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### ***States Targeting Multifamily Housing among First to Receive ARRA Weatherization Funds***

Two states that have developed innovative multifamily weatherization programs are among the first to receive Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). On Monday, the Department of Energy (DOE) released \$80 million in funding to select states that have submitted "aggressive and innovative plans to expand their weatherization programs," including Oregon and Kansas. Through their implementation plans, these states have demonstrated how weatherizing multifamily housing can help meet ARRA's production and job creation goals, while helping families in need through energy efficiency improvements.

In Oregon, a number of agencies and organizations, including Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), the Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (NOAH) and Enterprise, have collaborated to develop a priority list of at-risk affordable housing properties that require energy upgrades. This effort has been assisted by a comprehensive database of affordable and federally subsidized properties in Oregon. The database, which is accessed at [PreserveOregonHousing.org](http://PreserveOregonHousing.org), was used to identify multifamily properties which may qualify for ARRA weatherization funds. This collaboration will significantly streamline weatherization outreach to multifamily owners. The database creation was funded by OHCS and is managed by NOAH.

Kansas has created a [state multifamily weatherization program](#) to reach more low-income homes. The state has set aside 25% of its allocation to make energy efficiency improvements in Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Section 8 and Section 515 rural development properties.

WAP received \$5 billion through ARRA- a 20-fold funding increase over previous years.

In addition to Oregon and Kansas, a number of other states have developed plans to reach more low-income families by increasing the use of WAP funds in multifamily housing. [Click here](#) for a one-page policy brief with best practices.

DOE's full announcement can be found here: [http://apps1.eer.e.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm/pa\\_id=177](http://apps1.eer.e.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=177).