

## Weatherization Assistance and Furnace Programs

In Wisconsin, the Home Energy Plus Programs include:

- The Weatherization Assistance Program,
- The Furnace Program, and
- The Energy Assistance Program.

These programs are all offered statewide and are funded by the Wisconsin Department of Administration's, Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources (DEHCR). Project Home is the agency that operates the Weatherization and Furnace Programs in Dane and Green Counties.



Adding attic insulation to reduce heat loss is one of the primary activities of the Weatherization program.

The Weatherization Program looks to reduce the energy usage of a home in order to lower the utility bills of the household while making the home safer, more

comfortable, and function better as a whole system. Because every home is different, an energy assessment or energy “audit” is performed on a home that looks at existing levels of insulation, runs some tests, and gathers pertinent information about the house. The information from the energy audit is run through a computer program that lets us know if there are cost effective energy improvements that can be done. If there are, we will produce a list of the proposed work and send it to the homeowner to approve. If the work is approved by the owner, the weatherization work can proceed and when completed the work is inspected for quality assurance.



The program is offered to qualifying homeowners and renters at no cost to the occupants (rental property owners may need to contribute 15% of the job costs, if they don't qualify for the program).

Weatherization work is focused on things that will save energy and can include:

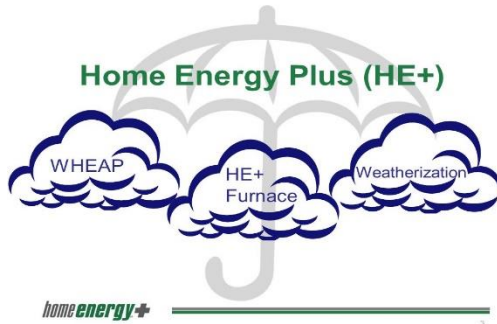
- Insulating attics and exterior sidewalls to reduce heat loss
- Air sealing to reduce cold air infiltration and prevent warm air escaping from the living area into the attic.
- Testing, repairing, or replacing furnaces to conserve fuel use and assure the home has safe heat.
- Exchanging older refrigerators or freezers with Energy Star® models that use much less electricity.
- Installing or replacing fans to increase desired ventilation for better indoor air quality and also helping to reduce excess moisture in the home.

**Eligibility, who qualifies:** In order to qualify for the Weatherization Program, a household's yearly income must be at or below 60% of the State Median Income (SMI). This level varies depending on the number of people in the household, below is a table that shows the current levels

60% of the State Median Income for 2019-20		
Household size	1 month income	Yearly income
1	\$2,389	\$28,673
2	\$3,124	\$37,496
3	\$3,859	\$46,318
4	\$4,595	\$55,141
5	\$5,330	\$63,964
6	\$6,065	\$72,786
7	\$6,203	\$74,440
8	\$6,341	\$76,095

If your home has not been weatherized, or if it was weatherized prior to year 2000, and the household income is under the limits above, then it is eligible for weatherization.

The first step to getting weatherization services is to apply for Energy Assistance. Since these programs are all part of the Home Energy Plus “umbrella” one application is used to qualify a household for any of these services and that starts with applying for Energy Assistance.



If you live in Dane county, contact Energy Services Inc. at 608 267-8601. For those living in Green County, contact Green County Human Services at 608 328-9393. They will verify the

income of the household and if you qualify, they will provide a benefit to help pay your utility bills. Once you have been accepted for energy assistance, you should then contact us at Project Home (608 246-3737) in order to schedule an energy audit for weatherization.

The Furnace Program helps qualifying homeowners facing no heat situations. If you qualify for Energy Assistance and your furnace has stopped working, you should contact your energy assistance provider (Energy Services in Dane Co or Green County Human Services) and they will have Project Home send out a certified HVAC contractor to repair or possibly replace your heating system. As with the weatherization program, this service is offered at no cost to qualifying households.

**Have Questions? Need more information? – Give Project Home a call at 608 246-3737, or stop by our offices at 3841 Kipp Street, Madison, WI 53718**