

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity

What is the Weatherization Assistance Program?

- ▶ The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety.
- ▶ The South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) serves as the pass-through state agency, receiving and passing the funds on to local Community Action Agencies who weatherize the homes.
- ▶ South Carolina state law requires that Weatherization Assistance funds be distributed to local Community Action Agencies.



What is the LWAP Program?

- ▶ LWAP stands for LIHEAP Weatherization Assistance Program.
- ▶ LIHEAP, or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, is a federally funded program that helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs.
- ▶ In 2016, South Carolina's LIHEAP total allocation was: \$34,588,425.
- ▶ Of that amount, 15 percent can be allocated to supplement the Weatherization Assistance Program.



So, who receives this funding?

Nine Statewide Community Action Agencies, including:

- ▶ Aiken-Barnwell Community Action Agency
- ▶ Carolina Community Action Agency
- ▶ Chesterfield-Marlboro Economic Opportunity Council
- ▶ GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission
- ▶ Lowcountry Community Action Agency
- ▶ OCAB Community Action Agency
- ▶ Palmetto Community Action Partnership
- ▶ Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council
- ▶ Wateree Community Actions Inc.

Who is eligible to receive weatherization assistance?

Low-income individuals are eligible to receive weatherization if:

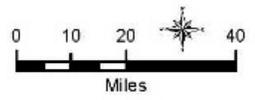
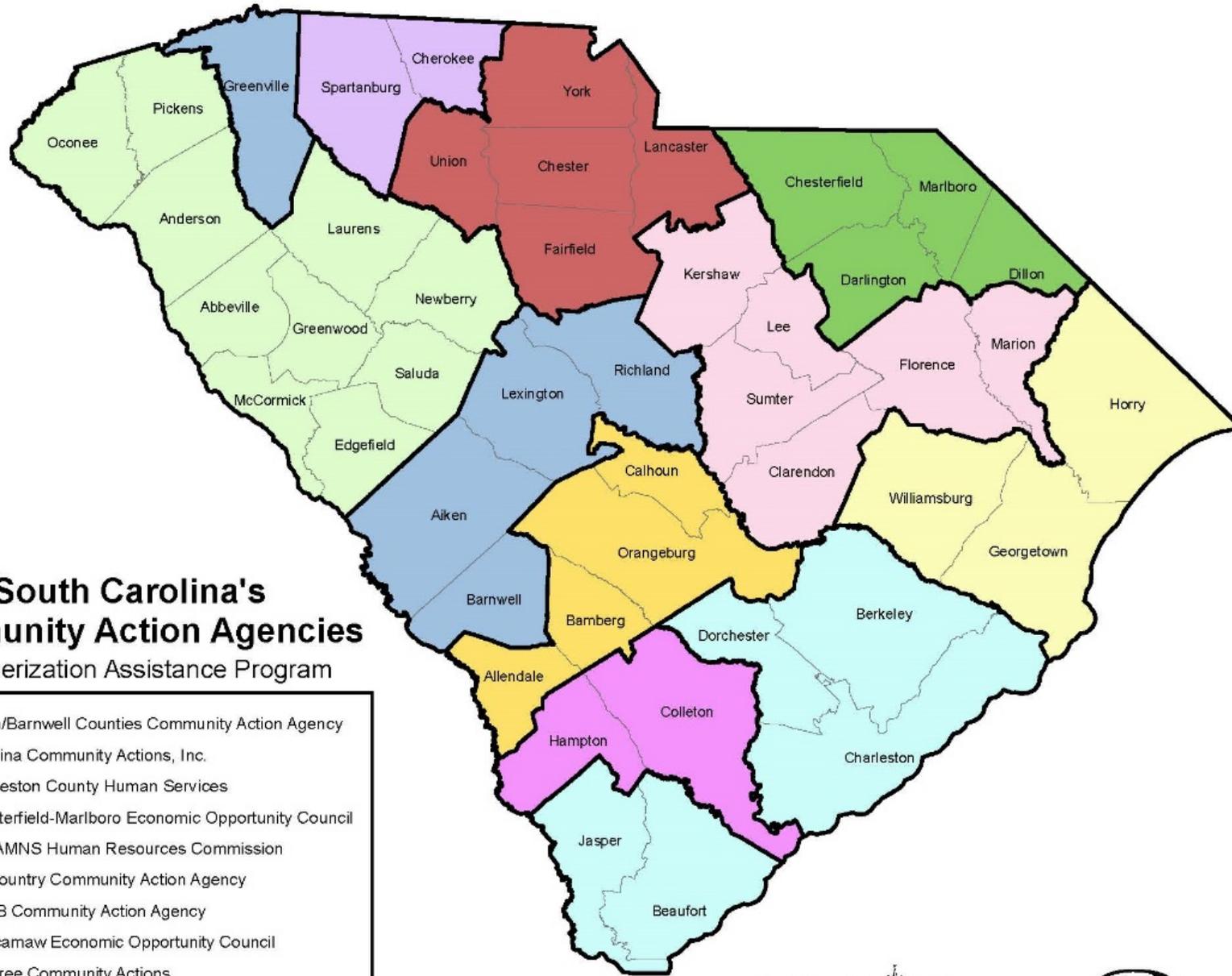
- ▶ The total family's household income is at or below 200 percent of the 2018 Federal Poverty Level.
- ▶ Preference is also given to individuals:
 - ▶ 60 years of age or older.
 - ▶ Families with one or more members with a disability.
 - ▶ Families with children.

