

What is Weatherization?

Lots of people have not heard about weatherization. Unfortunately, they don't know that there is a program that is able to help people save energy, provide them—*free of charge*—with important home improvements that are worth thousands of dollars, and generally help them feel more comfortable in their living space.

Those who have heard about weatherization but are not sure it is something that makes sense for them should probably forget everything and start over. There are many reasons for this recommendation.

First, the many different things that have been described in the past as weatherization are probably all out of date (same goes for anything that people knew as 'Winterization'). The program that is in place in 2018 is the result of many changes and improvements. All of those changes are designed to better serve the needs of clients and deal with issues in their homes.



Second, Weatherization is worth another look because recent changes in the rules at the federal and state level mean that the program is now open to more people than ever before.

What Weatherization means in 2018

As defined by the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), Weatherization includes a wide variety of energy efficiency measures and serves families who meet the income guidelines free of charge (homeowners or tenants alike).

Eligibility is determined by household income. In 2018, income limits by family size are as follows:

1 Person	\$ 24,120
2 Persons	\$ 32,480
3 Persons	\$ 40,840
4 Persons	\$ 49,200
5 Persons	\$ 57,560



Weatherization work is composed of two equally important parts. First, the program is designed to improve the health and safety conditions for the occupants of a home. Second, weatherization aims to increase the energy efficiency of a home (whether it is a mobile home or a site-built house).

Some examples of health and safety measures are:

- Perform heating system and combustion appliance safety testing.
- Repair/replace vent systems to ensure combustion gases draft outside safely.
- Install mechanical ventilation to ensure adequate indoor air quality.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Evaluate mold/moisture hazards.
- Lead based paint testing (when applicable).

Examples of energy efficiency measures include:

- Clean, tune, repair, or replace heating systems.
- Install duct and heating pipe insulation.
- Repair leaks in heating/cooling ducts.
- Install programmable thermostats.
- Repair/replace water heaters.
- Insulate water heating pipes.
- Install insulation where needed.
- Perform air sealing.
- Install efficient light sources.
- Install low-flow showerheads.



Because the program is based on a whole house approach, recipients are not able to pick and choose from the measures listed above. Instead, highly trained SCCAP Energy Auditors assess each home and order the work based on the needs of each home. A detailed work order is then given to certified contractors who complete the project. All work is inspected to ensure quality control.

Why and How to Apply

Although savings will vary and will depend on factors such as the size, type, and age of a home, the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority reports that weatherization program recipients save an average of 20-30% on annual home heating costs across the state (that translates into an approximate yearly savings of \$450 per home). Receiving weatherization will not reduce your EAP benefit.

Weatherization work will do more than save you money: it will also improve conditions in your home and increase your comfort level.

For applications and more details, call 812-339-3447 or contact your SCCAP county office for further information. You can also visit us on the web (www.sccap.org).