

Weatherization FAQ

1. What is the difference between Home Repair and Weatherization?

Home Repair is a program for homeowners in need of emergency repairs by offering 0% interest deferred loans. Weatherization is a non-emergency grant-funded program providing free energy conservation services. Please see full program descriptions and guidelines on our agency website.

2. Is there a wait for an application?

Depending on your county, there may be a wait list. Please call the office if you would like an approximation of your place in line.

3. Is there a wait for the Energy Audit?

A wait could take a couple weeks up to a year depending on priority points set by the federal government.

4. I haven't heard anything from your office since I was approved. What should I do?

Once you are approved, you are put in line for an inspection (energy audit). We schedule inspections based on your household's priority points at the time of application. You do not have to do anything but wait for us to contact you to set up the inspection. We will contact you within two weeks of the anticipated inspection date.

5. What are priority points?

Clients are scheduled for an inspection based on a priority point system mandated by our federal and state funders. One point is given for each of the following: Families with children, Elderly clients, Disabled individuals, Clients with high energy use. And then 2 points for Clients with high energy cost burden. Those with the most points are scheduled first, even if the client just applied.

6. Do I have to pay anything for Weatherization?

No. The Weatherization Assistance Program is grant-funded, which means there is no cost to you.

7. What if I am renting?

Renters may apply for Weatherization, but they must also sign a Landlord/Tenant Agreement with the Landlord agreeing to the energy efficient measures being installed in the home.

8. What if I am over income?

If your three-month household gross income is over the allowable limit, you will receive notification in the mail and will be denied services. However, you may be eligible for other agency programs. The income guidelines for weatherization is located on our website along with our resource guide for each county.

9. Will my furnace be replaced before Winter comes?

The Weatherization Program is not designed as an emergency repair program. If you feel you need immediate assistance with your furnace, this program may not be for you. Also, please keep in mind that work on your home is not a certainty. Results of your inspection will determine what work, if any, will be done on the home.

10. I had Weatherization services 12 years ago. Can I apply again?

No. Unfortunately, the program is a one-time service for 15 years. If it's been 15 years or longer, then you may apply again.

11. Do you service mobile homes?

Yes, we service mobile homes or manufactured, however we don't service campers.

12. I have trouble with paperwork. Can I get help with the application?

Absolutely. Please make an appointment to stop in at any of our three NMCAA office locations to receive assistance with your application.

13. Once I am approved, how long does it take?

The Weatherization Program is not a quick emergency repair program. Once you are income approved, it can take from several months up to a year to schedule your inspection. Inspections are scheduled based on a priority point system. If your home is eligible for energy saving measures after the inspection results are processed, it may take several additional months before any work begins. Our program runs year-round—we perform inspections and weatherization measures during all 12 months of the year.

14. Do you look at my credit card debt?

No. Our program only looks at the last three months of your household gross income. We do not consider credit cards, bank accounts, or any other assets.

15. Do I have to be there when they come to my house?

Yes. You or someone listed on the application who is over 18 will need to be present for inspections or for work to take place.

16. I just moved in. Can I apply for Weatherization?

Yes. However, you will not qualify for potential priority points for energy usage and energy burden when it comes to scheduling you for an inspection. Priority points are based on one year's utility usage. These priority points may place you higher up on the inspection wait list.

17. Where does the funding come from?

Our main funders are the federal Department of Energy and the State of Michigan Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).