

Weatherization assistance program



City of Washington is partnering with Martin County Community Action Agency, Inc. to distribute nearly \$800,000 in stimulus money for weatherizing low-to-moderate income homes throughout Washington Electric's service district.

The goal of the Weatherization Assistance Program is to create a safe, energy efficient and comfortable home environment for the families served. Over the course of the three year partnership, a total of 200 homes will be weatherized. Priority is placed on providing assistance to the elderly, individuals with disabilities and families with children. Renters, homeowners and landlords are encouraged to apply. Under the stimulus program, eligibility thresholds were increased to include families with incomes 200% below the federal poverty guideline. For example, a family of four qualifies for weatherization assistance with an annual income at or below \$44,100. In addition, those receiving cash assistance payments under TANF or SSI are eligible to participate.

Here's how the weatherization assistance program works:



Once you have submitted an application and have qualified to participate, a certified energy auditor will perform a diagnostic test known as a home energy audit. These tests are used to determine air infiltration, heat loss, levels of carbon monoxide and identify potential energy efficiency upgrades. Once the home's needs have been established, a contractor will "weatherize" the home. Weatherization may include: air sealing; insulation of attics, walls, and floors; duct sealing and insulation; water heater tank wrap and other general heat waste measures. Residents save an average of 20 percent to 30 percent on their monthly heating bills after receiving weatherization improvements.

The City of Washington will post eligibility requirements, applications, and program information on their website <http://www.washingtonnc.gov> and in the September Utility Bills. For further information, please contact Andrea McClain at 252.975.9324.