What dwellings are eligible to receive weatherization assistance?

- ▶ Owner-occupied, site-built and mobile homes are eligible to receive weatherization assistance.
- ▶ Multi-family homes (duplexes, condos and apartments with no more than four families per unit) are also eligible to receive weatherization assistance. Units occupied by more than four families may receive weatherization assistance upon approval from the DOE.
- ▶ Renters, with the permission of the owner, are also eligible to receive weatherization assistance.
- ▶ Dwellings may be deferred for a number of reasons, including: lack of structural integrity, health and safety issues for workers, the unavailability of funds, etc.

South Carolina's Community Action Agencies Weatherization Assistance Program

- Aiken/Barnwell Counties Community Action Agency
- Carolina Community Actions, Inc.
- Charleston County Human Services
- Chesterfield-Marlboro Economic Opportunity Council
- GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission
- Lowcountry Community Action Agency
- OCAB Community Action Agency
- Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council
- Wateree Community Actions



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WAP and LWAP measures often include...

(Weatherization measures are broken down into two categories.)

Energy Conservation Measures

- ▶ Attic and Floor Insulation
- ▶ Air Infiltration Reduction
- ▶ Duct Leakage Reduction
- ▶ Water Heater Tank Wraps
- ▶ Lighting Retrofits

Health and Safety

- ▶ Central Air System Filters
- ▶ Kitchen/Bathroom Exhaust Fans
- ▶ Whole Home Ventilation Fans
- ▶ Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms
- ▶ Vapor Barrier Installation

WAP and LWAP funding allocation

April 1, 2016 - April 7, 2017

- ▶ For Fiscal Year 2016, SC OEO allocated \$2,159,454 in weatherization Assistance Funding and \$4,395,934 in LWAP Funding to Community Action Agencies.
 - ▶ Nine local Community Action Agencies successfully weatherized 312 homes.
- ▶ A total of 509 individuals and families were assisted including:
 - ▶ 212 elderly (65+) individuals
 - ▶ 132 disabled individuals
- ▶ This funding also provided full-time employment to 40 individuals and part-time employment for 20 individuals.

Supplemental weatherization opportunities nationwide

Nationwide, 11 states in 2016 received additional weatherization money directly from their state to supplement the federally funded Weatherization Assistance Program.

▶ Those 11 states include:

- ▶ Alaska
- ▶ Colorado
- ▶ Delaware
- ▶ Indiana
- ▶ Kansas
- ▶ Maryland
- ▶ Minnesota
- ▶ Missouri
- ▶ Nevada
- ▶ Vermont
- ▶ Washington

State funded Weatherization Assistance Program highlights:

- ▶ The state of Vermont provides supplemental WAP funding by taxing specific fuels. The money collected can either be used as a supplement to WAP federal funds, or fully fund a weatherization project. It has a higher poverty threshold and typically can pay more per house.
- ▶ The state of Alaska funds a Home Energy Rebate program, whereby individuals can receive up to \$10,000 in rebates for pre-approved energy efficiency improvements.
- ▶ The state of Nevada established the Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation to supplement the WAP Program. Additionally, local counties or municipalities may also contribute funds to assist with Weatherization activities.

State Funded Weatherization Assistance Program Highlights (continued):

- ▶ The State of Washington allocated \$15 million from 2015-2017 to provide supplemental Weatherization money to all of its counties to supplement the Weatherization Plus Health initiative it is piloting with the U.S. Department of Energy. WX+H, as it is known, is implemented as a Weatherization program, with additional Health measures added to reduce health risks and costs in vulnerable families.
- ▶ The state of Maryland has created the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to provide additional grants to local Agencies to supplement their Weatherization Assistance program. These grants are not usually limited specifically to weatherization related projects.

Utility funded Weatherization Assistance Program:

Nationwide, 40 states in 2016 received additional weatherization money directly from local utilities companies and ratepayers to supplement the federally funded Weatherization Assistance Program.

- ▶ In South Carolina, SCE&G, Duke, Duke Progress Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas all provide assistance with paying light bills for eligible individuals and families through a program called Project SHARE.
- ▶ Utility companies partner with the state and local Community Action Agencies to provide funding for projects and structural improvements.
- ▶ SCE&G and Duke Power have recently worked with local Community Action Agencies to provide 200 Community Solar opportunities, free of charge, to clients eligible for Weatherization services.