

Dream Corps Green For All

Fact Sheet : Weatherization



The energy efficiency industry is the largest job producer within the energy sector. With a quarter of Americans struggling to pay their utility bills,¹ and 9 out of 10 homes underinsulated,² Congress has the opportunity to invest in weatherization programs that support households with the highest energy burdens, and can create jobs and build wealth in under-resourced communities.

Improving home efficiency has a terrific return on investment that:

- ★ saves families money on utility bills
- ★ lowers pollution
- ★ reduces utility operating costs
- ★ provides local, good paying jobs, and
- ★ improves indoor home safety, comfort, and health.

Benefits of Weatherization and Home Energy Efficiency

1 in 3 households suffer from a high energy burden,³

(the inability to meet basic household energy needs to adequately light, heat or cool a home)

2 out of every 3 low-income households face a high energy burden⁴:

(and Black, Indigenous and people of color, people with disabilities and medical needs, the elderly, and rural communities face disproportionately high energy burdens.)



low-income families



Black, Latino & Indigenous communities



People relying on medical devices



People with disabilities



The elderly



Rural Communities

Energy efficiency has the power to transform lives, communities & the environment.



improves home safety & comfort



reduces utility bills by 25% (on average) for low-income families



reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change



improves air quality & respiratory health



creates accessible, good paying, local jobs

Energy efficiency provides local economic opportunities.

Before the pandemic, clean energy jobs were on the rise and were some of the fastest growing jobs in the United States. **Investing \$10B in low-income housing weatherization to improve home health will support over 100,000 jobs.**⁵

job creator

- **3.3 million people employed in clean energy sector** (40% of the nation's entire energy workforce).
- **2.38 million employed in energy efficiency (within the clean energy sector),** employing more people than any other sector in the energy industry.⁶

good paying & accessible

- **pay on average higher** than the national median wage
- **½ of energy efficiency workers** have a high school diploma or less

local

- **1.3 million EE jobs are in the construction sector,** which are inherently local jobs that are difficult to outsource.

Dream Corps closes prison doors and opens doors of opportunity. We bring people together across racial, social, and partisan lines to create a future with freedom and dignity for all.

For more information on Dream Corps Green For All, please visit our website at www.dreamcorps.us or contact our Government Affairs Manager, Harry Johnson, II at harry@dreamcorps.us.

1. Multiply investment to reach \$10B in the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) in the next federal economic recovery bill:

The American people are reeling from the pandemic and subsequent recession. At the same time, finding refuge from the pandemic is elusive for people living in unsafe housing, struggling with utility bills and mounting arrearages, or facing utility shut-offs.

- WAP estimates that approximately 38 million low-income households qualify for the program, but **funding restricts the program, reaching < 1% (0.6%) of these households annually**.⁷ At this rate, it would take 420 years to weatherize all qualified homes (i.e., 38 million/90,000 per year).
- WAP is an efficient and well-established program that provides grants to states and tallies an impressive **4.5 to 1 return on investment**.⁸
- WAP provides a long-term solution to energy affordability by lowering bills. This helps households become more resilient to future economic and extreme weather crises that arise.

2. Fund pre-weatherization assistance to improve access and home safety:

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was just reauthorized at the end of 2021 with bipartisan support. Reauthorization included many of the recommendations identified by state and local efficiency and housing advocates, including supporting innovative ways to do whole home retrofits so that health and safety work can be done in tandem with weatherization. This pre-weatherization work is critical to reach people who live in homes with health and safety problems or are in poor condition. **Increasing funding for WAP and these innovation grants will help reach vulnerable households who were previously shut out of the program.**

3. Improve coordination of programs that provide housing, efficiency and bill assistance:

- Sync Department of Energy (DOE), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and other agencies' program requirements in order to support whole-home energy efficiency and safety retrofits. Improved coordination in identifying eligible households and distributing funds available for home repairs, weatherization and utility bill relief will help meet multiple needs all at one time.
- Update WAP to promote coordination between WAP and utility energy efficiency programs. Coordination of federal, ratepayer, and local funds lowers administrative and construction costs by allowing contractors to perform home improvement work all at once to deliver all of the program benefits to households, including lead, asbestos and mold remediation.

4. Provide funding to adequately support inclusive workforce development:

- As part of contracting and grant conditions under WAP, require inclusive hiring provisions. Inclusive hiring provisions would require that a minimum percentage of the people hired as a result of WAP grants be people who live locally with respect to the project, face employment barriers, or are from underrepresented populations.
- Provide necessary workforce development funds with the influx of WAP funding to support program ramp-up. These funds would go towards financially assisting contractors with training and job placement to meet new workforce hiring goals.

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1. U.S. Energy Information Administration, <https://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/reports/2015/energybills/>

2. Energy Star, https://www.energystar.gov/campaign/seal_insulate/why_seal_and_insulate

3. U.S. Energy Information Administration, <https://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/reports/2015/energybills/>

4. Smart Cities Dive, <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/67-of-low-income-households-face-high-energy-burden-aceee/584961/>

5. U.S. Department of Energy, extrapolation based on \$10B in WAP and \$715m other investments, consistent with assumptions in ORNL report: <https://weatherization.ornl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/WAPNationalEvaluationWxWorksv14blue8515.pdf>

6. E2, "Clean Jobs America," March 2019, <https://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/E2-2019-Clean-Jobs-America.pdf>

7. Green For All "Safe at Home Report", p. 18

8. U.S. Department of Energy, https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2018/03/f49/WAP-fact-sheet_final.pdf