



AHIP ENERGY RETROFIT & REPAIR

Who?

AHIP's Energy Retrofit & Repair Initiative ensures the safety, stability, health, comfort, and affordability for families in Charlottesville and Albemarle. For a family on a very low or fixed income, the energy savings can be significant. Low-income homeowners typically pay a much larger percentage of their income on fuel costs than their more affluent neighbors.

What?

Our Energy Retrofit and Repair Initiative tackles smaller projects that reduce homeowners' energy usage and utility bills, and include tasks such as airsealing, duct-wrapping, installing energy-efficient appliances, windows, doors, HVAC systems, and insulating. These include energy audits and pre- and post-tests to measure energy gains, and are done in partnership with LEAP (Local Energy Alliance Program) as part of its Home Performance with Energy Star certification program. The cost ceiling for these projects is \$5,000.

How?

AHIP rehab staff incorporates high-efficiency standards into all rehabs to achieve maximum energy efficiency. AHIP retrofits seek to achieve a minimum 20 percent efficiency gain as set by the U.S. Department of Energy. Over the past three years, AHIP completed 55 energy-efficiency projects that resulted in an average efficiency gain of 32 percent and significant savings on energy bills for homeowners.

Why?

Efficiency gain is our best measure of success in this program because it exists independent of consumer habits and utility rates. We often receive responses to our post-project survey like this one from Margaret, a city resident: "AHIP's project for my home was meaningful to me because of the energy-efficiency savings and making my home function better all around. I was unaware of the many faults in my home."

Meet the Breeden Family

Several years ago, we met a young family in Greenwood. Tired of the instability of renting and wanting to build long-term assets, the Breedens bought their first home with the help of a local first-time homebuyer program and a low-cost loan. Their mortgage was \$400 a month, which was incredibly affordable. But the electric baseboard heat and the lack of insulation in the walls meant that their heating bill soared to more than \$600 per month during the colder months. Suddenly, this affordable home was no longer affordable.