



Helping People. Changing Lives.  
A Community Action Partnership

Columbia Opportunities, Inc provides weatherization services through a contract with the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal. The COI Weatherization Program helps people to reduce the amount of energy required to heat their homes. The majority of homes in Columbia County were built when energy was less expensive. These homes cost more to heat than newer energy-efficient home.

### **Home Weatherization**

- saves energy dollars
- increases comfort in a home
- reduces our dependence on foreign oil
- preserves our housing stock
- provides jobs and job training
- revitalizes neighborhoods
- provides safe, affordable housing

### **How does the Weatherization Assistance Program Work?**

The program consists of four steps:

- an application to Columbia Opportunities, Inc. to determine income eligibility
- an energy audit of the home to identify specific needs
- the weatherization of the home
- a post weatherization inspection to assure quality and effectiveness

### **What services are included?**

Services might include but are not limited to:

- weather-stripping and caulking around doors and windows
- cleaning, testing, repairs or replacement of heating systems
- replacement or repair of storm windows
- replacement or repair of broken windows and outside doors
- the addition of insulation to walls or ceiling
- minor repairs, as needed to ensure maximum efficiency from the weatherization performed

### **Who does the work?**

Columbia Opportunities, Inc. Weatherization Program supplies high-quality work performed by skilled personnel. We use our own crew and hire local private contractors.

**What is the quality of the materials used?**

Columbia Opportunities is required to purchase and use materials that meet the high standards set by the state and federal governments.

**Is there any charge for the Weatherization Service?**

All services are provided free of charge to the occupant of the home. However, owners of rental buildings are required to invest funds toward the cost of the Weatherization services.

**What are the sources for the Weatherization funding?**

The NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal's (DHCR) Weatherization Assistance Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. In addition, DHCR receives funds for weatherization activities from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

**Can the Weatherization Assistance Program assist in finding other sources of funding?**

Yes. Columbia Opportunities, Inc. works with such agencies as the Columbia County Office of Aging, Housing Resources of Columbia County and the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

**Who is eligible for Weatherization services?**

Eligibility is based on household income. If a member of the household receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Safety Net Assistance, Food Stamps, or Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits, the household is considered automatically eligible for weatherization services.

**Are renters eligible for services?**

Yes, renters qualify if the eligibility guidelines are met. However, the landlord must agree to participate in the service.

**What type of home is eligible?**

Eligible homes include manufactured homes, apartments, as well as single-family homes.

**For further questions or to apply in Columbia County:**

Columbia Opportunities, Inc.  
Weatherization Program  
(518) 672-7268

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