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The Vermont Weatherization Program

Agenda

Overview of Vermont Weatherization Program

How's it going in Weatherization?

Trends

Q and A

The Weatherization Team



Mission of Weatherization

“To reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety and at the same time reducing carbon emissions”.

Key Points About Our Program

The program is free for income-eligible clients and provides approximately \$11,500 worth of energy efficiency work per home (<80% AMI or <200% FPL).

The program employs approximately 150 Weatherization workers at 6 Agencies, over 130 subcontractors statewide, and 6 full time staff at the DCF / OEO State Weatherization office.

\$26 million dollars granted to 6 local providers for SFY25 (5 years ago about half that amount of money)

The program has been in existence in every state since the late 70's when created by the Department of Energy.

What does the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) do?

Oversee, administer the statewide Weatherization program. To include...

- Provide funds via grants
- Provide guidance and support (daily)
- Provide technical support and training (T and TA)
- Monitor the program (quality control and assurance)

Who Is Eligible?

- Owners and renters: (there are some landlord responsibilities for rentals)
- Households with gross income below 80% of median income (48% of funds) or below 200% Federal Poverty Limit (52% of funds)
- Auto-qualified if receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Seasonal Fuel Assistance. (100% of clients)

How Is It Going?

Increased workforce, spending, and production in the last 2-3 years.

Weatherized 1,211 homes last year (SFY24) and spent \$20.8 million.

- This is an increase of \$7.1 million in spending and an increase of 178 homes from SFY22.

Reason for Growth – Increase to crew wages that resulted in more crew, increased retention, as well as other workforce strategies.

Projected to serve 1,310 homes and spend \$21.1 million this SFY(25).

OEO has awarded a grant to Everblue to develop and operate a Vermont Weatherization Training Center (DOE federally funded).

Utilization of ARPA Funds

Funding supports home repair and vermiculite remediation.

- 36% of homes weatherized received a home repair award averaging \$2,419 (need was 43%).
- 5% of homes Weatherized had vermiculite remediations. The need is 10%.

Installing cold climate heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and EPA certified wood and pellet stoves.

Trends

- Majority of funds are now Federal (52%) – ARPA, BIL, IRA
- Utilize Weatherization Special Fund with DOE and BIL funds to thoroughly Weatherize the home (DOE only allows \$8k per home, need is \$16k).
- Workforce
 - Crew retention and recruitment has improved significantly, work force is still a priority focus area for the network.
 - Finding subcontractors for home repairs, vermiculite abatement, electricians and heating contractors can sometimes be a challenge.
- Challenges with the housing stock, many homes need home repair or vermiculite remediation before weatherization can start.
- Increase in heating system replacements.

Thank You

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