

Weatherization



A WORLD OF
HOPE
IT STARTS AT HOME

LIVABLE CITIES FUND

As part of its World of Hope capital campaign, HFHI has developed the Livable Cities Fund. Its purpose is to identify and secure financial capital to support Habitat's efforts to explore and employ innovative building practices. HFHI's Resource Development Department, Government Relations and Advocacy Office and United States Area Office will work with government agencies, corporations, foundations, individuals and partner organizations to deliver an unprecedented level of support to affiliates participating in the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative.

Over the next four years, Habitat will improve the health and safety of low-income communities by weatherizing 4,000 homes. As a result:

- Families will increase their energy savings.
- Community energy demands will be reduced.
- Affordable housing will have a substantially lower impact on the environment.



- According to the Department of Energy, low-income households typically spend 17% of their total income on energy vs. 4% for other households. As a result, low-income families often choose between heat and other necessities.



The housing and mortgage crises have been devastating to low-income families and communities across the United States. Compounding their burden is the fact that the current housing stock is aging and becoming less energy efficient. Low-income households spend a greater percentage of their income on energy than median income families; this is money that could be spent on food, medicine, education or another necessities. Lower-income families also live in homes that are also becoming unhealthier. Poorly weatherized homes lead to the spread of infectious diseases and higher incidences of air pollution-related illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory problems.

As a leader in the affordable housing sector and the 8th largest home builder in the United States, Habitat is striving to improve the sustainability of the communities it serves. Our nontraditional approach includes the extensive use of volunteers to implement a cost-effective, nationally-coordinated weatherization strategy and pilot the use of new technologies.

Because of Habitat’s community volunteer-based model, costs to low-income families for weatherization services can be reduced as much as 50 percent.

EXPANDING OUR WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM REPRESENTS A SIGNIFANCT STEP TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY.

As part of our new Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, Habitat seeks to improve the quality of life through more holistic community development. Expanding our weatherization program represents a signifanct step to break the cycle of poverty. It promotes sustainable community development and uses innovative building practices to serve low-income families while meeting the diverse needs of the communities where they live. Additionally, the weatherization program challenges Habitat affiliates to broaden their offerings, as well as their strategic partnership base.



Goals and objectives

HFH International's overarching goal is to marshal critical resources to support Habitat affiliate weatherization efforts. These programs will reduce overall energy consumption of houses in low income communities; and, improve their energy efficiency, overall indoor air quality and comfort level."

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Habitat's objectives

- Reduce energy bills for low income families by a range of 15 to 25% per household.
- Educate families and community volunteers on the importance of energy efficiency and teach them techniques to reduce their energy usage.
- Build a nationwide, trained volunteer weatherization workforce.
- Promote and develop innovative techniques for the weatherization of owner-occupied homes.
- Increase access to information, funding, training and technical assistance for Habitat affiliates.
- Identify and pilot the use of new technologies and materials.

What is Habitat weatherization?

Weatherization involves a wide range of efficiency and safety measures that address energy use issues with the house's envelope, as well as its heating, cooling, air, water and electrical systems. It includes services like replacing insulation, caulking around windows and doors, replacing inefficient appliances, upgrading HVAC systems and windows, and installing energy efficient technology and safety equipment, among others.

Invest in Weatherization.

Habitat Weatherization Works

The Exelon Pilot Program

HFHI and The Exelon Corporation developed an energy efficiency program targeting low-income owner-occupied homes in an effort to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions in the community. The Exelon program demonstrated significant savings for low income families and improved the durability, health, safety and energy efficiency of the project homes. The program used a “whole-house” weatherization approach rather than a typical heating and cooling approach. The house is seen as an entire system. Solutions incorporate health, safety and durability

improvements, as well. Service providers identify the best combination of measures that will result in a total reduction of energy usage in the most cost effective method.

A key element of the partnership was the implementation of a tracking system that provided feedback to the families, affiliates, and HFHI on energy consumption and costs. Significantly, the pilot program helped Habitat determine the most cost-effective and volunteer-friendly approaches to weatherization. These approaches will be replicated for future weatherization successes.

