

Missouri Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program



Assistance is Available for Energy-Efficient Home Improvements

In 1977, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources responded to the energy crisis of the early 1970s, establishing the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) in the Division of Energy. The

program provides cost-effective energy-efficient home improvements to Missouri's low-income households, especially the elderly, children, those with physical disadvantages and others most affected by high utility costs. The program's objectives are to lower utility bills and improve comfort while ensuring health and safety. WAP takes a whole-house approach to energy efficiency. The cost-effectiveness of energy efficiency measures is considered using modeling calculations derived from home energy audits conducted by weatherization professionals.

WAP is a Long-Lasting Solution to Lower Utility Bills

Home heating and cooling are high-cost basic necessities. Americans spent more than \$230 billion in 2010 on residential energy. Low income households carry a larger burden for energy costs, typically spending 16.3% of their total annual income on utilities. Compared to 3.5% on average by other households. Low-income families often must cut back on other necessities such as healthcare, medicine, groceries and childcare to pay their energy bills. Other low-income people may live in older homes that do not have insulation or have older, less efficient appliances.

A typical weatherized home can reduce average annual fuel usage by 30%. Weatherization allows for a reduced burden on utility assistance providers and the energy savings achieved through weatherization is cost-effective.

For every **\$1** invested in the program, Weatherization returns:



\$1.72
in energy
savings

\$2.78
in non-energy
benefits

These benefits and savings are returned to ratepayers, households and communities through:

- Increased occupant health and safety
- Reduction in temperature-related illnesses
- Fewer missed days of work and school
- Increased local employment
- Skilled workforce to support the growth of the private home energy retrofit industry
- Local and regional businesses supported by the activities of the WAP
- Reduced uncollectible utility bills

Determining Energy-Efficient Measures

An energy audit procedure establishes the cost-effective weatherization measures. The audit helps calculate reductions in energy usage and includes factors like changes in the thermal and heat transfer characteristics of a dwelling, appropriate weather data and economic factors, such as fuel and installation costs. Auditors gather information and perform diagnostic tests on each home, including blower door tests and infrared thermography to help detect and locate air leaks and other weaknesses in the building envelope. Heating systems are tested for efficiency and safety, and repairs are made accordingly.

How to Apply for Assistance

To apply for assistance, clients should contact their local weatherization agency.

The agency will ask the clients to complete the appropriate forms, including income documentation to verify eligibility. Once the client is verified as eligible, an auditor from the agency will conduct an energy audit of the home to determine what steps will produce the greatest energy savings. The next step is for the agency crew or contractor to install the energy efficient measures on the home. After the weatherization of the home is complete, a quality control inspector will examine the home to ensure the quality of work

and completeness. The Division of Energy monitors the work of the agencies to ensure state and federal guidelines are followed.

Size of Family Unit	Income
1	\$25,520
2	\$34,480
3	\$43,440
4	\$52,400
5	\$61,360
6	\$70,320
7	\$79,280
8	\$88,240
Each additional member	\$8,960



ENERGY EFFICIENT MEASURES MAY INCLUDE:

- Reducing air infiltration
- Increasing insulation in walls, attics, floors and foundations
- HVAC repair or replacement
- LED lighting replacement
- Refrigerator replacement
- Water heater blankets

For more information:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of Energy

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800-361-4827 or 573-751-2254 office
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