

Invest in Housing, Jobs, and Climate Action

WA Needs Weatherization Plus Health

In 2023, the legislature has a historic opportunity to invest in a proven program that keeps housing affordable, creates family-wage careers, reduces energy bills, and improves health and safety for thousands of Washingtonians.

Weatherization Plus Health is a successful program established by the legislature in 2015. By combining improvements to conserve energy — such as installing insulation — with health measures — such as replacing old carpet with clean flooring and improving ventilation — the legislature has created a win-win investment and program.

At the same time, over 375,000 Washington households living in poverty need weatherization services. *Because of limited funds, the program serves fewer than 1% of these households each year.*



JOBS

Weatherization creates jobs & supports workforce development.

Weatherization Plus Health is administered by the Department of Commerce and implemented by a network of 27 community action agencies and city, county, and Tribal housing authorities. Improvements are installed by agency-based crews and more than 140 local contractors. Increased funding will help expand workforce training and contractor development programs in the weatherization, HVAC, electrical, and plumbing trades and create over 400 jobs¹.

¹ According to the National Association of Homebuilders

Case Study – Gary and Kelly



Gary Renshaw and his roommate, Kelly Parks, share an older mobile home in Cle Elum that had a host of problems: drafts, roof leaks, and an old furnace and wood stove that were expensive to use. Respiratory conditions and limited mobility made the home unhealthy and unsafe for both of them.

Gary reached out to HopeSource, their local community action agency, and worked through the Weatherization Plus Health program to add new insulation, improve ventilation, repair roof & window leaks, replace the old furnace with an energy-efficient heat pump, and build a ramp for easier access into the house. Weatherization Plus Health also replaced old carpeting and installed new flooring for better indoor air quality.

Gary and Kelly are thrilled with the improvements. “Our electric bill has gone down by at least \$100 a month,” said Gary. “My roommate and I both suffer from COPD,” and now “It just feels better — more comfortable.”



HOUSING

Weatherization keeps housing affordable. Weatherization Plus Health delivers essential structural repairs, energy efficiency upgrades, and health and safety improvements — and halts the decline of Washington’s affordable housing stock, preventing homelessness in every county in Washington and in seven Tribal Nations.



CLIMATE ACTION

Weatherization is a cost-effective investment in our state’s clean energy future. Washington’s 2021 State Energy Strategy identifies the need to increase funding for low-income weatherization to address a minimum 10% of eligible households annually as a must-do step to meet the challenges of climate change. Weatherization Plus Health lowers emissions by reducing energy use and supporting fuel switching from unhealthy and inefficient fuel sources like oil, propane, and wood. We must ensure that all residents are included as our state transitions to a clean energy economy.

We urge legislators to invest a minimum of \$46 million in Weatherization Plus Health for the 2023-2025 biennium.

