

Weatherization Repayment Assistance Pilot (WRAP) Update

Testimony to Senate Natural Resources, January 7, 2022 Maura Collins, mcollins@vhfa.org

Weatherization Funding in 2021

\$9 million

• VT Housing Finance Agency for WRAP

\$5 million

Efficiency VT for weatherization incentives

\$2 million

Efficiency VT for workforce development

\$8 million

Office of Economic Opportunity for Weatherization Assistance



Weatherization Repayment Assistance Pilot (WRAP)

Key partners identified, and workgroup formed. VHFA was joined



Researched similar current programs and interviewed:

- > Holland Board of Public Works (Holland, MI)
- > Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
- Orcas Power and Light Co-Op (Eastsound, WA)
- Etility Inc (National operator of the Pay-As-You-Save[®] program)

Consulted with Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)



WRAP Goal: Assist low- and moderate-income households enjoy benefits of:

- Targeting low- and moderate-income households;
- Lower energy bills which makes homes more affordable;
- Greater comfort;
- More stable and predictable utility bills;
- Increased resiliency when heating source is diversified;
- Potential improvement of health and safety, especially when paired with home repair programs;
- Reduced emissions that are contributing to climate change; and
- Added home value by investing in weatherization measures.
- Focused on most inefficient homes rural & older
- Designed for owners and renters



- Manufactured home owners eligible
- Rental buildings with <=4 units where utilities are in owner's name

WRAP Customer Experience

Program overview Energy audit

Financial assessment, terms set

Approved contractor completes work



Begin on-bill repayment



Feedback from Those Served

- What they liked:
 - Long term repayment
 - Not traditional loan with underwriting
 - No problem with higher summertime bill, want the comfort in summer
- What worried them:
 - No cherry picking, don't want to be told what to do
 - Liked that renters were included, but wish more MF buildings were



Progress to Date & Next Steps



A Bold Vision



