

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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New Weatherization Funding Available for Low-income Households *Through TDEC, TVA, and KUB Funding*

To build on weatherization progress in our community and address energy burden for low-income customers, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will provide \$750,000 over the next two years for weatherization in the KUB service area. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will also provide an additional \$75,000 to support the comfort and health benefits of weatherization. The TDEC grant funds will build on Knoxville Utilities Board's (KUB) \$1 million annual commitment to weatherization programs, the \$1.1 million contributed by TVA to Knoxville's Home Uplift program, and KUB customer contributions to Round It Up to further help customers in need.

KUB has a long legacy of supporting low-income weatherization programs through Round It Up, TVA's Home Uplift, and the Knoxville Extreme Energy Makeover. Through these programs, more than 1,800 homes have received weatherization upgrades, however, there is still a large need in our community, and nearly 3,000 homes remain on the waiting list. Weatherization upgrades improve the energy efficiency of customer homes by replacing or upgrading inefficient home systems, such as the heat and air conditioner, reducing the energy burden for the home at the source. Weatherization reduces energy consumption and utility bills while enhancing customer comfort and health by improving indoor air quality and reducing the stress low-income families face over their utility bill.

"For low-income customers in energy-inefficient homes with high utility bills, home improvements that would reduce their energy consumption are often out of reach," said Tiffany Martin, KUB Vice President and Chief Customer Officer. "Weatherization programs are vital to addressing these needs in our community, and we are appreciative that TDEC and TVA are providing funding to improve the lives of our friends and neighbors."

According to Cindy Herron, vice president of TVA EnergyRight, "This program is about more than power bills and energy savings. It's also about our neighbors feeling safe and comfortable in their own homes. Through Home Uplift, families no longer have to worry about how they will stay warm in the winter or cool in the summer – they know and trust that KUB and TVA are there to help them through good days and bad days."

This project is funded under a grant contract between KUB and TDEC and will be administered by TVA. Eligible energy efficiency upgrades include air sealing, duct sealing/replacement, attic insulation, water heater and pipe insulation, wall insulation,

HVAC clean and tune, HVAC replacement, windows and door replacement, heat pump water heater, refrigerator replacement, LED bulbs, and low-flow showerheads.

To qualify for the TDEC grant funding, customers must:

- Be a residential homeowner and currently reside in the home where the energy efficiency measures could be implemented
- Reside in KUB's service area and be the primary account holder
- Be of limited income status as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program Federal Income Standard or Participant's income must not exceed 80% of the median income level(s) designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Knoxville, Tennessee Metro Fair Market Rent Area
- Be willing to schedule an in-home energy audit if approved
- Share home energy performance information

KUB customers that do not meet the requirements above may be eligible for other weatherization programs. For more information, read more about KUB's weatherization partnerships [here](#).

About TVA

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies serving nearly 10 million people in parts of seven southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system, and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.

About TDEC

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation exists to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Tennessee and to be stewards of our natural environment by protecting and improving the quality of Tennessee's air, land, and water through a responsible regulatory system; protecting and promoting human health and safety; conserving and promoting natural, cultural and historic resources; and providing a variety of quality outdoor recreational experiences.

KUB is a municipal utility serving Knox and parts of seven adjacent counties and provides electric, gas, water, and wastewater services to more than 468,000 customers.

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