

# WEATHERIZATION FACT SHEET

The West Virginia Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity manages the state's Weatherization Assistance Program for Low Income Persons, using U.S. DOE appropriations, DOE ARRA Recovery funds, LIHEAP fuel assistance funds, and utility partnership funding. GOEO contracts statewide with 13 local community action agencies that employ trained weatherization crews to install residential energy efficiency and conservation measures prescribed by energy audits and diagnostic testing in all 55 counties. Examples include, but are not limited to, installing insulation, reducing air-infiltration, performing heating and cooling tune-ups and modifications, and, when appropriate, replacing units for energy efficiency and safety. Clients are educated on the proper use and maintenance of the weatherization measures.

## **PURPOSE**

- **To increase the energy efficiency of homes, mobile homes, and apartments occupied by low-income persons, targeting the elderly, those with disabilities, and families with children, while ensuring their health and safety.**
  - 16.1% of West Virginia's population live in poverty;
  - 11.9% of the state's elderly population live in poverty;
  - 23.4% of children in West Virginia live in poverty.
- **To reduce the energy burden of low-income West Virginians.** Nationally, an average household spends 3.3% of its annual income on energy costs. In West Virginia (2000 Census), more than 56,000 households live with incomes at or below 50% of the Federal Poverty Level and face a home energy burden of 67%. More than 36,000 households live with incomes between 50% and 74% of poverty levels and thus face a home energy burden of 28.5%. More than 39,000 West Virginia households live with incomes between 75% and 99% of poverty levels with home energy burdens of 19%.
- **Weatherization makes an important contribution to our national security** by reducing the impact of energy supply disruptions on the nation's most vulnerable consumers. These groups are the least able to deal with a price explosion or an energy supply disruption. When a low-income home is weatherized, both its energy bill and fuel consumption are reduced each year for many years to come. Now with the federal Recovery Act investments in the DOE Weatherization Assistance Program, more green jobs have been created and more low-income West Virginia households are weatherized.

## **OPERATION**

- The Program targets goals for 50% of completed units to be elderly clients and 25% of completions for clients with disabilities.
- With a current statewide backlog of 9,400 qualified applicant households, the average waiting time for assistance can be over three years in some areas of the state. The 2000 census identifies over 285,837 West Virginia households that qualify for program assistance, while approximately 72,000 homes have received assistance (thru 3-31-2009).
- In a DOE Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Report (March 2010) published by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, evaluation data reflected \$437 or more in annual utility bill savings year after year, (based on current prices), reflecting a favorable tax cost-benefit ratio of \$1.80 returned in reduced energy bills for every dollar invested.

## **PROGRAM ASPECTS**

- With the Recovery Act employment additions to the Program there are approximately 230 professionally trained West Virginians are employed full time statewide. The Program indirectly supports another 50 jobs.
- Past and current utility partnerships with AEP APCo/Wheeling Power, Allegheny Power, Mountaineer Gas, and Dominion Hope Gas have leveraged non-federal resources to provide additional energy efficiency measures to low-income households for comprehensive weatherization packages.

## **West Virginia Weatherization Assistance Program**



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