Southeast Nebraska Community Action

Autumn 2026

Weatherization * Radon Mitigation
Affordable Housing * Homebuyer Ed
Owner Occupied Rehab
Community Improvement

Investing in our Neighbors
Improving Lives
Strengthening Communities

SENCA Weatherization: Restoring Comfort and Savings for Local Households

Living on a fixed income in rural southeast Nebraska, Judy found herself in a cycle of increasing utility costs that was putting a financial strain on her already tight monthly budget. Her home was extremely drafty, with almost no insulation in the attic or walls.

Judy applied to Southeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership (SENCA) for weatherization assistance. Following approval of her application, SENCA's trained and certified weatherization staff completed an inspection to ensure the home met program guidelines. During the inspection it was discovered the home contained outdated knob and tube wiring. SENCA could not safely install insulation until the structure was completely rewired, forcing Judy's project into a deferral stage.

SENCA utilized Department of Energy (DOE) deferral funds to cover electrician costs and successfully rewire the home. Once the safety hazard was resolved, the weatherization team worked with local and area contractors to install comprehensive attic and wall insulation, replace a leaky door and window, and add pipe and tank wraps. They also upgraded the home with energy-efficient light bulbs, dryer venting, exterior-vented fans, and sealed any ductwork penetrations. Because Judy also experienced significant issues with her home's cooling system, the program provided her with an emergency air conditioning replacement.

As a result of the energy saving improvements provided by SENCA's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the transformation of Judy's home has been life changing. By resolving the deferral issues, and completing a variety of much needed weatherization measures, SENCA permanently lowered the household's utility costs. It is estimated the upgrades provided to Judy's home will save an average of $1,492 a year in heating and cooling costs.

In addition to the financial relief that continues to provide Judy with a little more flexibility on her fixed income budget, the emergency air conditioning and air sealing have restored true comfort, safety, and peace of mind to her home.

Because Judy and her home qualified for weatherization assistance, she was referred to SENCA's Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) program to address other housing related issues including plumbing, exterior painting, and the installation of accessibility measures to assist with aging in place. OOR funding helped Judy paint her home and repair plumbing issues, but when it came to the accessibility measures, there were not enough funds available to complete the project.

SENCA's Housing Development Director, Amanda Palmerton, is a USDA loan packager and assisted Judy in applying for USDA 504 Direct Grant funding to complete the project. Judy was approved, and with the additional funding provide by USDA, was able to have important maintenance completed on her home to ensure a safer, healthier environment.



SENCA's weatherization and housing programs work together, along with other in-house and community based programs, to improve lives and strengthen south-east Nebraska communities, one household at a time.



In recognition of Weatherization's 50th Anniversary, Weatherization Director, Gin Christiansen, met with commissioners in SENCA's six core counties to share program data and proclaim October 30th, 2026 as Weatherization Day. Thank you WX Team!



Richardson County

SENCA Weatherization Improves Lives

For more than 50 years SENCA's Weatherization Program has helped low-income residents save energy and reduce heating and cooling costs an average 18.7%.

Households who qualify for weatherization assistance experience a reduction in energy costs for an extended length of time. This helps improve the efficiency of a homes heating or cooling equipment, providing savings for an average 15 to 20 years.

Weatherization services typically involve:

- Installation of attic, wall and floor insulation
- Sealing holes and cracks with caulking
- Inspection of furnaces, refrigerators & water heaters
- Some door and window replacement

Program eligibility is based on household size and incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Preference is given to persons age 60 and older, persons with disabilities, and families with children under age six.

Households with a member who receives Supplemental Security Income, or Aid to Dependent Children, are automatically eligible to receive services.

The Nebraska Department of Water, Environment & Energy (NDEE) administer the federally-funded Weatherization program for eight non-profit agencies throughout the state. Weatherization services can only be provided if funds are available. Funds allocated for assistance may vary year-to-year.

Seven of the eight statewide programs, including SENCA Weatherization, are managed by local Community Action Agencies (CAAs). During the 2026 fiscal year, SENCA provided Weatherization services, and energy conservation education, to 54 adults in 42 households throughout the counties of: Cass, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, and Sarpy.

The program produced long-term, and one-time benefits resulting in a 5 to 1 return on investment.

Weatherization Works

Interested in Weatherization or Radon Mitigation? Contact: Gin Christiansen, Weatherization Director, 402-862-2411 x 110.

Interested in Affordable Housing, Owner-Occupied Rehab, Homebuyer Ed, or Community Improvement? Contact: Amanda Palmerton, Housing Development Director, 402-862-2411 x 112.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY