

So Much To Discover in Ohio

Ohio is home to numerous space explorers including Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon; John Glenn, the first man to orbit the earth; and 22 other NASA astronauts. An inherent spirit of discovery permeates the state and is reflected in Ohio's diverse efforts to improve the quality of life for all citizens. A stellar example of this spirit is Ohio's partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to implement the Weatherization Assistance Program (Weatherization). Weatherization reduces energy costs for low-income families by improving the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety.

DISCOVERING SAVINGS

Weatherization is about saving energy and money for low-income families. On average, low-income households spend 14% of their annual income on energy, while other households spend only 3.5%. Rising energy prices compound the heavy burden. Ohio's Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) alleviates this burden by reducing home energy consumption, which provides a boost to the household's budget. The Office of Energy Efficiency administers the program and 61 local agencies deliver weatherization services to eligible residents in every county.

Valerie Clark*, from Madison Place, was impressed by the sophisticated equipment crews used to weatherize her home. First, a computerized audit was run to determine the most cost-effective measures appropriate for her home. Next, diagnostic tools, such as a blower door and infrared camera, were used to identify and mitigate air infiltration and pressure imbalances. Combustion appliances were analyzed for efficiency and safety. The weatherization crew then installed typical weatherization measures like blowing insulation; sealing doors and windows; and repairing the heating system. Valerie was also educated on the proper use and maintenance of the installed measures. After her home was weatherized, Valerie's \$350 monthly winter heating bill decreased to \$200.

NATIONAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Homes weatherized in 1999	68,000
DOE allocations in 1999	\$135 million
Average annual energy cost savings per household	\$300
Average space heating savings	25-30%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested	\$2.10
Jobs supported	7,000

OHIO

Homes weatherized in 1999 (with DOE \$)	7,397
DOE funding in 1999	\$8 million
Clients served in 1999	16,440
Elderly	13%
People with disabilities	16%
Families with children	14%

Weatherization crews receive training and certification from the Ohio Weatherization Training Center, national conferences, and in the field. Ohio trains all field staff in state-of-the-art techniques to safely and cost-effectively reduce energy consumption.

Leveraging dollars and developing creative partnerships are key to HWAP's success. In 1999, HWAP leveraged core DOE program funding with over \$8 million from the state, utilities, and other organizations. The program is a cost-effective investment: HWAP's direct economic benefits exceed the cost of the program by 7-26%.

DISCOVERING MULTIPLE BENEFITS

A pioneer in innovative weatherization techniques, HWAP has always stressed the importance of client health and safety. Many low-income homes have old and poorly maintained heating systems. This can lead to health and safety problems like indoor air pollution, carbon monoxide poisoning, and fires from safety malfunctions or gas leaks. HWAP dedicates a significant portion of its funding to identify and repair health and safety problems. Crews routinely inspect appliances for carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly in large quantities.

In addition to improving the health and safety of a home, weatherization also alleviates economic hardship.

According to the Weatherization Director of Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency, "Many working poor must make a choice between heating or eating. They have to make a choice between buying groceries or medicine versus paying utility bills." After weatherization services, the average Ohio household will save \$185 per year on its energy bills, which frees more money for essential purchases. This benefits the community by keeping money in the local economy that would typically be exported out to pay for energy. Weatherization also provides job opportunities. Currently, HWAP employs 450 people to deliver the program. Additional jobs are created for subcontractors and material suppliers.

HWAP strives to educate all Ohioans in energy efficiency. It produces informational pamphlets, participates in studies, and supports a web site (www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/oe) to reach the general public.



During a public demonstration, an Ohio weatherization worker installs sidewall insulation to increase the energy efficiency of the home.

A FAMILY'S DISCOVERY

Before Faith Howell's* home was weatherized, the house was so cold that her children couldn't invite friends over to play. When the Weatherization crew arrived, they found cracked doors, broken windows, and a leaky roof. After conducting an energy audit, they found the house lacked

insulation and a central heating unit. The crew installed a new front door, fixed the back door, and replaced broken window panes. They also sealed the roof to prevent air and water leakage, blew insulation in the walls and ceiling, and installed a new furnace. Faith wrote, "The snow will no longer blow through the house!" Her youngest daughter remarked, "Mom, I can wear just my pajama's instead of a sweatshirt and sweat pants over them." Today, Faith's

family lives in a warm, energy-efficient home and her children can invite their friends over to play.

WEATHERIZATION WORKS!

Weatherization provides long-term solutions to energy problems for low-income households. It also provides energy, economic, and environmental benefits to the entire community. Nationally, for every \$1 invested in the Program, Weatherization returns \$2.10 in energy-related benefits. Weatherization measures reduce national energy consumption and curb demand for imported oil. Weatherization works for Ohio and America!

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the subjects.*



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, CONTACT:

Weatherization Assistance Program • U.S. Department of Energy, EE-42
1000 Independence Avenue, SW • Washington, DC 20585-0121 • (202) 586-4074

Visit the Weatherization Web site at: www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization_assistance
or call the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at: 1-800-DOE-3732



Printed with a renewable-source ink on paper containing at least 50% wastepaper, including 20% postconsumer waste.

