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U.S. Dept. of Energy Announces Arizona's Weatherization Assistance Plan Among First in the Nation Approved for Additional BIL Funds

Arizona clean energy advocates applaud the Arizona Dept. of Housing for unlocking funding to help lower energy bills for Arizona households

(PHOENIX, AZ) – Today, the U.S. The Department of Energy (DOE) announced the approval of the Arizona Department of Housing's (ADOH) updated Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) plan. The DOE is expected to release 35% of total funding to the state as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which amounts to \$47 million. Arizona's WAP is among the first approved WAP plans in the nation to be approved – which is DOE's largest residential energy retrofit program.

Local clean energy advocates applauded ADOH Director Tom Simplot and his team for seizing this opportunity to apply for these additional funds to secure more than \$23 million for Arizona to enable low-income individuals, families, retirees, and veterans to reduce their energy bills. The remainder of the funds will be made available after initial program milestones are met. Today's funding announcement will transform WAP by expanding weatherization services to ten times current funding levels, creating jobs, and reestablishing economic opportunities in communities that have been hit the hardest by economic, racial, and environmental injustices. "As a grassroots organization, we see every day how much our Arizona Latino families are hurting every time they have to decide to either heat or cool their homes or put food on their tables," stated **Sheril Steinberg, Political and Advocacy Director at [Mi Familia Vota Arizona Chapter](#)**. "By assisting families in making a transition towards energy efficiency upgrades in their homes and with job creation that this program will generate, we are not only providing them a way to lower their energy bills but making sure that everyone has the ability to live comfortably and provide for their families."

[Connecting the dots between climate and racial justice](#) to truly build equitable communities is essential. The [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) supports these communities and primarily aims to reduce utility bills for income-eligible households while improving the health and safety of the occupants. Through weatherization improvements and upgrades, these households save, on average, \$372 or more every year, according to a national evaluation of the program.



“Our communities are struggling in Arizona with our climate worsening every year. Through the additional funding, we can better assist families with the resources they need to reduce their energy use, adopt clean energy, and reduce their energy bills,” said **Reverend Doug Bland, Executive Director, of [Arizona Interfaith Power & Light](#)**. “We need to make sure these programs are available to whoever needs them so that we can fulfill the promise of justice and equity for those most impacted by our climate crisis.”

“Each year, more and more retirees struggle to pay their energy bills and keep their homes comfortable during extreme weather. By providing the means for older Arizonans to weatherize their homes as much as possible, we’ll ensure they can enjoy retirement without worrying about the high cost of energy bills. They have already worked all their life; it’s time for us to take care of them,” **Dora Vasquez, Executive Director, [Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans](#)**.

As for our veterans, many of them are struggling to survive with a fixed income or unemployment. Faced with the possibility of eviction, our disabled and at-risk veterans, who have defended our safety and freedom, need these programs’ support to keep them and their families safe and healthy.

“Many men and women who have served our country know that our climate crisis is real. They have been impacted directly by the excruciating heat or insufferable cold that has hit our state in recent years,” said **Aaron Marquez, Executive Director, of [Arizona VetsForward](#)**. “Our veterans know this can endanger our security and the freedom they fought for. With the funds to create jobs that pay a livable wage and the resources to help those who have defended our country, we will make sure that everyone in our State has the means to have a safe home.”

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