



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Weatherization Plus Health

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Plus Health initiative is a national effort to comprehensively and strategically coordinate resources to improve the energy efficiency, health, and safety of low-income homes. The National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCCSP) is implementing the project on behalf of DOE. Weatherization Plus Health will ensure energy efficient and healthy indoor environments by facilitating the establishment of strong, effective partnerships between DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and healthy homes providers.



Carbon Monoxide

Faulty gas-burning furnaces and hot water heaters, as well as unvented space heaters leak the deadly and invisible gas carbon monoxide (CO), a byproduct of combustion. Pregnant women, infants, and people with heart disease, anemia, or respiratory problems are especially at risk. Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO exposure, with the death rate highest among older individuals.

Childhood Lead Poisoning

Most homes in the United States were built before 1978, when lead paint was banned due to its toxic effects on children and adults. Lead dust from worn paint is a poison, causing permanent, life-long brain damage, loss of IQ, increased impulsive behavior, and kidney and heart disease. Nearly one-quarter million young children (less than 6 years old) have elevated blood lead levels above 10 micrograms per deciliter of blood, indicating a harmful level of exposure.

Asthma

Dust, mildew, pest droppings, and fumes from building materials and cleaning products can trigger symptoms of asthma, one of the most common lung diseases in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that almost 10 percent of the U.S. population has asthma (25.7 million people), including 7.1 million children. Asthma flare ups keep children home from school, their parents home from work, and each year are associated with over 15 million physician office and hospital outpatient visits, nearly two million emergency room visits, and hospitalizations that cost tens of millions of dollars.



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Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Energy

www.wxplushealth.org

The new Weatherization Plus Health web portal provides valuable data, resources, and tools to connect low-income community energy and health providers, as well as citizens, with much needed services and resource information to help impact community health planning.