



Weatherization Assistance Program

WAP in Connecticut

For federal FY 2016, US DOE allocated a total of \$2.45 million to Connecticut, about \$415,000 of which is for training and technical assistance.

In Connecticut, most buildings that receive weatherization services through WAP are single-family dwellings.

In its most recent state plan, DEEP decreased the number of Community Action Agencies operating the WAP program from four to one (Community Renewal Team in Hartford) for Program Year 2017, citing agency performance in the previous year.

A separate program, Home Energy Solutions – Income Eligible (HES-IE) is administered by utilities and funded by ratepayers. It serves the same population as WAP, sharing costs of some services for those households (e.g., energy audits).

Program Structure

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is federally funded, state administered, and locally operated. The United States Department of Energy (US DOE) funds WAP, awarding grants to states to improve the energy efficiency of the homes of low-income families. States contract with local agencies to deliver WAP services.

In Connecticut, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) administers WAP in partnership with the state's Community Action Agency network. According to DEEP, community action agencies determine eligibility and coordinate services, while DEEP provides overall program management and technical assistance. WAP funding is allocated separately from Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding, which is administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and supports other types of energy assistance to low-income households. In practice, however, households are simultaneously screened for WAP eligibility and LIHEAP-funded energy assistance.

WAP participants receive an energy audit to determine the most cost-effective weatherization activities. Contractors install eligible energy efficiency measures, which generally have a Savings-to-Investment ratio of at least 1:1 (i.e., expected energy savings meet or exceed materials and installation costs).

Who is Eligible for WAP in Connecticut?

Eligibility and Priority

The WAP income limit is 60% of the state median income. In administering benefits, DEEP may prioritize (1) people over age 60, (2) families with at least one member with a disability, (3) families with children, and (4) households with high energy use.

Automatically Eligible

If everyone in the household receives benefits from certain programs (e.g., Temporary Family Assistance), the household is categorically eligible (i.e., they cannot be denied based on income).

Properties

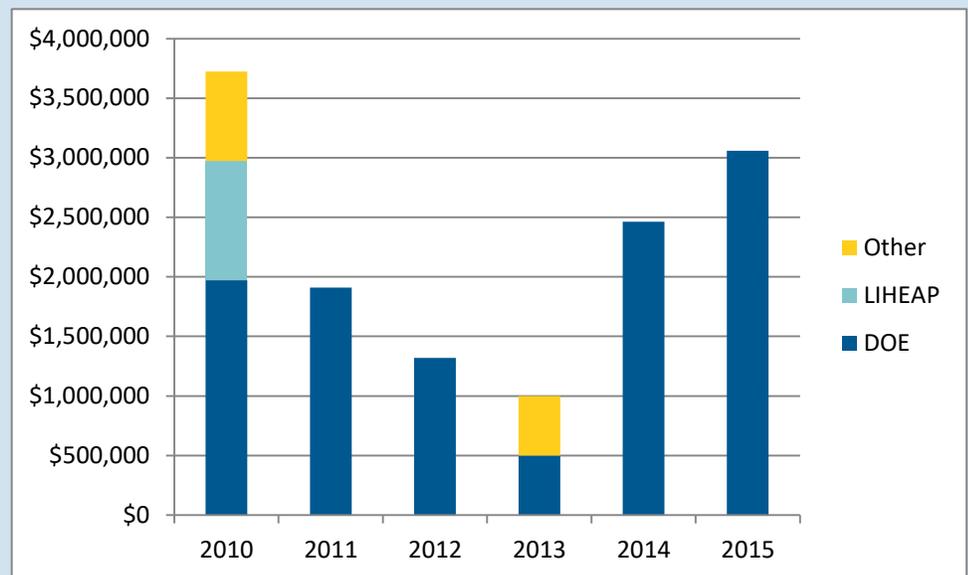
WAP can be used to weatherize owned or rented dwellings. For multifamily dwellings up to 4 units, 50% of units must be occupied by eligible households. For dwellings with more than 4 units, 66% must be eligible.

In 2017, for a family of three, 60% of the state median income is \$55,515 per year.

Community Action Agencies

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are private or public nonprofit agencies created by the federal government in the 1960s to combat poverty in designated geographic areas. For WAP in Connecticut, DEEP is the grantee and CAAs are subgrantees. Among other things, CAAs (1) conduct outreach to promote WAP and (2) coordinate weatherization services among agency staff, the household receiving services, and the weatherization contractors performing the work. The grant requires CAAs to seek a contribution towards the cost of weatherization from the landlord. CAAs negotiate and administer these landlord payment agreements, which may be waived in some cases.

Connecticut WAP Funding Sources (2010-2015)



Source: Weatherization Assistance Program Funding Survey PY 2015

While WAP is funded primarily through DOE grants, states can also opt to (1) use up to 15% of their LIHEAP grant for WAP-related activities and (2) direct other funds to WAP, including state funds, funds from utility companies, and public benefit funds.

**Learn
More**

[Connecticut's Federal Weatherization Assistance Program Operations Manual](#)

[DEEP, WAP State Plan, Program Year 17](#)

[National Association for State Community Services Programs WAP Funding Survey](#)

[US DOE, Weatherization Program Notice 16-2A](#)

