



WEATHERIZATION IN NEW YORK 2013

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LIFE Regional Meetings
May, 2013

WEATHERIZATION HISTORY



- ❑ Wx began in 1976, Congress allocated about \$225 million per year in 2000s
- ❑ Funded by Department of Energy
- ❑ New York receives about 8% of national allocation by formula
- ❑ Program is administered in NYS by HCR Office of Housing Preservation
- ❑ Funding blended with LIHEAP, which is now primary source of funds (about 83% of total)
- ❑ Both LIHEAP and Wx funds invested following DOE Wx rules (10 CFR Parts 440 and 600)

WEATHERIZATION IN NY

- ▣ Delivered by local subgrantees
- ▣ Reduces low-income household energy expenses
- ▣ Assists both rental and owner-occupied housing
- ▣ Strong emphasis on health and safety
- ▣ All work done by trained, certified workers
- ▣ Saves more than \$600 in energy costs per year, per household, on average
- ▣ Leverages millions in other funds each year

WHY IS WEATHERIZATION IMPORTANT?



- ▣ 50% of US expenditures for heating and cooling are wasted due to inefficient housing
- ▣ Low-income households struggle with energy costs, often paying more than 15% of income
- ▣ Rental owners struggle with high operating costs and turnover in inefficient housing
- ▣ NYS has the oldest housing stock in US
- ▣ NYS has some of the highest oil and electric costs
- ▣ Experienced subgrantee network can coordinate energy work with many other program areas











WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM RULES

- ▣ Subject to Federal program and fiscal rules
- ▣ Eligibility: 60% of **state** median
 - Additional eligibility rules for rental housing
- ▣ Priority given to HEAP clients, seniors, persons with disabilities and families with kids
- ▣ Can only do work determined cost-effective by energy audit, plus limited health and safety work
- ▣ Can only install materials listed in Appendix A
- ▣ Also subject to Federal and State financial, fair housing, procurement, administrative rules

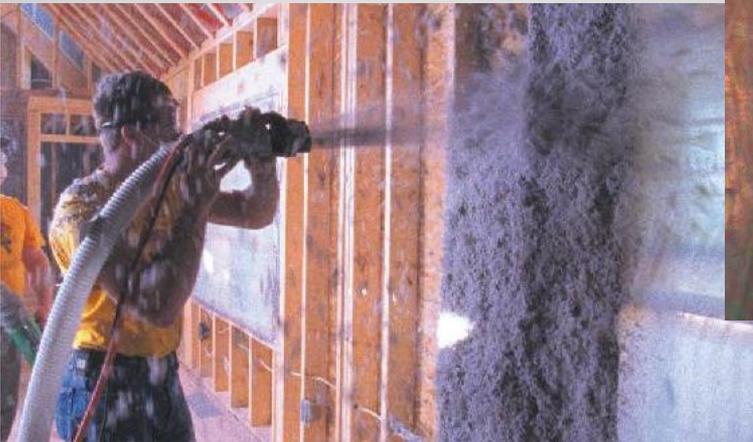
PROCESS

- ▣ Program administered by non-profits and local governments (“subgrantees”)
- ▣ Subgrantee responsible for:
 - Conducting outreach and intake
 - Determining eligibility
 - Energy audit and work specification
 - Bidding and contracting with owner
 - Installing measures and managing construction
 - Quality control/quality assurance
- ▣ Energy audit determines work to be done
 - Views house as a system
 - Prioritizes measures by energy savings
 - Identifies energy-related health/safety work

