

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Senate Finance Committee
From: Ken Schatz, DCF Commissioner
Re: Weatherization Program Summary
Date: April 19, 2016

The Vermont Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program creates warmer, safer, and more energy efficient homes. Weatherization is an anti-poverty program that puts money saved through energy efficiency back into the pockets of low income Vermonters.

Services:

- **Efficiency Coaching** on energy saving behaviors and upgrading electrical efficiency (for all recipients including those on waitlist)
- **One Touch Screening & Referral** for health and social service programs, such as the Vermont lead-based paint program, Head Start, or aging services
- **Energy Audit** of home to identify where cost effective energy efficiency improvements can be made – including blower door testing, infra-red scan and inspection of attics, knee walls, basements and crawl spaces
- **Energy Renovation** such as insulation and sealing drafts
- **Health & Safety Improvements** for home owners receiving Weatherization, such as improving ventilation, addressing carbon monoxide and unsafe heating issues
- Average cost of job: \$8,500

Impact:

- 7,708 homes weatherized in the past 6 years
- 750 homes to be weatherized in FY 2016
- Estimated 20% energy savings per home

Who: Vermont homeowners and renters with household income below 80% of area median income, priority is given to those who are:

- Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP) Clients
- Household income is less than 60% of the state or county median income
- High energy intensity homes
- Families with children under 6
- People who are elderly and/or are living with a disability (SSI/SSDI)





Program Structure:

Weatherization services are provided statewide by four Community Action Agencies and one non-profit organization. The statewide program is administered by the Department for Children & Families, Office of Economic Opportunity, which monitors programs for effectiveness and provides ongoing training and technical assistance to ensure quality.

Program Budget (FY2016)*:

US Department of Energy	\$1,000,000
Home Weatherization Assistance Fund (Fuel Gross Receipts Tax)	\$8,100,000
TOTAL	\$9,100,000

Program Benefits: \$7.9M
Administration: \$1.2M (Personnel, Training, Technical Assistance, Supplies, etc.)

Weatherization and LIHEAP:

Weatherization makes homes more efficient, LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) provides a fuel assistance benefit to households. LIHEAP recipients are prioritized for Weatherization allowing them to maximize their benefit.

Weatherization Assistance Program and other Home Efficiency Programs: The Weatherization Assistance Program is the only program providing 100% of services to low income individuals and families at no cost.

