



# Federal Funding for Patients and Communities: Resources for Community Health Centers

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The Medical Society Consortium on  
**CLIMATE & HEALTH**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
Community Health Centers®

**REWIRING  
AMERICA**

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) presented historic amounts of federal funding for climate resilience initiatives. It is accelerating progress to meet America's climate goals and build a clean energy economy. The IRA includes numerous grant programs and funding opportunities to invest in new clean energy and emissions reduction. Providers and patients can use these programs to invest in zero-emissions or low-emissions energy generation to protect health and protect the planet.

As trusted leaders in the community, health centers can educate patients and community members about protecting their health at home. Indoor pollution from gas appliances can cause asthma, COPD, and other illnesses, while poor insulation can expose people to extreme temperatures and let in harmful external pollutants.

Switching to electric appliances can be expensive, but funding from the IRA and other federal initiatives can help support homeowners and renters to make these changes. Many people do not know that they are eligible for these dollars, or that some of these upgrades will save them money in the long run. Resources from Rewiring America, the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help people get started.

***This guide provides two patient-facing resources, designed to help individuals get started and learn more about their eligibility. It also provides sample social media posts, ideas for community engagement, and guidance for talking with patients.***



The Consortium mobilizes health professionals to address climate change as a health and equity crisis. We work to ensure that climate policy is grounded in health and equity, foster collective action on a local, state, and federal level to transition us quickly toward renewable energy, and work to grow and diversify the climate movement



The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) was founded in 1971 to promote efficient, high-quality, comprehensive health care that is accessible, culturally and linguistically competent, community directed, and patient-centered for all.



Rewiring America is the leading electrification nonprofit, focused on electrifying our homes, businesses, and communities. We develop accessible, actionable data and tools, and build coalitions and partnerships to make going electric easier for households and communities. Rewiring America helps Americans save money, tackle nationwide emissions goals, improve health, and build the next generation of the clean energy workforce. We believe in an abundant, flourishing, climate-safe future, and know that, together, we can realize one.



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# Talking to Patients About Their Options

Even small changes can help improve health. Some home electrification upgrades can reduce a patient's risk of developing asthma or other chronic lung issues. Insulation measures can increase comfort at home by limiting pollutants, improving sleep, and maintaining safe temperatures. In addition, these measures often help patients save substantially on utility costs in the long run.

However, you know your patients best. For many, electrification or weatherproofing measures may be out of reach due to income level, lack of time, or other more pressing priorities. A new home electric heating system or kitchen cooktop may not be feasible for a patient today, but could be something they consider down the line as appliances need replacing. In addition, some upgrades are portable and can be accessed by renters: Window-unit heat pumps and some electric cooktops either already qualify or will qualify in the near future, and can help improve health at home.

There are opportunities available to your patients. Support for implementing home improvement measures like these has never been as accessible as it is now. Existing resources from Rewiring America, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are designed to help as many people as possible get started. By pointing patients towards these resources, you are providing them with important tools to help protect their health at home, and understand what their options are.

***The following pages are designed to inform patients about available resources. You can leave them in waiting rooms, hang them up, or give them to patients directly. They are intended to direct patients to further resources to help them understand their options.***



# Improving Health at Home: Electrification

You may have heard that there is money available for home electrification through the Inflation Reduction Act, a law passed in 2022. This includes appliances like stoves, and heating and cooling devices.

Did you also know that installing electric appliances can improve the health of your family, particularly for those with asthma, COPD or other chronic diseases? There are resources available to help you access these funds, understand your options, and prepare a plan for the future.



## Potential Savings:

- More discounts and savings are available than ever before!
- Save an average of **\$1,800** a year by going electric. Collect up to **\$14,000** in discounts to switch over to electric appliances, depending on household income.
- Collect rebates or tax credits for electrification upgrades and solar installation.

Want to read more about what the IRA can do for you?

Go to [Rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide](https://rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide) or scan the QR code below to:



- Learn how to upgrade your appliances and protect your health
- Get information for homeowners and renters alike



# Why Weatherproof?

Weatherproofing helps keep your house at a comfortable temperature, no matter how hot or cold it is outside, without wasting energy. Weatherproofing might mean adding insulation, or sealing up any gaps to keep out outside air. Visit <https://bit.ly/RA-Weatherization> to learn more about the tax credits and rebates available for weatherproofing your home.”

Also, funding from the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help some households pay for weatherproofing to keep their home a comfortable temperature and save money on energy bills.



