

THE STATE OF POVERTY

The National Association for State Community Services Programs' (NASCSPP) Blog

Women of Weatherization- #WomenOfWAP

Posted March 8, 2018

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has been around for over 40 years and has served over 7.4 million households, saving families money and making their homes healthier and safer. From the very beginning of the WAP's history, women have been a driving force in weatherization. This is the first post of a month long feature for Women's History Month. Each post will highlight a few of the women working across the country in the Weatherization Assistance Program. You can join the conversation on social media with the hashtag: #WomenOfWAP

Featured in this post...

Rukia Streeter

Weatherization Specialist, City of Rockford Community Action Agency, Illinois



1. How did you first get interested and involved in weatherization?

A former college teacher of mine called me and said I should sign up for the Urban Weatherization Program. He said they were looking for qualified women and that I would be great at it! He was right!

2. Tell us about your current and past roles in the WAP.

I started out as a trainee in the Urban Weatherization Program. I studied basic building science and received my BPI Building Analyst certification. I currently work for the City of Rockford

Community Action Agency as a Weatherization Specialist and a Quality Control Inspector performing energy audits and final inspections for the IHWAP program and the Emergency Furnace Program through LIHEAP.

3. What is it like being a woman in weatherization? Advantages? Challenges?

Being a woman in Weatherization is great! Weatherization is still mainly male dominant and can be quite competitive. It makes me set the bar high and challenge myself more often which promotes self-growth.

4. Why do you work in weatherization? What about your job makes you excited to go to work in the morning?

Weatherization is the same yet vastly different every day. I love that I get to be outside and meet new people every day. This job is never boring and is always making me ask questions. I am constantly learning as new technology emerges and building practices change. I also like that I am helping people while helping the environment. I am lessening the energy burden for the client and the world one house at a time. It's a small contribution but a contribution nonetheless.

5. Do you have advice for other women interested in joining the weatherization field?

My advice to women is to use any hesitation and fear you may have as a driving force to be the best auditor you can be and don't be afraid of a little competition!