

New Opportunities with BPA's Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program

For more than three decades, Bonneville Power Administration, or BPA, public utilities, Community Action Agencies, or CAAs, tribes and state agencies have worked to improve equitable access to energy efficiency for all Northwest residents.

BPA's Low-Income Program provides funding to weatherize homes, improve HVAC and water-heating systems, and install new efficient appliances and lighting in income qualified households, which often pay a much higher percentage of their income on utility bills. This work can greatly decrease utility bills, address health and safety issues, and improve indoor air quality and comfort.

Find more information about income qualification, how to build partnerships, documentation guidance, contact information for state and local organizations, and other program specifics in the [BPA Energy Efficiency Low-Income New Opportunities Guide](#) located on BPA's [Low-Income Energy Efficiency Page](#).



One Mission, Two Programs

BPA, which is part of the United States Department of Energy, has two pathways for funding low-income energy-efficiency services at no cost to the home's occupants. One pathway is managed by public utilities through their Energy Efficiency Incentives. The other pathway is through a grant program distributing federal program funds to states and federally recognized tribes within BPA's service territory. The grants follow the Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program, or WAP, requirements almost exactly, making it easier for recipients to implement the program.

Key Players



Approximately 135 **Northwest public utilities**, which include rural electric co-ops, public and people's utility districts, municipal electric utilities and tribal utilities.



The **four state agencies of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington** are responsible for coordinating energy assistance and weatherization programs.



More than **50 federally recognized sovereign tribal governments** within the BPA service territory may leverage various funding sources to maximize their low-income energy-efficiency programs. Tribal governments may choose to partner with other federal programs, states, CAAs, tribes and utilities.

