaluation team recognize that these are challenging times for the entire Weatherization network and greatly appreciate the cooperation and effort required of all to make this a successful project.

For further information about the national evaluation, please contact Holly Ravesloot, U.S. Department of Energy, at 202-287-1868 (holly.ravesloot@ee.doe.gov) or Bruce Tonn, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, at 865-574-4041 (bet@ornl.gov).



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