

We're here for you



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Participating Utilities	1
Low-Income Public Benefits	2
Program Highlights.....	3-4

1-866-432-8947 | homeenergyplus.wi.gov

ANNUAL REPORT

Wisconsin Public Benefits Home Energy Plus Programs
JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

*homeenergy+*sm

Participating Utilities

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative
Algoma Utilities
Alliant Energy
Arcadia, City of
Argyle Municipal Utilities
Bangor Municipal Utility
Barron Electric Cooperative
Barron Light & Water Utility
Belmont Municipal Light and Water Utility
Benton Municipal Utilities
Black Earth Utilities
Black River Falls Municipal Electric & Water
Bloomer Electric Utility
Boscobel Utilities
Brodhead Water and Light Commission
Cadott Light and Water Department
Cashton Municipal Light and Water
Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative
Clark Electric Cooperative
Clintonville Utilities
Columbus Water & Light
Consolidated Water Power Company
Cornell Municipal Electric Utility
Cuba City Electric & Water Utility
Cumberland Municipal Electric Utility
Dahlberg Light & Power Company East
Dunn Energy Cooperative
Central Energy Cooperative
Eau Claire Electric Cooperative
Elkhorn, City of
Elroy, City of
Evansville Water & Light
Fennimore Water & Light
Florence Utilities
Gresham Water & Electric Utility
Hustisford Utilities
Jackson Electric Cooperative
Jefferson Utilities
Jump River Electric Cooperative
Juneau Utilities
Kaukauna Utilities
La Farge Municipal Utilities
Lake Mills Light & Water
Madison Gas & Electric
Manitowoc Public Utilities
Marshfield Electric and Water Department
Medford Electric Utility
Menasha Electric & Water Utilities

Merrillan, Village of
Muscodda Utilities
New Glarus Utilities
New Holstein Utilities
New Lisbon Municipal Electric & Water Department
New London Utilities
New Richmond Utilities
North Central Power Company, Inc.
Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company
Oakdale Electric Cooperative
Oconto Electric Cooperative
Oconto Falls Water and Light Commission
Pardeeville Public Utilities
Pioneer Power & Light Company
Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative
Prairie du Sac, Village of
Price Electric Cooperative
Princeton Municipal Utility
Reedsburg Utility Commission
Rice Lake Utilities
Richland Center Electric Utility
Richland Electric Cooperative
Rock Energy Cooperative
Scenic Rivers Electric Cooperative
Shawano Municipal Utilities
Shullsburg Electric Utility
Spooner Municipal Utilities
Stoughton Utilities
Stratford Water and Electric Utility
Sturgeon Bay Utilities
Sun Prairie Utilities
Superior Water Light & Power Company
Taylor Electric Cooperative
Trempealeau, Village of
Two Rivers, City of
Vernon Electric Cooperative
Village of Mazomanie
Viola Municipal Utility
Waterloo Utilities
Waupun Utilities
We Energies
Westby Electric Utility
Westfield Electric
Whitehall Electric Utility
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
Wisconsin Rapids Waterworks and Lighting
Wonewoc Municipal Water and Light Department
Xcel Energy

The Low Income Public Benefits Program

Wisconsin’s Public Benefits Program was created by the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1999 as part of the Reliability 2000 Initiative. In fiscal year 2021, the Low-Income Public Benefits Program was administered by the Department of Administration’s Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources.

The Low-Income Public Benefits Fund is funded by electric and natural gas utility ratepayers. Wisconsin’s investor-owned utilities are required by law to participate. Municipal electric utilities and electric cooperatives have the option of participating in the state program or operating their own “Commitment to Community” programs. Revenue for the Low-Income Public Benefits Fund comes from three sources:

1. Funds from investor-owned utilities collected through rates established by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, which include fees added to electric bills participating utilities collected and remitted to the state.
2. Funds contributed by participating municipal electric utilities and cooperatives.
3. Voluntary donations.

Households with income at or below 60 percent of Wisconsin’s State Median Income (SMI) may be eligible for the Home Energy Plus (HE+) Programs.

