

Client Comments

"...At the time our furnace was inspected, it was so old and working poorly, that carbon monoxide was detected. The problem was taken care of promptly and professionally. We are very grateful not only for all of your hard work on our home, but also for the very possibility that our lives could have been taken had it not been for your program."

Earl—Woodward, Iowa

"I really appreciate all that was done to my home for me last summer. It helped me stay much warmer during the past winter. It also made quite a difference on my heating bill. I am on a limited income of social security and at times, it is very difficult for me to meet all of my bills. This program has helped make the quality of my life a little better. Thank you."

Donald—Kensett, Iowa

"This letter expresses my sincere thanks for a wonderful gift from the taxpayers. Before my home was weatherized, the thermostat was set as low as it would go, 55, and the furnace would run only at night. During the day, I heated the two rooms I used the most with the kitchen's gas oven. My husband and I did that for many years. The upstairs sleeping rooms and bathrooms were completely unheated. Now, I have the thermostat set at 62 and I am not using my oven for heat. I hope and pray that wonderful help like this can continue to be extended to other working and retired people who don't make enough to repair their property."

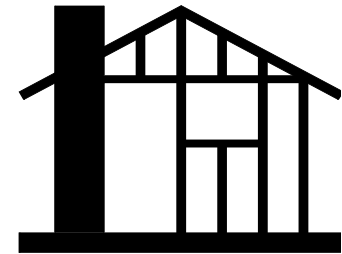
Rosemary—Ida Grove, Iowa

Iowa Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program

Developed by the Bureau of Weatherization,
Iowa Department of Human Rights,
Division of Community Action Agencies
www.weatherization.iowa.gov

Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy

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Iowa Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program

What Is The Weatherization Assistance Program?

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a low-income energy-efficiency program. Its purpose is to make the homes of low-income clients more energy efficient, thereby reducing clients' fuel bills and increasing their comfort. The program also provides important health and safety services to the clients it serves. Priority for service is given to households containing persons who are elderly or have disabilities and households that contain young children.

Funding for the program comes from the U.S. Department of Energy, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Iowa's investor-owned utilities, municipalities, and local funds. Iowa's program weatherizes approximately 2,000 homes each year. Since 1980, more than 134,085 homes throughout the state have been weatherized.

During the ARRA (American Reinvestment & Recovery Act) period (2009-2012), we received \$80 million in funding and were able to weatherize 10,200 homes.

How Does Weatherization Work?

The Weatherization Assistance Program

provides services through community-based organizations and local governments statewide.

Professionally trained technicians in the Weatherization Assistance Program use advanced energy audits and diagnostic equipment to identify the most cost-effective, energy-saving measures for each home.

Typical energy saving measures include sealing air leaks with the aid of a blower-door, installing insulation in attics, walls, and crawlspaces, and tuning and upgrading heating systems. In addition, inefficient refrigerators and freezers are removed and/or replaced, and incandescent light bulbs are replaced by compact fluorescents. Energy savings education is also provided to clients.

What Are The Program Benefits?

Energy Savings

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps to alleviate the high energy cost burden faced by low-income households, thus allowing them to spend limited household income on other critical needs such as food and medicine.

The Iowa Weatherization Program is one of the best performing programs in the country by achieving average annual energy savings of \$344 per household. Some local agencies achieve average annual savings of \$466 per household.

Health And Safety

The Weatherization Assistance Program conducts a health and safety inspection on every home that is weatherized. This consists of

checking all combustion appliances (furnaces, water heaters, gas dryers, and stoves) for carbon monoxide, for proper venting of combustion gases, and for gas leaks.

Furnaces are installed in 60% of the homes that are weatherized because the existing furnaces are either unsafe or inefficient.

Homes are also inspected for other possible health and safety problems. Carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are installed in certain situations. Lead paint educational brochures are provided to all clients.

Environment

The Weatherization Program benefits the environments by reducing the emission of air pollutants.

The program reduces carbon dioxide emissions by an average of 1 ton per weatherized home.

Economy

The Weatherization Assistance Program benefits the economy by creating and sustaining jobs.

Fifty-two (52) jobs are created for every million dollars invested. Most of these are private-sector jobs.

Affordable Housing

The Weatherization Assistance Program aids in the preservation and maintenance of affordable housing stock for low-income persons and families by lowering utility bills and making the homes safer.