



WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Why Weatherization Works

- Conserves energy resources, reduces production of carbon, helps U.S. become more energy efficient and improves the health and safety of homes.
- Decreases a family's energy expenses.
- Provides a living wage job and career opportunities for Weatherization workers.
- Preserves existing affordable housing and stabilizes neighborhoods.

Our Role in Weatherization

The Department of Commerce contracts statewide with 26 local agencies to do weatherization work and provide home energy conservation education.

Our Funding

The Department of Commerce receives funding from four sources to do weatherization work.

2009 Dept. of Energy (DOE)

Funding: **\$7.2 million**

2009 Dept. Health and Human Services (LIHEAP) Funding:

\$16.1 million

2010 Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Funding:

\$2.3 million

2009-2011 Biennium Capital Budget Energy Matchmaker

Funding: **\$3 million**

Recovery Act Funding

A total of \$59.5 million in 2009 Recovery Act funding will help weatherize an estimated 7,000 homes statewide and create hundreds of jobs through June of 2011. The funding will also be used for worker training, technical assistance and program support.

Families We Help

The Weatherization Assistance Program completes an average of 3,000-4,000 housing units annually. The State of Washington has helped weatherize 125,000 multi and single-family, manufactured and mobile homes statewide since 1987.

The Potential Savings

Energy saved from an estimated 125,000 eligible low-income homes in Washington would be enough to supply power to all homes in a city the size of Redmond or Walla Walla.



Recovery Act In Action

Craig Brundle was another casualty of the economic downturn when Recovery Act funding in Washington State came to the rescue. Brundle had 15 years of experience in construction when the economic crash left him jobless in November of 2008. The Olympic Community Action Program (OlyCAP) hired him to be on its weatherization crew through Recovery Act funding and he hasn't looked back since.

"I thank God that I got help from the state," said Brundle, a single father of a high schooler. Now I try to help people and make a difference in their lives, too."

Clallam County resident Craig Brundle (pictured left) was another casualty of the economic downturn when (ARRA) funding in Washington State came to the rescue.

People We Help: In Their Own Words

"It was wonderful to see all of the things coming together to make my home so much nicer and to know it has made it to last even longer."
Whatcom County resident--

"Our home is much more comfortable and with the cost of living rising so rapidly, we are very grateful for the work that was done to help keep the energy inside our house rather than leaking to the outside"
Tacoma resident

"I have seen a very pleasing improvement in my energy use since my house was weatherized...Not only is my home more efficient, I have learned a great deal about how to conserve energy."
Spokane resident

Weatherization Measures

Weatherization contractors apply energy efficiency measures to a home. These include:

- Ceiling, wall and floor insulation.
- Closing heat-escaping gaps by caulking, weather stripping, or broken window replacement.
- Heating system improvements.

The measures are applied according to established technical standards, cost-effectiveness tests, and relevant building codes.

Fast Facts*

- About 41 percent of units served are multi-family.
- About 77 percent of units weatherized are electronically heated and 16 percent have natural gas heat.
- Low-income families pay more than 25 percent of income for home energy costs alone.
- Half of the buildings weatherized are more than 35 years old.
- Agencies use a variety of funding sources to weatherize homes and many projects rely on three or more different funding sources.
- Over three-quarters of the units weatherized are in six counties – King, Pierce, Spokane, Snohomish, Clark and Yakima.

* Washington State Low-Income Weatherization Program Evaluation Report 2006



Weatherization ARRA Putting People Back to Work

Fawn Martinez is a single mom with a son in college. The company where she had worked for 12 years laid her off, leaving the family without health insurance or a way to make a mortgage, student loan and car payments. Fawn looked for work for nine months. She survived on unemployment benefits and by liquidating her 401K. Despite hefty penalties, Fawn did not want to be a foreclosure statistic. Then she received a phone call from a contractor friend. He contacted the King County Housing Authority, whose project manager offered her a job in the weatherization program. Fawn's new salary was similar to her old one. She was able to obtain health insurance for herself, along with other benefits. "I did not lose my home and equity, and I am back on course to restoring my retirement fund and paying for my son's college. This is all because of the Recovery Act funding that created my new job – a better job than I had before!"

For More Information Go to
WWW.COMMERCE.WA.GOV/HOUSING
or contact Mark Porter at mark.porter@commerce.wa.gov or
call 360-725-3060