

Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) is one of the beneficiaries of economic stimulus funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The State of Ohio stands to receive around \$135M in HWAP funding in 2009 and approximately \$267 million over 2 years. Federally assisted properties and LIHTC properties are eligible for HWAP assistance depending on the incomes of their tenants.

Here's a Q & A on the HWAP in Ohio from Thomas Andrews, Low-Income HWAP/EPP Specialist in the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Community Services.

1. Who is eligible?

Eligibility is based upon income of the household. As of April 1, 2009, the income guideline is 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. For a household of four (4) people, the maximum income level allowable is \$44,100.

2. How do property owners apply?

The application can be accessed here:

<http://www.odod.state.oh.us/cms/uploadedfiles/CDD/OCS/Revised%20App.pdf>

The application is the same as that used for the HEAP program.

Applicants may also contact the local provider of service in their area. To find the name of the local provider, please access <http://www.odod.ohio.gov/> and click on the HWAP item located in the RESOURCES section to find the provider of service in your area.

3. What could qualify as weatherization in a multi-family unit or property?

Retrofits that may qualify as weatherization in a multi-family building may include: insulation of the attic space, sidewalls, and basement/crawlspace areas; insulation of heating distribution systems (ductwork for forced air systems or hot water pipes for boiler systems); air sealing to reduce infiltration of outside air into the building; repairs of combustion appliances; change out of incandescent lighting to energy efficient lighting.

4. Is there a special energy audit? If so, who performs them and how much do they cost?

Depending upon the type of building, there may be a special energy audit performed. Buildings with 5 or more units that are centrally heated or building that are over three stories in height, require a multi-family building audit. The audit used in Ohio is called the EA-Quip audit (Energy Audit using Queens Information Package). We can provide a list of inspectors that have been trained in this audit. Any other type of buildings can be inspected using the Priority List for building types as listed in the State of Ohio's Weatherization Program Standards.

5. Can HWAP funds be used in conjunction with the new weatherization funds coming through HUD's Green Build Initiative?

It is our belief that HWAP funds can be used in conjunction with other funding sources, as long there is a clear distinction / transparency of the source of funds and the retrofit being completed.