In fiscal year 2021, 253,060 households applied for energy assistance. The Low-Income Public Benefits Fund through Home Energy Plus provided assistance to 204,058 households with limited incomes throughout Wisconsin. The ultimate goal of all low-income energy programs is to make the households’ energy self-sufficient—that is, to provide services that help households meet energy costs on an ongoing basis without sacrificing other necessities. The programs are delivered to eligible households through county health and human service



agencies, community-action agencies, tribal governments, and other nonprofit organizations.

Home Energy Plus Programs receive significant financial contributions from the federal government through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block grant and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). As a result of 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, these programs also receive state Public Benefits funding. Public Benefits funding was continued under 2005 Wisconsin Act 141. The Public Benefits Fund has allowed the state to increase the number of households that receive energy conservation and weatherization services, and to increase electric and emergency benefit payments. By integrating these funds with the federal LIHEAP and WAP, Wisconsin has developed a comprehensive assistance program that addresses “whole-house” energy needs.

Public Benefits Programs 2021 Financial Highlights

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

REVENUES

Home Energy Plus.....	\$114,395,694
Public Service Commission:	
Administration Revenue.....	\$279,847
Reverse Prior Year Prepaid Revenue	\$(1,545,573)
Lapse to General Fund.....	\$ -
Total Funding.....	\$113,129,969

EXPENSES

Home Energy Plus.....	\$98,724,516
Public Service Commission.....	\$398,800
Agency 437 (DCF TANF).....	\$9,139,700
Total Expenses.....	\$108,263,016

BALANCES

Beginning Fund Balance	\$16,333,346
Current Year Revenues	\$113,129,969
Current Year Expense.....	\$108,263,016
Total Fund Balance.....	\$21,200,299
Fund Balance.....	\$21,200,299
Less:	
Weatherization Commitments	\$(10,977,256)
WHEAP Commitments.....	\$(1,323,863)
Agency 155 Expense (PSC) Commitments	(\$9,500)
Plus:	
Accounts Receivable of FY19 Fees	\$4,714,926
Uncommitted Fund Balance*	\$13,604,606

*A detailed financial report is available upon request.

Program Highlights

Electric Bill Assistance

Electric assistance is a one-time, annual payment intended to pay a portion of a household's electricity costs. The amount of the benefit is dependent on the household's income, size of the household, and electric costs incurred by the household. The energy used by electric appliances in a home is referred to as baseload energy use. Typically, baseload energy encompasses lighting, refrigeration, laundry appliances, and electronics. Water heating and cooking may also be considered baseload energy.

Crisis Assistance

Crisis assistance is available to eligible households that were subject to disconnection of their utility service, or a fuel emergency. Crisis assistance is provided through both emergency services and preventive services. During the heating season (October 1 through May 15), emergency services helps customers by purchasing heating fuel (LIHEAP), supplying a warm place to stay, and/or providing for

emergency heating system repair or replacement. Preventive services helped residents avoid future emergencies by establishing co-payment plans between the customer, energy provider, and WHEAP agency. Training and information on how to reduce energy costs, budget counseling and money management, or taking other needs-based actions helped residents more effectively manage their energy bills.

Heating Bill Assistance

Heating assistance is a one-time, annual payment intended to pay a portion of a household's heating costs. The amount of the benefit is dependent on household income, size of the household, and heating costs incurred by the household. The benefit covers a percentage of a recipient's household annual heating bill.¹ In most cases, the heating assistance benefit is applied directly to the household's bill with the energy provider. Heating assistance is funded through the LIHEAP federal funds.

¹ In FY21, heating assistance paid on average 52% of an annual heating bill.

Home Energy Plus Statistics: Fiscal Year 2021

ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE (Public Benefits)

- Provided assistance to 200,043 households; Public Benefits provided assistance to 185,833 of these households
- Average Public Benefits payment: \$213
- CARES COVID Assistance provided assistance to 14,210 of these households
- Average CARES COVID payment: \$195

CRISIS ASSISTANCE (Public Benefits)

