

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office

Overview

One of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) primary forums for helping state and local governments implement cost-effective and productive energy systems for American homes, communities, businesses, and industries is the **Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office** (WIP). WIP is part of DOE's **Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy** (EERE) and supports a national energy strategy to create greater energy affordability, security, and resiliency.

WIP's mission is to enable strategic investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies with innovative practices across the United States by a wide range of stakeholders, in partnership with state and local organizations and community-based nonprofits.

STATE ENERGY PROGRAM

SEP provides funding and technical assistance to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to enhance energy security, advance state-led energy initiatives, and maximize the benefits of decreasing energy waste. State-led activities include energy emergency planning and response, low-cost financing programs for energy efficiency, performance contracting, school and public building retrofit programs, and innovative energy technology demonstration projects, among other programs that spur economic development—increase energy efficiency, and expand domestic energy resources.

PARTNERSHIPS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

WIP's Partnerships and Technical Assistance (P&TA) team serves at the nexus of state and local governments to catalyze lead-by-example programs—by developing solutions to barriers facing state and local governments, convening and creating peer exchanges to showcase public-sector leadership and effective public-private partnerships, and providing information from leading technical experts. P&TA cultivates diverse partnerships and provides technical assistance through initiatives that include the Better Buildings Challenge, Better Communities Alliance, and Accelerators.

STRATEGIC AND INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES

WIP's Strategic and Interagency Initiatives (SI2) team leads topic-specific projects and provides tools to support decision makers in their efforts to help underserved communities better afford efficient and renewable energy. DOE's Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA) and Remote Alaskan Communities Energy Efficiency (RACEE) Competition are example initiatives that demonstrate solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy access. The Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool empowers stakeholders to make data-driven decisions when developing energy programs for low- and moderate-income communities.



What We Do

WIP supports DOE's strategic objective to lower energy bills while expanding cost-effective energy choices for all American communities. WIP's near-term activities produce almost immediate results: saving taxpayer dollars, making full use of domestic energy resources, boosting local economic development and job creation, cutting energy waste, improving energy independence and security, and furthering the development of energy infrastructure. WIP is made up of two programs focused on state and local governments, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP), and two teams that develop and deliver targeted technical assistance and strategic initiatives to state and local governments.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WAP reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring the health and safety of occupants. The program provides funding to states and territories for locally run weatherization services to more than 35,000 homes every year. States contract with community action agencies, nonprofits, and local governments that use in-house employees and private contractors to deliver services to low-income families. WAP has served more than 7 million families since its inception in 1976.

WHY IT MATTERS

STIMULATING THE U.S. ECONOMY, JOB GROWTH, AND COMPETITIVENESS

WAP SUPPORTS
8,500 JOBS
AND INCREASES NATIONAL
ECONOMIC OUTPUT BY
\$1.2 BILLION
PER YEAR¹

WAP
SAVINGS-TO-
INVESTMENT RATIO IS
4.1 TO 1,
INCLUDING HEALTH AND
SAFETY BENEFITS¹

SEP
CREATES OR RETAINS
4,000 JOBS
NATIONALLY—
ONE JOB FOR EVERY
\$12,500 INVESTED²

A SEP
INVESTMENT OF
\$50 MILLION REALIZES
\$225 MILLION
IN CUMULATIVE ENERGY
COST SAVINGS²



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Supporting State and Local Governments with Energy Priorities

State and local governments possess a wealth of relevant energy efficiency and renewable energy information. Thus, WIP maintains the following platforms to share state and local government best practices:

- The State and Local Solution Center is a one-stop shop of impactful public sector resources.
- The State and Local Spotlight Newsletter is WIP's monthly newsletter for state, local, and K-12 officials, with updates on relevant news, resources, and events sent to more than 33,000 subscribers.
- Public-sector partners receive recognition at the annual Better Buildings Summit of stakeholders across key sectors; approximately 150 state and local government leaders typically attend the Summit.
- The Better Buildings Solution Center contains solutions shared by Better Buildings partners that help bolster their bottom line, advance technology innovation, create jobs, and spur energy efficiency investments.

Accelerating Deployment of Energy Saving Technologies

- WAP works with the private sector to establish industry standards, including Home Energy Professional Certifications, Standard Work Specifications, and accreditation of national training programs.
- SEP partners with states to develop solutions to barriers affecting energy technology deployment on diverse topics, including energy data management, benchmarking, wastewater infrastructure, outdoor lighting, low-income energy solutions, energy savings performance contracting, and Property Assessed Clean Energy programs.

Saving Energy Costs for Low-Income Families

- WAP has helped more than 7 million low-income families save money through energy efficiency retrofits over 40 years, allowing families with elderly or disabled members or young children to improve their health and safety while reducing household utility bills an average of \$283 per year.
- WAP provides the foundation for state and utility weatherization programs.
- Weatherization returns \$2.78 in nonenergy benefits for every \$1.00 invested in the program. After weatherization, families have homes that are more livable, resulting in fewer missed days of work (e.g., sick days, doctor visits), and out-of-pocket medical expenses decreased by an average of \$514 per year. Nonenergy benefits represent tremendous benefits for families whose homes receive weatherization services. ■

¹WAP data above derives from a national evaluation of the Weatherization Assistance Program, led by Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The Retrospective Evaluation covers Program Year (PY) 2008 and is reflective of a typical year in WAP operations.

²SEP data above derives from a national evaluation of State Energy Program operations

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