## Benefits to Your Health:

- Keep your house from getting too hot or cold
- Keep out things you might be allergic to like mold and dust mites
- Help prevent asthma attacks and other lung diseases



## Potential Savings:

- Save money on your heating and cooling bill by wasting less energy .
- Get up to \$1,600 in rebates for insulation, air sealing, and ventilation, depending on household income.
- Get up to \$1,200 per year in tax credits covered for weatherproofing projects.



## Getting Started:

Two federal programs: the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) may provide support for weatherproofing and electricity bills. If you already use programs like SNAP, SSI or TANF, you may be eligible. Many states may administer the WAP and LIHEAP programs together.



You can use the LIHEAP Eligibility Tool to see if you qualify and get started today. Click or scan the QR code for more information.



You can use the WAP Eligibility Tool to determine your eligibility and get started. Click or scan the QR code for more information.



# Mejorando la Salud en Su Hogar: Electrificación

Es posible que haya escuchado que hay dinero disponible para cambiar sus electrodomésticos a aquellos que usan electricidad a través de la Ley de Reducción de la Inflación (IRA), una ley aprobada en 2022. Esto incluye electrodomésticos como estufas y dispositivos de calefacción y refrigeración.

¿Sabía también que instalar electrodomésticos puede mejorar la salud de su familia, especialmente la de quienes padecen asma, EPOC u otras enfermedades crónicas? Hay recursos disponibles para ayudarle a acceder a estos fondos, conocer sus opciones y preparar un plan para el futuro.



## Ahorros Potenciales:

- ¡Hay más descuentos y ahorros disponibles que nunca!
- Ahorre un promedio de \$1,800 al año optando por la electricidad en vez de gas. Obtenga hasta \$14,000 en descuentos para cambiar sus electrodomésticos, dependiendo de los ingresos del hogar.
- Obtenga reembolsos o créditos fiscales por mejoras de electrificación e instalación solar.

### Quiere leer más sobre lo que la IRA puede hacer por usted?

Para más información, visite [Rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide](https://rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide) o escanee el código QR a continuación para:



- Aprender cómo actualizar sus electrodomésticos y proteger su salud
- Obtener información tanto para dueños de hogar como para inquilinos

# ¿Por qué Climatizar?

La climatización ayuda a mantener su casa a una temperatura agradable, sin importar el calor o el frío que haga afuera y sin gastar energía. La climatización podría significar agregar aislamiento o sellar cualquier espacio para evitar la entrada de aire exterior. Visite <https://bit.ly/RA-Weatherization> para obtener más información sobre los créditos fiscales y reembolsos disponible para climatizar su hogar.

También, fondos del Programa de asistencia para la climatización (WAP) y el Programa de asistencia energética para hogares de bajos ingresos (LIHEAP) pueden ayudar a pagar la climatización para algunas familias a mantener su hogar a una temperatura cómoda y ahorrar dinero en su factura de energía.



## Beneficios para Su Salud:

- Evita que su casa se caliente o enfríe demasiado.
- Mantenga alejados los elementos a los que pueda ser alérgico, como el moho y los ácaros del polvo.
- Ayude a prevenir ataques de asma y otras enfermedades pulmonares.



## Ahorros Potenciales:

- Ahorre dinero en su factura de calefacción y refrigeración, gastando menos energía.
- Obtenga hasta \$1,600 en reembolsos por aislamiento, sellado de aire y ventilación, según los ingresos del hogar.
- Obtenga hasta \$1,200 por año en créditos fiscales para proyectos de climatización.



## Para Empezar:

Dos programas federales, el Programa de asistencia para la climatización (WAP) y el Programa de asistencia energética para hogares de bajos ingresos (LIHEAP), pueden brindar apoyo para la climatización y las facturas de electricidad. Si ya utiliza programas como SNAP, SSI o TANF, puede ser elegible. Muchos estados administran los programas WAP y LIHEAP juntos.



Puede utilizar la herramienta de elegibilidad de LIHEAP para calificar hoy. Escanee el código QR para más información.



Puede utilizar la herramienta de elegibilidad WAP para calificar hoy. Escanee el código QR para más información.



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# Promoting Healthy Homes with your Patients and Community



## Patient encounters

Have these conversations during appointments, and point patients to weatherproofing or electrification as a way of protecting their health.



## Printed handouts for the waiting room

These resources are easily printable and can be left in common areas.



## Health fair distribution

Bring these resources out into the community, and tell people what tools are available.



## Collaboration with local partners

Introduce these resources to partner organizations in your community, and help spread the word.



