

State of Vermont

Department for Children and Families

Office of Economic Opportunity

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Weatherization Assistance Program Overview

The Vermont Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program creates warmer, safer, healthier 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. It also does much more...

Statewide Administration of the Weatherization Program:

The statewide program is administered by the Department for Children and Families, Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). Three full-time OEO staff provide guidance, training, quality control and quality assurance for the program to ensure its effectiveness.

Local Weatherization Providers:

Local Weatherization services are provided by four Community Action Agencies and one non-profit organization. These five Weatherization Assistance Providers are “crew-based” meaning their well-trained employees install the energy saving, and health and safety measures in each home. Weatherization Providers also hire local heating contractors, plumbers and electricians as needed. In SFY20, OEO added 3E Thermal to provide multi-family low-income Weatherization statewide.

Who Benefits:

Vermont homeowners and renters with household income below 80% of area median income (~\$63,200 for a 4-person family) are eligible for no-cost Weatherization service. Due to the existing wait list for service, applicants are prioritized for service based on the following criteria:

- Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP) home
- Household income less than 30% of the state or county median income
- High energy usage in home
- Families with elderly member in the home
- Families with disabled member in the home
- Families with children under 6 in the home
- Time on the wait list

In SFY20, 648 households were served with 1,227 total occupants – 379 were elderly, 246 were living with a disability, and 265 were children.

Services:

- **Efficiency Coaching** on energy-saving behaviors and upgrade of electrical efficiency;
- **One Touch Screening & Referral** for health and social service programs, such as the Vermont lead-based paint program, Head Start, aging services, Vermont Quit Hot line, etc.;

- **Energy Audit** of home to identify where the most 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, as well as testing of all combustion appliances for safety and efficiency;
- **Energy Efficiency Renovation** such as insulation and air sealing;
- **Health & Safety Improvements** such as improving ventilation, addressing carbon monoxide and unsafe combustion appliance issues;
- **Quality Control Inspection** to BPI¹ standards.

Impact:

- 3,882 homes were weatherized in the past 5 years
- Approximately 1,000 homes to be weatherized in FY21
- Average cost per job: ~ \$9,727 of which approximately 15% supports health and safety investments
- Estimated 31% energy savings per home (energy modeled savings)
- 25% of the homeowners receive a warm handoff to another health or human services program through our nationally recognized “One Touch” process

Single-Family and Multi-Family Homes:

- Both owner-occupied and rental homes can be weatherized when housing income eligible client(s).
- No cost to low-income owner-occupied households.
- Landlords are responsible for correcting any health and safety issues before the Weatherization Program provides no cost energy efficiency measures.
- In FY20, 64% of the homes weatherized were 1-unit homes, 20% were small multi-family homes consisting of 2-4 units, and 16% were large multi-family homes comprising of 5 or more units in the building.
- Approximately 35% of the completed homes each year are mobile homes.

FY 22 Weatherization Grants - Proposed:

US Department of Energy - Weatherization (assumes level funding)	\$1,604,548
Home Weatherization Assistance Fund (Fuel Tax)	\$7,069,352
Low-Income Heating Assistance Program (Federal) (“swap”)	\$3,066,942
TOTAL	\$11,740,842

Does not include Office of Economic Opportunity Administration of the Program

One-Time General Fund – SFY 22 and SFY 23 (383 units)	\$4,000,000
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The Big Picture:

- Cost Effective: Testing and analysis of every home
- Effective: Allows low-income households to stay in their home by making it more affordable and safer
- Comprehensive: Tests to ensure that no surface is left uninsulated and the home is safe after Wx
- Holistic: Efficiency Coaching and One Touch Program help extend the impact on client lives

¹ BPI is the Building Performance Institute. www.bpi.org