- Provided assistance to 5,848 households
- Average payment: \$433

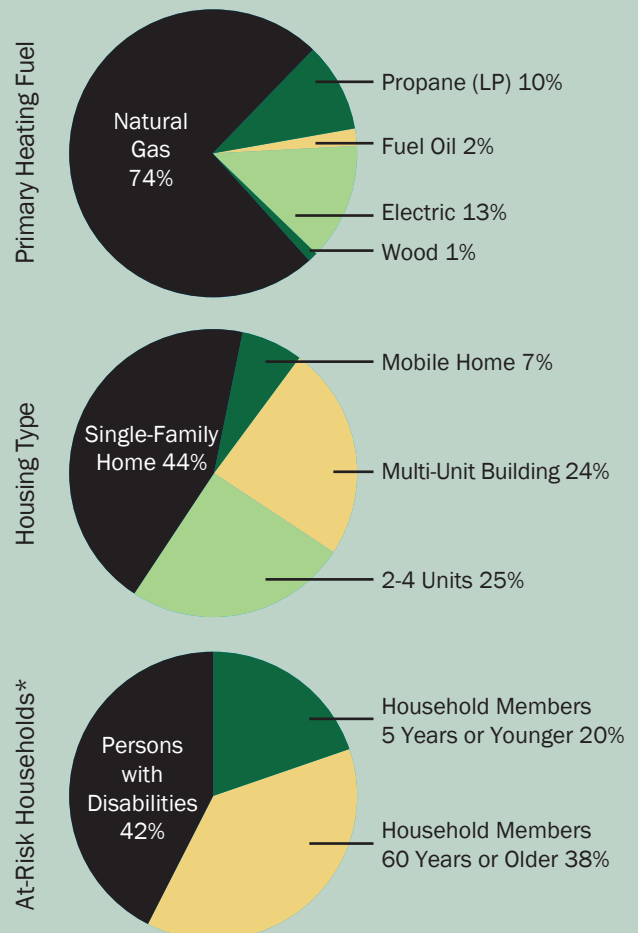
HEATING BILL ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP)

- Provided assistance to 196,394 households
- Average payment: \$397
- CARES LIHEAP provided assistance to 56,402 of these households*
- Average CARES LIHEAP payment: \$393
- ARPA LIHEAP provided assistance to 10,914 of these households*
- Average ARPA LIHEAP payment: \$426

CRISIS ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP)

- Provided LIHEAP assistance to 9,178 households
- Average payment: \$549
- Provided ARPA LIHEAP crisis assistance to households 114,857*
- Average ARPA LIHEAP crisis payment \$1,002
- Provided CARES LIHEAP crisis assistance to households 16,430*
- Average CARES LIHEAP crisis payment \$495

*COVID Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding



*Some households may be counted more than once when there is more than one household member in an at-risk category.

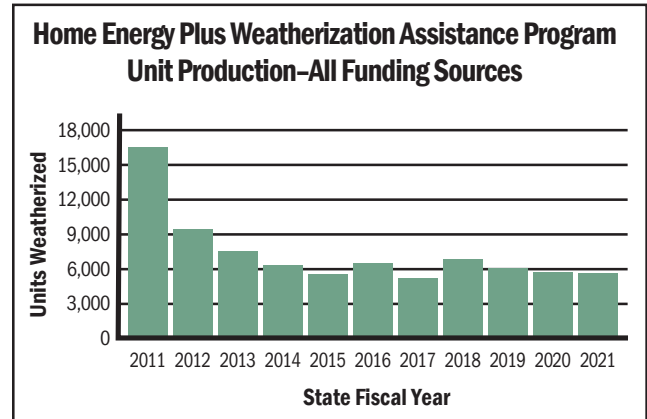
Weatherization Services

The Wisconsin Home Energy Plus Low-Income Weatherization Program helped reduce home energy costs for 5,767 households by reducing home energy consumption. Households participating in the program can save \$390¹ each year on average.² As a result of participation in the program, customers' homes are more energy efficient and more comfortable—warmer in the winter, and cooler in the summer.

Weatherization Services and the Economy

The Weatherization Program offers services in all 72 Wisconsin counties through a network of 18 local agencies. Utilities, energy assistance providers, and trade contractors are important partners in the successful delivery of weatherization services.

