






U.S. Department of Energy

2019 Healthy Housing Fact Sheet | Critical Programs and Services

Healthy Homes Issues at DOE.

Forty percent of U.S. homes have at least one significant health or safety hazard that places American families at unnecessary risk for injuries and illness, such as lead poisoning, asthma, carbon monoxide exposure, fire, and lung cancer; fortunately, evidence-based, cost-effective solutions exist. Through these programs and others, DOE works to improve energy efficiency and create healthier environments in both new and existing homes by educating people about ways to make homes healthier and more efficient, developing innovative solutions, and sharing best practices widely. DOE's work also supports and complements other programs and departments across the federal government (e.g., CDC, EPA, HHS, HUD). For more information on why support for all federal healthy homes programming is critical, please see [NCHH's other agency fact sheets](#).

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| WAP Weatherization Assistance Program | Provides grants to states to reduce energy costs, increase energy efficiency, and complete certain home health and safety measures within low-income households. | Funding has increased from \$210 million (FY10) to \$254 million (FY19) . Supports 8,500 jobs and provides weatherization services to 35,000 homes per year. | For every \$1.00 invested, \$1.72 is generated in energy benefits and \$2.78 in non-energy benefits (such as avoided healthcare costs and increased productivity). Ten-year totals for health- and household-related (non-energy-related) benefits are \$14,148 per unit . |
| Energy Star® Home Performance with Energy Star | Incentive program that puts homeowners in contact with specialized contractors to assess and improve the energy expenditure, quality, and affordability of their homes. | Residential Buildings Integration (parent program of the three initiatives below) was funded at about \$28 million in FY19. As of 2016, there were 45 active program sponsors . | Saves homeowners up to 20% on utility bills. Over 500,000 projects have been completed (2015). |
| Partnerships and Research Building America | Research and development program that partners with building industry contractors and laboratories to provide proven, effective, and innovative energy-efficient solutions in new homes. | 11 Building America partnership awards totaling \$8.5 million were announced in January 2019. | Estimated an average of \$14 in homeowner savings per every federal dollar spent. Has helped households save up to \$54 billion since 1995. |
| Best Practices Better Buildings® Initiative | Provides innovative solutions to building owners in both the private and public sectors to reduce energy waste and create better living and working environments through building quality improvement. | Between 2011 and 2017, 37 financial allies committed \$7 billion for efficiency projects. In 2017 alone, more than 35 partners and allies joined the Better Buildings Challenge, committing \$650 million for efficiency projects . | From 2011-2019, awarded \$4.2 billion across 340 projects, reducing energy spending by \$8 billion . Provided over 1,000 solutions (proven energy and water strategies). |