

Report Prepared By

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Weatherization Training Grant Program

The Minnesota Department of Commerce presents this report regarding the Weatherization Training Grant Program. As established by Minnesota Statutes § 216C.2641, this program is designed to award grants to train workers for careers in the weatherization industry.

Commerce awarded the Minnesota Home Energy Training (MNHET) grant to Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) through competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) in May 2025. CEE's MNHET team includes Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College, The Energy Conservatory, and Slipstream as partners. This [collaborative partnership](#) provides training for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and workforce development opportunities to the broader home energy trades in Minnesota. Industry-recognized Building Performance Institute (BPI) credentialing is being offered to the WAP network. Responsive training for in-field support, workforce development programming, and further site buildouts are ongoing.

Commerce allocated \$6 million of the state pre-weatherization program budget to the MNHET project through June 30, 2029. Of that \$6 million, Commerce provided \$1.25 million in funding for facility improvements at Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College and The Energy Conservatory where trainees will receive weatherization career training throughout the grant. These are the only funds that have been encumbered as of November 2025.

Commerce expects to see significant spend of program funds in the coming year as program design advances. The MNHET began coordinating and conducting training for the Weatherization Assistance Program on July 1, 2025, but to date, these activities have been funded through federal Department of Energy (DOE) funds (DOE WAP formula and DOE WAP Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)). State funds will support workforce development programming, responsive training, and physical space improvements at MNHET training sites in the year ahead. These efforts are expected to continue until late 2026 and Commerce will report on outcomes from these efforts in the next annual report.