

## Weatherization is a Hit in Michigan

In 1958, Michigan native Berry Gordy, Jr., spawned a music revolution called Motown. Gordy assembled a talented young group of musicians and songwriters and built one of the world's largest, most successful independent record labels. The innovative "Motown Sound" from Michigan generated numerous hit records and made an indelible mark on American music. Another popular hit for Michigan is an energy efficiency program called Weatherization. Michigan partners with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to deliver the Weatherization Assistance Program (Weatherization). Weatherization reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety.

Low-income households typically spend 14% of their total annual income on energy, compared with 3.5% for other households. This burden becomes even more unmanageable when energy prices soar or temperatures drop. Low-income families often cut back on other necessities to pay their energy bills. Weatherization reduces home energy consumption, which provides a permanent boost to the household's budget.

Michigan's Family Independence Agency administers the Weatherization Program and a network of 33 local agencies delivers energy efficiency services in every county in the state. Professionally trained crews use computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic equipment, such as a blower door and infrared camera, to determine the most cost-effective energy efficiency measures appropriate for each home. Michigan crews also test heating units and cooking appliances for gas leaks and carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas that can be deadly in large concentrations.

Typical weatherization services include installing insulation; sealing and balancing ducts; cleaning and repairing heating systems; and mitigating heat loss through windows, doors, and other infiltration points. Clients also are educated on basic energy conservation activities.

### 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

### MICHIGAN

Homes weatherized in 1999 (with DOE \$)	3,120
DOE funding in 1999	\$8.9 million
Clients served in 1999	7,955
Elderly	32%
People with disabilities	44%

### BANDING TOGETHER

Motown artists worked together to develop a consistent and positive image in order to further the company's success. Similarly, weatherization agencies collaborate with a diverse range of partners to expand services and further the program's success.

The Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac agency leveraged Weatherization Program dollars with funding from the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Michigan Housing Development block grant to deliver expanded services for a disabled Vietnam

veteran. The agency installed insulation and a new furnace, repaired the siding, replaced several broken windows, and repaired the foundation. The measures dramatically improved the energy efficiency and durability of the house. The client remarked that he is proud of his “new” home and has noticed a big change in comfort since the work was completed.

The entire staff of the Human Development Commission collaborated to help an elderly couple stay in their home. An outreach specialist from the agency’s home meals delivery program recognized the couple’s precarious living conditions and contacted the weatherization coordinator for help. The weatherization crew ran an audit on the aging mobile home and discovered several problems.

The mobile home was missing windows and was rife with air leakage. While it was very uncomfortable for the occupants, these chilly drafts also saved their lives. The furnace was leaking deadly levels of carbon monoxide, which were diluted by the strong drafts of outside air.

The crew used State Emergency funds to replace the heating system and used Weatherization dollars to make extensive energy efficiency improvements. The agency also garnered support from the community to perform additional repairs. This comprehensive team effort made a big impact on the elderly couple.



*Macomb County Community Services Agency leveraged funding and partnered with “Paint the Town, Inc.” to perform extensive weatherization and renovation work for this low-income home.*

### CHART-TOPPING RESULTS

Weatherization measures produce important economic and health benefits for low-income families. One recipient of weatherization services in Caro experienced a 50% savings on her heating bill. Weatherization also creates benefits for the community. By reducing energy bills for low-income families, Weatherization keeps money in the local economy

that would typically be exported out to pay for energy. This spurs community growth and creates additional jobs. Every \$1 retained in the community produces an estimated \$3 dollars in multiplier benefits.

In addition, reducing residential energy demand decreases electricity generation and avoids emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, and other pollutants. This improves local

air quality and reduces adverse health effects, particularly asthma. Weatherization measures also mitigate residential and power plant emissions of greenhouse gases. Weatherization reduces annual carbon dioxide emissions by an average of one metric ton per weatherized home, or one-third the emissions of an average automobile.

### WEATHERIZATION WORKS!

Weatherization produces an impressive range of benefits for low-income households and communities. Nationally, for every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$2.10 in energy-related benefits. Weatherization mitigates greenhouse gas emissions and reduces consumption of imported oil. Weatherization works for Michigan and America!

### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, CONTACT:

Weatherization Assistance Program • U.S. Department of Energy, EE-42  
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Visit the Weatherization Web site at: [www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization\\_assistance](http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization_assistance)  
or call the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at: 1-800-DOE-3732



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