

## Project Eligibility

The Program provides incentives and access to financing to promote the installation of eligible energy efficiency measures designed to increase the energy efficiency of existing 1-to-4 family buildings; the Program does not offer financial incentives for projects that include stand-alone additions, extensive gut rehabilitation (i.e. demolition to bare walls), or for energy-related improvements that are required by state or local building code.

A household at a given address can participate in the Program until the Program incentive cap is met. Once the Program incentive cap is met, the household cannot participate in the Program until three years have passed from the initial project completion date. If the household members move to a new address, then the three-year waiting period is cleared.

## Funding Requirements

Access to Program incentives and NYSERDA financing may be impacted by the following:

- The primary residence is an electric customer of a major utility paying into the Systems Benefits Charge (SBC).
  - Program funding for projects may be limited for municipal electric customers
- Alternative funding sources also available for Program projects may have program caps and other criteria which differ from Program rules.

## Eligible Measures

The Program will rely on the Eligible Measures list, found in Section 5.15 of the [Program Manual](#), for determining eligibility for incentives and Program Financing. These measures have been deemed by NYSERDA as meeting the program's requirements for program eligibility. Eligibility requirements for Program Financing can be found in the [Finance Program Manual](#) located here. The Program will monitor project costs as well as projected and actual energy cost savings while working with contractors to ensure the Program meets its energy savings and cost-effectiveness targets.

## Participating Contractor Non-Eligible Projects

Participating Contractors are prohibited from providing energy efficiency services, accepting Program referrals, or acting as a sub-contractor to another Participating Contractor on dwellings owned or occupied or by a Participating Contractor's employees, any principal, immediate family members, or associates with a financial interest in the Participating

Contractor's business. In the event there is an existing relationship, as outlined above, with a Participating Contractor and an income eligible household, the household remains eligible to receive services through NYSERDA's programs and should work with the program team to facilitate the project.

### **Substantial Renovation**

The goal of a substantial renovation is to increase efficiency in one or more areas of an existing primary residence with the overall goal of having the home be "heat-pump ready". This goal may need to be achieved over time.

A substantial renovation is not new construction, a gut rehabilitation where there are changes (deconstruct or newly construct) to interior walls, or a renovation to turn an existing space into a primary residence. Any and all program measure incentive approval for substantial renovation projects is at program staff's or its designee's discretion.

Substantial renovation projects are considered "short term" and require the primary residence or a space within the primary residence to be out of service for less than 30 consecutive days. For shell measures installed in unfinished/open cavities, the building owner or designated representative, must attest the insulated areas will be finished within 30 days of project completion, unless Program approves to finish small areas as part of the eligible work scope or covering insulated materials sooner is required by code. Residences owned by Non-Profits undergoing substantial renovations prior to renting or selling residence to an income qualified household, may be unoccupied for more than 30 days to allow for coordination with other trades, as necessary.

### **Mixed-Use Buildings**

- Residential units located in a building with commercial space (e.g. retail, restaurant, etc.) may qualify for Program incentives when:
  - The residential units have their own heating, cooling, and hot water systems separate from the commercial space or, if these systems are shared, they use residential-scale equipment.
    - Incentives and savings associated with shared equipment between a residential and commercial space will be prorated based upon the ratio of residential to commercial space.
    - The commercial space is not eligible to receive Program incentives.
  - The square footage of the residential space is at least 50% of the building total.
  - Mixed-Use projects will be reviewed by the Program to determine eligibility prior to Program approving work scope measures.

### Condos and Co-Ops

- Program applicant must own or lease and have authority to contract for work and make changes to the unit.
  - There must be a clear understanding between the owner/lessee and Participating Contractor what measures the owner/lessee has the right to install.
- HVAC measures shared between units cannot receive incentives without Condo or Co-Op board approval.