

Weatherization Assistance Program



Program Year 2024 Report

Prepared by the DNREC State Energy Office
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DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
**NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

Weatherization Assistance Program

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This report was prepared by the staff of the DNREC State Energy Office, located within the Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy.

For more information on the Weatherization Assistance Program and other resources, visit the DNREC State Energy Office at dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy-energy-office or call 302-735-3480.

Summary

Section 236 of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Bill (Senate Bill 325) directs that the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) submit an annual report on the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Controller General on or before June 15. This report provides a synopsis of activities for the 2024 Program Year and a look ahead for planned activity for next program year. The report was delayed to allow staff to conduct a thorough and detailed review of program spending (requiring review of more than 900 individual invoices) to ensure the report's accuracy. As a result of the review, administrative improvements, including a new tracking system, have been put in place to ensure accuracy and avoid reporting delays going forward.

This DNREC State Energy Office report highlights a year of strong results for the program year April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, including a record number of homes served, and expanded services for our neighbors most in need of energy improvements.

WAP had its most productive year ever with 409 households served — more than twice the 187 households for the previous program year. WAP has expanded its service to include public housing residents and is directing a growing number of clients to the growing Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) Solar Program.

What is WAP?

Delaware's Weatherization Assistance Program provides services at no cost to qualified low-income Delaware families to reduce energy costs. Typical services include air-sealing, insulation, heating system repair, lighting upgrades and minor health and safety repairs that are necessary to complete energy-saving measures and make homes healthier for households that could not otherwise afford the repairs and improvements.

WAP began more than 40 years ago by providing modest services such as caulking and weather-stripping. Today, WAP services include:

- ▶ Air sealing, caulking, glazing, weather-stripping and crack patching
- ▶ Replacement of broken glass
- ▶ Attic, wall and floor insulation, and ventilation
- ▶ Sealing heating and cooling ducts
- ▶ Insulation for hot water heaters, and hot- and cold-water pipes

These services are provided by trained contractors and are guided by sophisticated diagnostics, including blower-door testing, mechanical ventilation strategies and combustion analysis. The diagnostics, typically completed before and after home weatherization, ensure that energy saving measures meet their objectives and are delivered in a cost-effective manner.

Energy improvements can also improve household health and safety, which in turn helps low-income families by reducing medical expenses, lost-work days for parents and out-of-school days for children.

Who Is Served?

WAP serves low-income Delaware residents, defined as those with annual incomes verified at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. WAP serves all types of housing, including detached or attached single-family, mobile or manufactured homes and small multi-family buildings. Services are available to owners and renters, provided the building owner consents and the benefits of weatherization go to the low-income residents.

Eligibility is based on household size (number of persons in the household) and household income. Households are prioritized based on need, the age and special needs of residents, and annual funding levels.

Program Year 2024 Highlights

- ▶ In Program Year 2024, WAP served 409 households, the most productive year in the program's history and an increase of 119 percent over the previous program year.
- ▶ WAP instituted a new program offering to extend weatherization services to public housing projects such as townhouse communities.
- ▶ Clients who completed WAP services qualify for the Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) Solar Program. Since its inception, the LMI Solar Program has funded more than 50 low-income solar installations, giving clients greater control over their home energy costs.
- ▶ The WAP State Monitor performs field inspections to ensure the quality and cost effectiveness of the work performed.

Sources of WAP Funds

Delaware WAP is funded by four sources: the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), funds from Delmarva Power & Light, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (WAP Base).

Source	Spending
RGGI WAP	\$ 2,652,990.75
Delmarva Power	\$ 614,993.40
LIHEAP	\$ 1,158,633.91
WAP Base	\$ 950,462.52
Total	\$ 5,391,834.58

Looking Forward

- ▶ The next federal program award has not been awarded yet, creating uncertainty in total program funding. WAP continues to serve its clientele using other funds while waiting for final word on federal funding.
- ▶ WAP is changing its program year from April 1-March 31 to July 1-June 30 to match Delaware's fiscal year and be consistent with practices in other states. This will entail a transition program period of 15 months (April 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026).
- ▶ For the 2025 Program Year, the Weatherization Assistance Program is revamping its performance and financial tracking to improve quality control and cost effectiveness.
- ▶ WAP is working with the Green Energy Program to expand the number of households served through the LMI Solar program. The GEP has set aside \$5 million to provide the benefits of solar ownership to low- and moderate-income households.
- ▶ WAP is expanding its services in the public housing sphere to reach a broader range of households.

The staff at the DNREC State Energy Office look forward to continuing to serve Delaware households with weatherization and related services in 2025 and the years to come.



