

Creating One Equitable Income Standard

For eligibility in the state's low-income clean energy programs

What standard are we using right now?

Currently, income qualification for weatherization and other energy services varies by county. A family of four in Chittenden County making \$68,000 qualifies for the services, but a similar family of four in the Northeast Kingdom making \$68,000 does not.



What's the problem with that?

Energy costs are dramatically higher for the family living in the NEK that was just disqualified.



The average NEK family spends 2.5x more in energy costs than a similar family in Chittenden County.¹



A simple solution - one state-wide standard

We can move toward more equitable programs and simplify the qualification process by switching to a single, state-wide metric - State Median Income.

Using SMI, both families would qualify for weatherization and energy services.



Families in Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle would continue to use county-weighted income levels to qualify for housing, food, childcare, and other assistance. Those at the top edge of the current qualification may no longer qualify for energy-related services.

Let's support the Vermont families with the heaviest energy burden in buttoning up their homes and reducing their energy use. Making the switch to a statewide income qualification is the first step.

1. <https://www.encyvermont.com/news-blog/whitepapers/vermont-energy-burden>