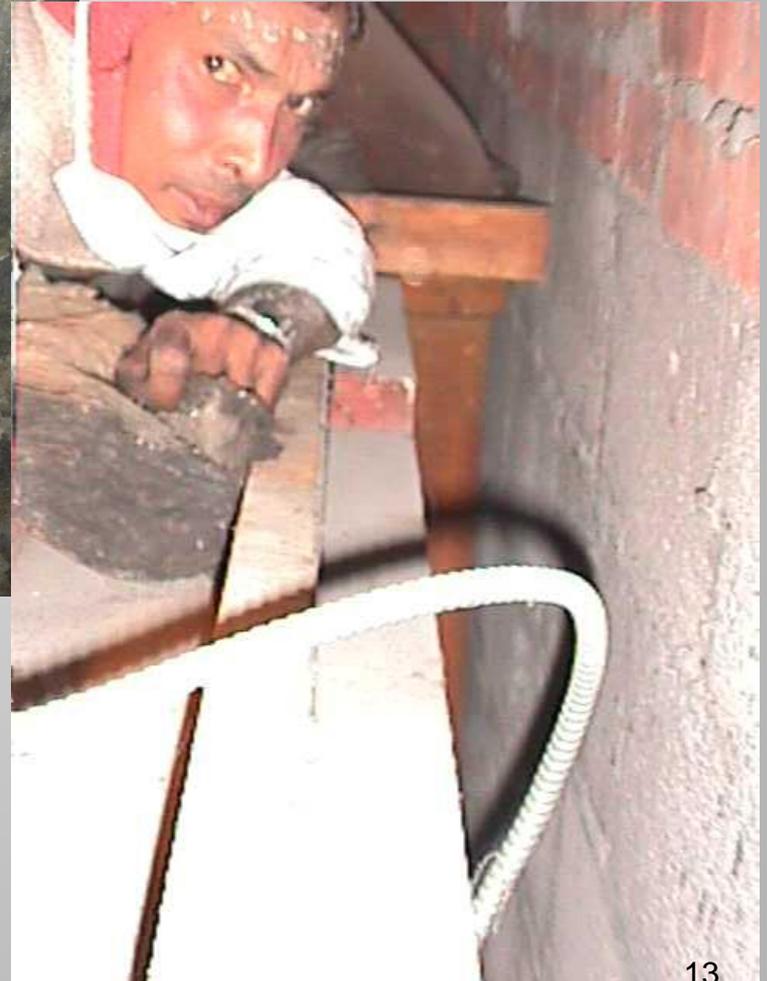
PROCESS

- ▣ Quality assurance requirements
 - Extensive written guidelines – PPM Section 5.0
 - Field guide of best practices
 - Frequent inspections of work in progress
 - Each unit inspected following completion
 - All work documented and kept on file
 - HCR monitors all subgrantees, 20% of units
- ▣ Health and Safety
 - Lead, IAQ, asbestos, mold, etc. – see PPM 5.08.01
 - Must be **energy-related** if Wx funds used
 - Increased coordination with Healthy Homes Programs

Insulation



Airsealing



Air seal roof by-pass 

Boiler Replacement



Window Replacement



Electric Reduction Measures



Health & Safety



Figure 1: Mold growing in closet as a result of condensation from room air.

Typical Weatherization Director's Day



WEATHERIZATION IN 2013



- ▣ Program funding about \$45 million
- ▣ 60 subgrantees
- ▣ Over 6,200 households will be served
- ▣ With the reduction in funding comes the need/opportunities for coordination











Weatherization: Making Homes Healthy and Safe

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MOVING TO WEATHERIZATION PLUS

- ▣ HCR participating in national efforts to reposition the program for the post-ARRA world
- ▣ States have lots of capacity but limited funding
- ▣ Nationally, movement afoot to improve Wx image
- ▣ Four themes in Wx Plus 2015:
 - Communications – getting Wx’s message out
 - Leveraging – to maintain capacity
 - Consistent delivery of quality services
 - Existing and potential new markets
- ▣ HCR is actively engaging the Healthy Homes network to explore additional service opportunities

About HCR



- ▣ DHCR supervises public housing, provides incentives to preserve & develop housing
- ▣ We have a long history:
 - NYS Housing Commission was formed in 1927 to address unsafe housing conditions
 - Public role in housing dates to 19th century
- ▣ 2011: State's housing programs merged
 - HFA, HTFC, AHC, DHCR, SONYMA under common leadership, better coordinated
 - Each area still meets statutory mandates

WHY HEALTHY HOMES?

- ▣ Low-income families typically reside in the oldest/deteriorated housing stock
- ▣ Lead paint, mold, dust, radon, carbon monoxide in these households create serious health risks
- ▣ In many instances trained, certified WAP staff are able to identify potential hazards and in many cases eliminate them

Why Weatherization?

- ▣ We're in thousands of units every year.
- ▣ NYS has the oldest housing stock in US and high oil and electric costs
- ▣ Low-income households struggle with energy costs – often >15% of income
- ▣ Rental owners struggle with operating costs and turnover in inefficient housing
- ▣ 50% of US expenditures for heating, cooling, wasted due to inefficient housing



HEALTHY HOMES – LEAD HAZARD

- ▣ The existence of lead paint in homes containing young children can result in serious long-term developmental delays and other health issues
- ▣ Trained, certified WAP staff work in a lead-safe manner that minimizes risks during the course of regular WAP work
- ▣ Subgrantees frequently refer households to other rehabilitation programs that are able to perform actual remediation if indicated

HEALTHY HOMES – ASTHMA, MOLD / MOISTURE, AND OTHER TRIGGERS



- ▣ When these conditions exist, serious long-term health issues can arise
- ▣ In many cases, these triggers can be minimized/eliminated through WAP best practices
- ▣ Subgrantees routinely refer homes to other programs if needed
- ▣ As a last resort, weatherization work may be deferred until the condition has been corrected

HEALTHY HOMES – INDOOR AIR QUALITY



- ▣ – Common household pollutants such as carbon monoxide often contribute to chronic illness
- ▣ Trained, certified WAP staff routinely perform tests that can identify these issues and are frequently able to correct the problem during the course of the WAP work
- ▣ Subgrantees refer homes to other programs when available for remediation
- ▣ As a last resort, weatherization work may be deferred until the condition has been corrected



Wx Funding

- ▣ Traditionally funded annually at \$70-\$100 million
- ▣ 2012 funding: \$60,000,000
- ▣ 2013 outlook: \$45,000,000

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

- ▣ Eligibility: 60% of **state** median
 - Additional rules for rental housing
- ▣ HEAP clients, seniors, persons with disabilities and families with children are priorities
- ▣ Energy audit determines work to be done
 - Views house as a system
 - Includes both energy-related & health/safety work
- ▣ Quality assurance requirements

Other State Funding



- ▣ NYSERDA funding is available:
 - EmPower
 - Multifamily Performance Program
 - Home Performance/ Assisted HP
 - Green Jobs NY
- ▣ PSC-mandated Utility Programs
 - New incentives for utilities, tied to 15% goal
- ▣ LIHEAP, DOH lead programs, etc.

HEALTHY HOMES – NEXT STEP



- ▣ With diminishing resources, coordination with other housing programs is critical
- ▣ HCR staff will assist subgrantees in developing collaborations with local funding sources
- ▣ HCR will continue to provide the WAP network with appropriate training

Weatherization Works!



Contact us at:

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Also visit:

www.waptac.org

www.aeanyc.org

www.nyshcr.org