



U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Bringing you a prosperous future where energy is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable

Department of Energy's Involvement in Healthy Homes

The intersection of health and energy:

DOE's efforts to leverage weatherization and retrofit activities as opportunities to improve home health

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Kathleen Hogan, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

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- DOE's ongoing efforts to integrate health and energy efficiency:
 - Participation in the **Healthy Homes Inter-Agency Work Group** (w/HUD, EPA, CDC, DOL, USDA, etc.) to identify barriers that prevent remediation of health issues during weatherization and retrofits, and to develop collaborative, inter-Agency solutions
 - Incorporating health issues into the “**Recovery Through Retrofit**” initiative by involving health experts as we develop retrofit protocols that will be launched to the private sector as well as to DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) providers
 - Launching “**Whole Home Weatherization**” project to identify barriers to addressing health issues in the Weatherization Assistance Program; develop and implement appropriate policy and operational solutions to enhance resolution of health issues



DOE's "Whole Home Weatherization" project will identify ways to address health issues when weatherizing homes—stretching Weatherization dollars as far as possible, and establishing partnerships where funding eligibility is constrained. The project will:

- Identify the residential health hazards **most commonly encountered** by WAP providers—preventing them from weatherizing homes, leaving residents with unaddressed energy- and health-related conditions
- **Clarify** instances where DOE WAP money can be used to remediate health hazards, communicate clear guidance to WAP network
- Where remediation activities are **not** eligible under DOE WAP funds, identify organizations that can **fill the gaps** in services; help WAP networks establish effective **partnerships**
- **Streamline the referral process** through which those served by the WAP program are connected with other organizations for remediation of unhealthy conditions
- **Evaluate training programs** that address energy efficiency and healthy home training (public and private), ensure that content is accurate, enhance where needed



DOE will take advantage of current and future opportunities to promote the importance of “healthy” retrofits and to launch best practices—through its own Weatherization efforts as well as through DOE-developed tools provided to the private sector:

- **Recovery Through Retrofit:** Developing protocols and work standards for retrofit activities, will be made available to the private sector and to the WAP network
- **Retrofit Ramp-Up:** The 25 recipients recently awarded \$454 Million in competitive Block Grants provide opportunities to showcase energy efficient retrofits that incorporate health considerations
- **Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI):** Pilots underway by HUD and other partners present opportunities to test health protocols in on-the-ground projects where government, foundations, and nonprofits are partnering in innovative ways
- **Public Outreach and Communication:** Through its network of ~1,000 WAP providers with local presence as well as online outreach efforts such as DOE’s Energy Empowers web site, DOE will communicate the importance of healthy retrofits.
- **HUD’s Healthy Homes Conference 2011:** DOE will chair a “green” track of HUD’s 2011 conference, focused on the intersection of energy and health
- **National Labs:** DOE will continue to draw on the research and expertise of its national labs, refining protocols for healthy retrofit activity