

Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) recently launched the Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program (WIPP) to accelerate innovations in whole-house weatherization and advance DOE's goal of increasing the energy efficiency and health and safety in homes of low-income families. Since 2010, this program has helped weatherization service providers as well as new and nontraditional partners leverage non-federal financial resources to supplement federal grants, which allows them to use less taxpayer money. WIPP complements the Weatherization Assistance Program which operates nationwide, in U.S. Territories, and in three Native American tribes.

The 16 grantees currently implementing weatherization innovation projects are taking experimental approaches to find new and more effective ways to weatherize homes. The four main approaches are:

- Financial tools – grantees strive to better understand how a diverse range of financing mechanisms can expand the impact of the federal grant dollars while providing high-quality work and benefits to eligible low-income clients.
- Green and healthy homes – in addition to helping families save money on their energy bills, grantees work to protect their health and safety. Two WIPP projects will incorporate a comprehensive green and healthy homes approach with more standard weatherization services.
- New technologies and techniques – following the model of weatherization work that has improved over the years, WIPP grantees will continue to “raise the bar” of using new and better technologies and techniques to improve the quality of work. For example, in-home energy monitors are being rigorously tested by two grantees, and another is examining best-practice techniques for mobile home energy efficiency.
- Workforce development and volunteers – three grantees are adapting business models that have been successful in other sectors and are using them to perform weatherization work. The overall goal is to create a self-sustaining weatherization model that won't require future federal investment.

These innovative approaches are expected to improve key weatherization outcomes, such as:

- Increasing the total number of homes that are weatherized
- Reducing the weatherization cost per home
- Increasing the energy savings in each home that is weatherized
- Increasing the number of weatherization jobs created and retained
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



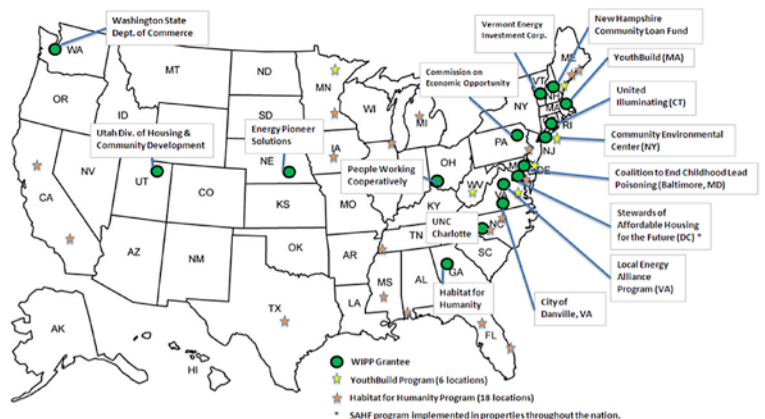
Adding insulation to a home is a typical energy upgrade measure. In this home, a worker blows in cellulose insulation to bring the R value up to R38.

Photo by Dennis Schroeder, /PIX18034

Who Is Eligible?

The weatherization innovation projects operate in certain geographic areas that are shown on the map below. Low-income people living in these locations may qualify for assistance. The program serves homeowners and renters living in all housing types, including single-family homes, apartments, or mobile homes. Renters must get written permission from the landlord before agencies can perform weatherization upgrades on the home.

Persons and families are eligible for assistance if household income falls at or below 200% of the federally established poverty income guidelines shown in the table on the next page. The grantee responding to an application will ask for proof of income, and grantees give preference to people who are more than 60 years old, people who have disabilities, and families with children. People and families may also qualify for this program if they participate in other assistance programs, such as Supplemental Security Income and/or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.



There are currently 16 Weatherization Innovation Grantees working in different areas of the United States.

The Weatherization Process

When a home becomes eligible for weatherization, there is a certain process that determines the work to be done and the best means of doing it. First, a professionally trained weatherization assessor performs an energy audit to determine the best energy-efficiency measures for a home based on its heating and cooling needs. This assessor will meet with the household members to explain how the trained weatherization crews will do the work, and will answer any questions at this time. Throughout the weatherization process, each family's health and safety remains a priority. When the weatherization upgrades are complete, an inspector will return to make certain that everything was installed correctly, is working properly, and nothing was missed.

Some typical weatherization work that may be performed on a home includes:

- Insulating the attic, walls, floors, water heater, and exposed pipes
- Air sealing the attic, basement, and crawl spaces
- Tuning-up, repairing, or even replacing the furnace or heating unit and, if one is present, the air conditioner
- Installing ventilation fans such as electric, attic, ceiling, or whole-house fans to increase air circulation
- Eliminating air infiltration by weather-stripping and caulking around doors and windows and replacing broken glass panes



In addition to measuring a water heater's efficiency, an energy assessor also checks carbon monoxide levels in any home scheduled for weatherization.

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- Focusing on energy-related health and safety issues while performing all work
- Providing instructions on how to care for weatherization materials and simple, low-cost/no-cost tips on how to save even more energy and money after the weatherization upgrades are installed.

2011 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

WIPP grantees may weatherize homes in which the occupants' combined income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. The income levels for various family sizes are:

# in Household	200% of Poverty Level
1	\$21,780
2	\$29,420
3	\$37,060
4	\$44,700
5	\$52,340
6	\$59,980
7	\$67,620
8	\$75,260

For More Information

WIPP is an extension of EERE's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), which is implemented in every state and U.S. territory.

- For more information about WIPP, please visit eere.energy.gov/wip/weatherization_innovation.html.
- For more information about WAP, please visit weatherization.energy.gov or waptac.org.