

Savings from

## WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- **\$4,200** savings per weatherized home (lifetime)
- **\$820 million/year** energy bill savings
- **2.6 billion kWh/year** electricity savings ( $\approx$  electricity use of 200,000 homes)
- **27 million MMBtu/year** natural gas savings: ( $\approx$  use of 700,000 homes)
- **3.5 MMT CO<sub>2</sub>/year** emissions reduction ( $\approx$  emissions of 740,000 cars)



The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) helps low-income families by making energy efficiency improvements to their homes. Since 1976, WAP has funded and provided training to community assistance programs around the country to make more than 7 million homes of low-income families more energy efficient. Using energy assessments, the contractors seal air leaks, add insulation, and replace old heating and cooling equipment.



A Weatherization Assistance Program crew prepares to assist a West Virginia homeowner. (Source: Daniel M.N. Turner)

### How does it help?

The WAP helps low-income families lower their energy bills with savings that last for decades. However evaluations find that other benefits are even greater: less asthma (and thus lower health costs), more money to pay for medications, and better comfort. WAP also trains and employs thousands of workers, often from the same low-income communities that benefit from the home improvements.

### How much does it cost?

In 2019, WAP is funded at \$257 million at DOE. In addition, almost all states transfer funds to WAP

from the Department of Health and Human Services' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (\$374 million in 2017), and in most states, utilities and others provide additional funding (\$236 million in 2016).

### What is at stake?

If funding is cut, some or all of the following benefits we estimate for future weatherization assistance would be lost:

	2018–30	2018–40
Number of low-income families helped	1.4 million	2.5 million
Energy bill savings (present value)	\$1.8 billion	\$4.2 billion

### Is it cost effective?

Although WAP is not the cheapest program per unit of energy savings, the benefits to low-income families are great. Oak Ridge National Lab found a total benefit-cost ratio (including health and other benefits) of 4:1.

## Healthier Home in West Virginia



**Brenda Kelsor**

Homeowner  
Welch, WV

*(Source: Daniel M.N. Turner)*

In the southernmost tip of West Virginia, where the state's poverty rates are highest, Brenda Kelsor struggles with chronic breathing problems. She has bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and her home—an old trailer—was only making matters worse. It lacked central air conditioning and insulation so she found it difficult to breathe in both summer and winter. “It’s hard to breathe...if it’s too hot or too cold,” said Kelsor. After her home was weatherized, its indoor temperature remained pleasant and her utility bills decreased. “Oh, my god, it feels good in here,” she said about the difference. “This is going to help.”

### Enhanced Weatherization in Alaska

Alaska faces some of the highest energy costs in the United States, with residential costs that are 60% above the national average. These high costs are a problem especially for low-income households, but weatherization assistance programs help reduce this burden by keeping homes energy efficient. The federal program distributes about \$1.5 million a year to Alaska; the State of Alaska has added hundreds of millions of dollars more. In the remote Kobuk River Valley, the program remodeled dozens of homes, employing several dozen local residents. The Enhanced Weatherization Program combined funds to help homeowners in Lake and Peninsula Borough. In the Village of Egegik, for example, one participant reduced energy consumption by 30% and saved \$2,000 annually, while another reduced annual fuel oil use by 300 gallons.