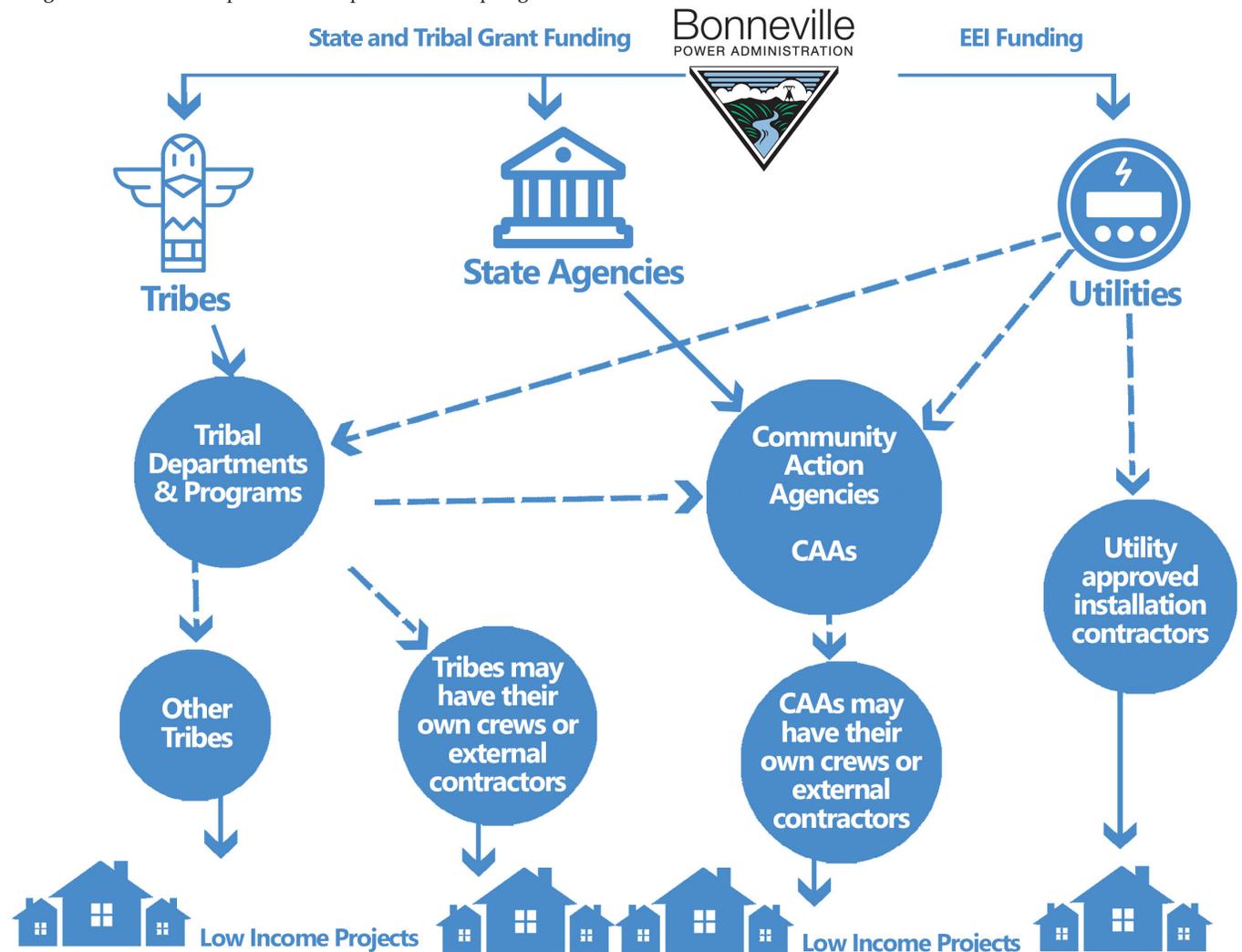


CAAs that help people to help themselves achieve self-sufficiency by providing a wide range of services.

NORMAL FUNDING STREAM



POTENTIAL FUNDING STREAM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



Who Qualifies?

All existing housing types (Single-family, manufactured and multifamily) are eligible for low-income measures, although not all measures are applicable to each housing type. For additional details, see the [BPA Energy Efficiency Low-Income New Opportunities Guide](#).

- For weatherization, HVAC and water heater projects, homes must have primary electric heat, though it does not have to be working. For appliance installations, any heat source is acceptable.
- Homes must be located in a public utility service territory served by BPA. (See: [Regional service areas map](#))
- Households must be low-income. Income qualifications follow the WAP definition of 200% of the federal poverty-income level based on household size, unless a statewide or tribal income eligibility definition is provided. Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program qualification lists are applicable. Check [here](#) and your state's definition for the most up-to-date federal poverty income level.
- For tribal grants, the home must be occupied by a member of a federally recognized tribe.



Get Started

Federally recognized tribes:

- The [Low-Income EE Tribal Grant Application](#) lists all the grant details, including what measures are available, how much you can spend on services, training, administrative and indirect costs.
- Contact the BPA Low-Income Program Manager, Amy Burke at aaburke@bpa.gov, to discuss what resources are available and how to create a plan for energy efficiency work.

CAAs: Contact the agency in their state responsible for administering the state's low-income energy-efficiency funding. See Appendix D in the [BPA Energy Efficiency Low-Income New Opportunities Guide](#) and/or see information from your state agency website: [Idaho](#) | [Montana](#) | [Oregon](#) | [Washington](#)



Comfort Ready Home

The [Comfort Ready Home program](#), or CRH, provides dedicated Field Specialists who can assist contractors with a range of low-income services. Field Specialists can also coordinate with CAAs to help them better understand the requirements, incentives and rules for participating in CRH, and provide tips for discussing opportunities for energy-efficient upgrades. Visit the CRH website to [find a Field Specialist](#) in your area. The [program Field Guide](#) also provides helpful information for contractors and utilities.



Learn More

- Contact the BPA Low-Income Program Manager, Amy Burke at aaburke@bpa.gov.
- Read through the [BPA Energy Efficiency Low-Income New Opportunities Guide](#).
- Go to the [BPA Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program Page](#).
- Go to the Comfort Ready Home Field Guide on <https://comfortreadyhome.com/> or contact a Comfort Ready Home field specialist with additional questions.