THE EXELON PILOT PROGRAM

Pilot highlights

Objective:

To create a pilot weatherization program for low-income Habitat for Humanity homes.

Location:

Participating homes were in four states: Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Texas.

Timeline:

September 2009 through September 2010.

Current results:

An average of 15 percent to 25 percent improvement in energy efficiency per home, as measured by energy audits.

Average costs:

Standard Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program project →\$6,500.
Standard Habitat for Humanity weatherization pilot project →\$2,500.

“Exelon is committed to helping customers and communities reduce their carbon footprints and energy costs through easy, low-cost solutions. Our partnership with Habitat for Humanity supports both Habitat’s mission of affordable home ownership and Exelon’s plan to eliminate the equivalent of our carbon footprint by 2020.”

Joseph Dominguez, Exelon senior vice president of corporate communications and public affairs



Affordability. Sustainability. Community.

Weatherization results in real savings.

Low income families spend too much on energy expenditures. They are often forced to choose between paying the utility bill or spending money on food or healthcare. The average homeowner saves hundreds of dollars a month. The increase in disposable income reduces the ongoing compromise struggling homeowners make on a daily basis.

Weatherization improves the overall health and comfort of a home.

Many low-income families are also living in unhealthy houses. According to the EPA, nearly 100% of low income homes are "sick" – damp, drafty, dusty, toxic. Habitat's weatherization program addresses asthma triggers (e.g., moisture/mold, pests, allergens), lead hazards, carbon monoxide, and other hazards in a home.

Weatherization benefits communities

Communities are burdened with high energy costs and limited capacity to implement weatherization programs. Habitat's weatherization program lowers the overall demand for energy, thereby reducing the cost to all. Affiliates train local volunteer and staff to perform weatherization activities or hire local contractors. They help build or support a specialized workforce."

"We are thankful to have had a Habitat home in which to raise our family, and with these new weatherization home improvements, we look forward to using less energy, doing our part to improve the environment and lowering our utility bills."

Frank Alston, Habitat homeowner



The average DOE cost for weatherization services - \$6,500. The average cost of Habitat services - \$3,000. Habitat's model reduces costs to low-income homeowners by an average of 54%."

The stage is set...

...for the strategic growth of Habitat for Humanity's weatherization program. President Barack Obama has committed to expanding affordable energy efficiency options for low-income families and increasing the importance placed on weatherization and energy efficiency in American homes. According to the DOE, over 40,000,000 households are eligible for weatherization assistance. The administration has plans to weatherize just over 600,000 houses. That leaves a tremendous gap of homeowners that need help. We are answering the President's call with our innovative plan for using safe, sustainable construction standards to weatherize homes to conserve more energy.

With affiliates in more than 1,500 communities around the United States, Habitat is uniquely situated to implement weatherization on a national scale. We have the construction experience to maximize opportunities and minimize challenges. The powerful combination of our NRI strategy, our nationwide network of affiliates, our strong volunteer base of over 800,000, and our experience with weatherization enables us to set and meet an ambitious weatherization goal. To do so, however, we need the support of those who share our common vision for stronger families and more sustainable communities in the United States.

“By approaching neighborhoods holistically and expanding programs, like weatherization, Habitat can help neighborhoods become stronger, more resilient and more sustainable than ever before.”

Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International




Why support Habitat's Weatherization program?

Significant return on investment

Your support will help us ...

- Leverage federal and partner contributions to the maximum extent possible. Habitat has received funding, in-kind and technical support from Exelon, the DOE, Home Depot, Dow Chemical and others to perform weatherization services.
- Build strategic partnerships with other weatherization service providers like ReBuild Together and state-level Community Action Agencies
- Develop innovative weatherization services. Habitat is continuously exploring new techniques and incorporating new technologies into their solutions.
- Engage more community volunteers in delivering neighborhood-based weatherization services.



Your investment is worth it! The Department of Energy calculates that for every \$1 spent on weatherization, there is a \$2.73 estimated return on energy and non-energy related benefits to the community