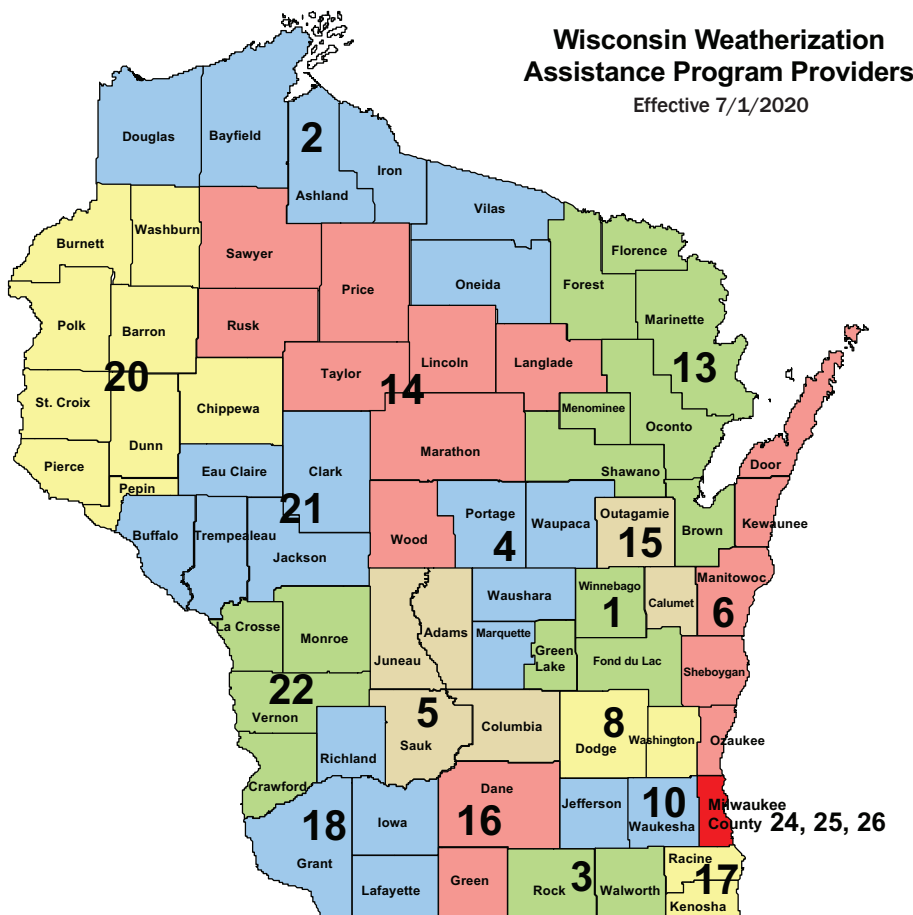
Weatherization benefits of energy efficiency and the corresponding “green jobs” are the seeds of economic recovery, job growth, and infrastructure development—all of which are at the core of the Home Energy Plus Programs. The weatherization and other downstream weatherization-related jobs continue to assist in employing Wisconsin laborers.



“We older people really thank you. Sometimes it’s a hard choice whether to pay our energy bills or pay for our meds. Thank you!”
 – Recipient of Home Energy Plus Assistance

¹ Assessment of Energy and Cost Savings for Homes Treated under Wisconsin’s Home Energy Plus Weatherization Program, 2021

² 1 to 4 unit buildings, all fuels



Weatherization Providers	
1	ADVOCAP
2	Ashland County Housing Authority
3	Community Action of Rock/Walworth
4	CAP Services, Inc.
5	Central Wisconsin CAC
6	Partners for Community Development
8	Hartford CDA
10	La Casa de Esperanza
13	Newcap, Inc.
14	North Central CAP, Inc.
15	Outagamie CHA
16	Project Home, Inc.
17	Racine/Kenosha CAA
18	Southwestern Wisconsin CAP
20	West Central Wisconsin CAP
21	Western Dairyland
22	Couleecap, Inc.
24	La Casa de Esperanza
25	Social Development Commission
26	Partners for Community Development



Home Energy Plus is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources through a network of county agencies, tribal governments, community-based organizations and utilities. The Home Energy Plus (HE+) Program consists of the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), which provides heating and electric assistance to eligible households, the HE+ Furnace Program, which provides replacement or repair of furnaces, and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), which offers energy efficiency improvements to help eligible customers save energy and money.



1-866-432-8947 | homeenergyplus.wi.gov

Department of Administration's Division of Energy,
Housing and Community Resources
PO Box 7970
Madison, WI 53707-7970
1-608-266-8234

