



Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Weatherization program (WAP)

1. What does weatherization really mean? What services are performed?

Weatherization saves energy in the home by repairing and improving the building. The goal is to increase your home's energy efficiency, safety, and comfort by eliminating drafts by weather-stripping or repairing broken exterior doors, patching small holes in walls and roofs (and repairing damaged windows), and installing insulation in attic, walls, floor and perimeter, and insulating water heater pipes.

2. What is the value of these services?

Each home has different issues that will be addressed by weatherization services. The average donated cost per home is \$7,776.

3. Why is weatherization so important?

Weatherization services will seal up drafts to prevent the loss of heated or conditioned inside air to the outside and insulate your home; saving energy dollars, increasing your comfort, and making your home safer. Carbon Monoxide poisoning may also be a problem in some homes. The energy auditor will ensure that your appliances and heating system work efficiently and safely. According to the Weatherization Assistance Program's Technical Assistance Center, "Combined savings for energy and non-energy benefits in 2008 show Weatherization returns at \$2.72 for every \$1 invested."

4. What do I have to do to my home to prepare for weatherization?

Make the attic and basement accessible, remove contents and clutter from those areas to allow workers access to the space. Your gas stove should be cold for the initial and follow up audit. Secure animals in a safe location. Some dust may be generated; the contractors will do their best to contain it.

5. What problems with my home will delay me from receiving these services?

Major plumbing, electrical or structural deficiencies, major moisture problems like roof leaks could slow down progress. The auditor will inform you if these problems will delay weatherization improvements. Problems with plumbing, electrical, the structure, or moisture may be worsened when the dynamics in your house change. In some cases, your project may be deferred or determined ineligible if any of these problems are significant enough and can not be remedied to meet weatherization program standards.

6. Do I need to be home when this work is done?

You should be available for the initial audit. It is your choice if you want to be home during the contracted work. An adult must be present if minors are home.



7. Will I qualify for other programs if my home is weatherized?

Weatherization services will not disqualify you from other social service programs through Step Up Suncoast.

8. I received similar services from the Step Up Suncoast / Manatee Community Action Agency a few years ago, can I get more now?

If you received full weatherization services at your current address since September 1, 1994, you are not eligible for additional services. Work done since then should not need to be re-done. Any weatherization prior to that date may receive additional services. Call our office 941-827-2887 x7806 for more details. If you received weatherization services from another agency, through a different program, or paid for it yourself, and your income falls within the guidelines, you may now be eligible for this weatherization program. If you recently received air-sealing services, you may qualify for full weatherization.

9. I just moved to this house, but it received weatherization services a few years ago. Will I qualify for additional services?

Call our office 941-827-2887 x7806 to answer this specific question about your home. Chances are that we have already addressed the upgrades to the home, and that under guidelines set forth by the Department of Energy, this property is not eligible for additional upgrades at this time.

10. If I decline weatherization, will I be denied weatherization assistance in the future?

No. However, you will miss a great opportunity to save energy and make your home more comfortable.