



What is HWAP with the ARRA?

The Ohio Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) is a no-cost energy assistance program designed to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by income-eligible Ohioans. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is an economic stimulus package intended to provide a jumpstart to the U.S. economy in the wake of the economic downturn.

Under the Federal Stimulus Legislation, the State of Ohio will receive approximately \$266 million in 2009 to be expended over three years. Funding will flow through Ohio's experienced certified weatherization providers and their delegates and sub-contractors. The ARRA funds will be allocated to the existing HWAP provider network via the existing formula methodology. The monitoring and oversight will be performed by the Office of Community Services (OCS) Energy Analysts to assure funds are spent on time and that the work quality meets or exceeds the [Weatherization Program Standards \(WPS\)](#).

The HWAP is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and provided to Ohioans at no cost. Customers are eligible for the program if their annual household income is at or below [200% of the federal poverty guidelines](#). The OCS plans to weatherize 32,179 homes before March 31, 2012.

With the ARRA monies, there is an increased need for training, technical assistance and monitoring activities. The OCS will dedicate an additional five staff to contribute to the ARRA HWAP training and technical assistance effort. These include two additional field monitors, a training officer dedicated to grantee provider training, an administrative monitor, and an administrative support person.

The OCS will designate \$3,150,000 of the Department of Energy funding for the operation of the state training center, the [Ohio Weatherization Training Center \(OWTC\)](#). Two-thirds of the OWTC allocation will provide training and technical assistance costs for the existing grantee provider network and those hired by the grantees to support the ARRA ramp-up.

In order to prepare for the increased training needs from ARRA ramp-up, the OWTC has opened four regional training hubs in addition to the main site in Athens, Ohio. The hubs are located in Newark, Fremont, Dayton, and Cleveland. Streamlined, module-based training is offered for Basic Weatherization Tactics and Inspection. Four additional trainers have been hired, and one trainer will be dedicated to HVAC contractors to ensure compliance with the Ohio Weatherization Program Standards. The hiring of two additional full-time trainers is also planned.