



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 (NASCSPP) 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.

BACKGROUND

WAP's mission is to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety. For decades, innovative WAP service providers have leveraged resources to deliver creatively top quality, all-inclusive solutions to low-income families for the energy efficiency, health, and safety of their homes. To expand upon existing strategies connecting WAP to Healthy Homes, Weatherization Plus Health will make building these essential connections easier and more effective.

Healthy Homes is a comprehensive approach to combating disease and injury in the home driven by scientific evidence that links substandard housing and poor health. Healthy homes interventions take a holistic approach to coordinated mitigation of housing-related hazards, rather than addressing a single hazard at a time. This method allows healthy homes practitioners to address a wide array of health and safety issues, including lead poisoning; asthma exacerbated by moisture, mold, and pests; exposure to radon and other toxic chemicals; and injury caused by old or dilapidated housing, among myriad others. Several federal agencies provide healthy home funding including the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What will Weatherization Plus Health do in 2012?

- ◆ Launch WeatherizationPlusHealth.org, an interactive website that includes many health and energy efficiency resources including a map with GIS data on the location of WAP and healthy homes providers in all 3,056 U.S. counties
- ◆ Host a second round of regional conferences beginning in Spring 2012 for WAP and healthy homes providers to gauge progress and desired outcomes from the initial round and offer new opportunities to connect with local partners and brainstorm new ideas for coordination
- ◆ Produce individual reports on WAP and healthy homes activities in every state and territory as well as for the nation as a whole
- ◆ Collect and share best practices for referral systems between WAP and healthy homes programs
- ◆ Provide training and technical assistance for WAP and healthy homes practitioners

Who can take part in Weatherization Plus Health?

DOE encourages the participation of any interested parties who work in the fields of energy efficiency or health and safety. Target audiences include:

- ◆ State and local WAP Directors and staff
- ◆ CSBG staff
- ◆ Community Action Associations
- ◆ Healthy Homes practitioners (providing services related to lead, mold, radon, pests, and more)
- ◆ State and local health departments
- ◆ Health professionals
- ◆ Researchers and/or advocates focusing on energy efficiency or healthy homes
- ◆ Housing and/or Community Development Agencies

Weatherization Plus Health
The National Association for State Community Services Programs

For more information:
202-624-5866
www.nascsp.org
www.waptac.org



CONFERENCE AND PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Since May 2011, the NASCSP Healthy Homes team has traveled all over the nation hosting six three day Weatherization Plus Health conferences. While all six conferences had a lot in common, each one also provided a unique experience and perspective on collaboration and partnerships.

The Bozeman conference gained significant press coverage with a surprise visit from Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, who spoke emphatically on the amazing work that WAP does and the positive impacts WAP has on low-income families in Montana and nationwide.

In Kansas City, NASCSP hosted a reception at Project Living Proof, an historic, eco-friendly, state of the art demonstration home that features best practices for more energy efficient, renewable, and sustainable living.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

NASCSP continues to build a contact database to inform the state report interview process. At this juncture, we have collected the information for over 3,500 organizations that provide services related to home health and/or energy efficiency. This directory represents each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The Weatherization Plus Health initiative was featured in three separate sessions at the June National Healthy Homes Conference in Denver, Colorado.

NASCSP staff has also shared the goals of Weatherization Plus Health while presenting at conferences in Arkansas, California, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio and Oregon.

Conference Satisfaction Ratings

- ◆ 41% of attendees rated the conferences as “outstanding.”
- ◆ 42% of attendees rated the conferences as “more than satisfactory.”
- ◆ 15% of attendees rated the conferences as “satisfactory.”
- ◆ 2% of attendees rated the conferences as “less than satisfactory.”

According to attendees, most valuable conference aspects include:

- Meeting potential partners
- State facilitated meetings
- WAP Health and Safety Guidance
- Learning how to integrate funding
 - New sources of data
- Learning what the other side does

What attendees are saying:

“This was a great opportunity to talk about positive steps post-ARRA.”

“The speakers’ knowledge and facilitation skills are incredible!”

“The staff was very impressive, educational, and approachable.”

“After this... I now see ways we can do a much better job for our clients, the community, as well as serving our funders.”

ROUND ONE COMPLETE

As of November 2011, DOE and NASCSP have completed the first round of Weatherization Plus Health regional conferences, which encouraged increased collaboration between WAP and healthy homes practitioners.

Over the course of six conferences, Weatherization Plus Health reached 44 states and over 500 representatives from State and local WAP agencies, Community Action Agencies, State and local health departments, CSBG, housing and/or community development agencies, as well as other providers of energy efficiency and healthy homes services.

POST-CONFERENCE RESOURCES

During the regional conferences, NASCSP created an inventory of the various resources and tools that participants requested to help them start partnering Weatherization and Healthy Homes. NASCSP has since assembled the following, which will be sent to all conference participants:

- Two examples of assessment tools that comprehensively assess home health, safety, and energy needs (courtesy of New Hampshire One Touch and the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative)
- Links to client education materials covering an extensive range of home health topics
- Resources to assist your program in identifying potential community partners and the services they may offer
- Guides to publicizing your program's success--a key part of sustaining your collaboration
- Contact lists of potential partners for States represented at each conference
- Detailed summaries of state facilitated meetings at each conference
- A huge list of resources created by our Federal and national partners, including National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), National Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Many of these materials, as well as each of the presentations from the conferences, are available on :

www.waptac.org

and

www.nascsp.org/Weatherization-Plus-Health.apx

BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION

Partnerships between WAP and Healthy Homes providers have the potential to provide significant benefit to low-income families, encourage greater efficiency for agencies and providers, and foster opportunities for innovation in service delivery. Weatherization Plus Health aims to harness this potential and put it into action at the state and local levels.

Pioneering programs throughout the nation have already formed partnerships between energy efficiency and healthy homes programs using a variety of funding sources and creative approaches. Many of them were spotlighted during the regional conferences to share experiences, best practices, and expertise in forming, maintaining and ensuring the success of these innovative collaborations.

