



Success Stories

Washington State Low-Income Weatherization Program

Profile

City of Seattle, Office of Housing, HomeWise Program

Think insulation is all about keeping the cold out and the heat in? Think again.

Orville and his wife Parry haven't experienced a cold, wet Northwest fall or winter (or spring, for that matter) since the completion of energy-efficiency work and other improvements to their home, facilitated through Office of Housing's HomeWise Program. But they already feel the changes.

"We did notice a big difference during this past little heat wave we had," Johnson said, referring to the few days in August when temperatures reached into the 90s. "With all the new insulation, the house was cooler. I'm sure we'll really notice it in the winter time."

Orville and Parry bought the home, built in 1945, from the

original owner in 1999. Shortly after, they installed a new roof, but otherwise, everything in the home was original, including the plumbing and windows. "All of it was really on its last legs," Orville said. "Our house really needed a lot of things, but we couldn't really afford to do all that was needed."

Orville, a self-employed musician who also teaches and writes about music, heard about HomeWise from a friend who had used the program. With Parry currently not working because of a disability, the combination of the grant-funded weatherization measures with a no-interest home repair loan made it financially feasible to complete all necessary repairs and improvements to extend the life of their home.

Weatherization work, which is no-cost to income-qualifying households, included weatherstripping of doors, installation of bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans, plus insulation in the attic, walls

and basement. These measures will make the home more comfortable (cooler on the hot days, warmer on the cold days), as well as reduce energy use.

Office of Housing's home repair loan program allowed Orville and Parry to complete other much-needed improvements, including replacing those 65-year-old windows, plumbing and electrical fixes, exterior painting and other minor repairs. As with all HomeWise clients, they also received carbon monoxide detectors, a smoke alarm and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

"The program really enabled us to make [our home] last, really, for the rest of our lives," said Orville. "If we get 30 more years out of it, we'll be happy."

For Information

Contact: Program Intake
HomeWise Program
HomeWise@seattle.gov
(206) 684-0244

Contact: Tim Bernthal
tim.bernthal@commerce.wa.gov
360.725.5004



Department of Commerce
Innovation is in our nature.

