How does the Weatherization Assistance Program work?

The program consists of four steps:

- An application to the local service provider to determine income eligibility
- An energy audit of the home to identify specific needs. This often includes state-of-the-art blower-door testing and infrared scanning
- The weatherization of the home
- A post-weatherization inspection to assure quality and effectiveness

What services are included?

Services might include but are not limited to:

- Weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows
- Cleaning, testing, repairs or replacement of heating systems
- Replacement or repair of storm windows
- Replacement or repair of broken windows and/or outside doors
- The addition of insulation to walls or ceilings
- Minor repairs, as needed, to ensure maximum efficiency of the weatherization services performed

Who does the work?

Local service providers supply high-quality work performed by skilled personnel. Some providers use their own crews, and some hire local private contractors.

What is the quality of the materials used?

Every provider is required to purchase and use only materials that meet the high standards set by the state and federal governments. Furthermore, most providers have staff that is able to test materials for quality and safety. DHCR offers training in quality control and material use.

Is there any charge for Weatherization services?

All services are provided without obligation to the occupant of the home. However, owners of rental buildings are required to invest funds toward the cost of the Weatherization services.

What are the sources for Weatherization funding?

The NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal's Weatherization Assistance Program is funded annually by the US Department of Energy. In addition, DHCR receives funds for Weatherization activities from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services through the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

Can the Weatherization Assistance Program assist in finding other sources of funding?

Yes. Local providers are in contact with such agencies as the Office for Aging, the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and gas and electric utilities. Weatherization staff is usually able to assist an applicant in applying for grants and/or loans from these agencies and others.

Who is eligible for Weatherization services?

Eligibility is based on household income relative to federal low-income guidelines. If a household contains a member who receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Public Assistance, Food Stamps, or Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits, the household is considered automatically eligible for Weatherization services.

Are renters eligible for services?

Yes, renters qualify if the eligibility guidelines are met.

What type of home is eligible?

An eligible home might be a manufactured home, a single-family home, an apartment or a single room occupied as separate living quarters.

How can you apply?

Contact the Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC) Weatherization Assistance Program at (212) 961-4100.