## Upload to a website or post on social media platforms

Take the message beyond the clinic.

***As a trusted community resource, you can help support the people you serve. There is funding available, and it can support people who want to live healthier, safer lives. This funding can not only make your clinic safer and more reliable – it can also protect people at home, before they even set foot in a health center.***

# Sample Text for Social Media or Newsletters



The following items can be used on your social media accounts or in newsletters. Items 1-3 are suitable for Twitter/X in terms of length.

1

Improve air quality and reduce health risks. Plus, IRA funding is available to help make these changes easier! #CleanEnergy #HealthyLiving

<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide>

2

Did you know that using oil or gas appliances releases harmful pollutants into the air? Make the switch to clean energy in your home and breathe easier with the help of IRA funding. #AirQuality #CleanEnergy

<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide>

3

Protect your family's health by moving away from oil or gas heating and appliances in your home. IRA funding can help you make the switch to clean energy and reduce your carbon footprint. #Sustainability #HealthyLiving

<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide>

4

Did you know that switching from oil or gas heating and appliances to clean energy in your home can have a positive impact on your health? Using oil or gas releases harmful pollutants into the air, which can cause respiratory problems and other health issues. But with IRA funding, making the switch to clean energy is easier than ever! <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide>

5

Are you concerned about the air quality in your home? Moving away from oil or gas heating and appliances and towards clean energy can help improve the air you breathe and reduce health risks. And with IRA funding available, there's never been a better time to make the switch!

<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide>

6

Protecting our planet starts at home! By moving away from oil or gas heating and appliances and towards clean energy, we can reduce our carbon footprint and improve our health. And with IRA funding available, making this change easier than ever. Make the switch today and start living a healthier, more sustainable life!

#CleanEnergy #Sustainability <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide>



## CLIMATE RESILIENCE RESOURCES

- **Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool:** This resource has an interactive map and uses datasets that are indicators of burdens in eight categories: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development. The tool uses this information to identify communities that are experiencing these burdens. <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>
- **Climate Resilience for Frontline Clinics:** This toolkit provides useful resources for health care providers, patients and administrators at free clinics and community health centers to meet the challenges for health care from climate change. <https://americares.org/climateclinics>
- **Climate Vulnerability Index:** To drive climate action and effective solutions, the CVI visualizes the cumulative impacts many communities are experiencing from decades of inequitable development and systemic disinvestment. The CVI allows users to search by location and view their overall climate vulnerability and the conditions that shape it – from quality of housing and access to supermarkets to proximity to toxic waste sites and number of deaths from air pollution. [https://map.climatevulnerabilityindex.org/map/cvi\\_overall/usa?mapBoundaries=Tract&mapFilter=0&reportBoundaries=Tract&geoContext=State](https://map.climatevulnerabilityindex.org/map/cvi_overall/usa?mapBoundaries=Tract&mapFilter=0&reportBoundaries=Tract&geoContext=State)
- **Harvard Energy & Environmental Law IRA resources:** This resource provides an overview of the environmental justice provisions within the Inflation Reduction Act <https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/2022/08/ira-ej-provisions/>
- **Health Care Without Harm:** Health Care Without Harm works to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. <https://noharm.org/>
- **HHS Voluntary Health Sector Climate Pledge:** On Earth Day 2022, the White House and HHS launched the Health Sector Climate Pledge, a voluntary commitment to climate resilience and emissions reduction that includes cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050. A group of 116 organizations representing 872 hospitals have signed the Pledge as of April 12, 2023. Organizations can sign the Pledge at any time. <https://www.hhs.gov/climate-change-health-equity-environmental-justice/climate-change-health-equity/actions/health-sector-pledge/index.html>



- **National Integrated Heat Health Information System:** Heat related illnesses and death are largely preventable with proper planning, education, and action. Heat.gov serves as the premier source of heat and health information for the nation to reduce the health, economic, and infrastructural impacts of extreme heat. <https://www.heat.gov/>
- **Practice Greenhealth:** Practice Greenhealth helps members access resources and tools to prepare for the impacts of the changing climate and build community resilience. It's a valuable resource for information, tools, data, and expert technical support on sustainability initiatives that help hospitals and health systems meet their health, financial, and community goals. <https://practicegreenhealth.org/topics/climate-and-health/resilience>
- **Rewiring America:** Rewiring America is the leading electrification nonprofit, focused on electrifying our homes, businesses, and communities. They develop accessible, actionable data and tools, and build coalitions and partnerships to make going electric easier for households and communities. <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/>