

Alan R. Jones, Executive Director/CEO

Testimony of Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. (ACAP)
Submitted to the New York State Joint Housing Budget Hearing
February 25, 2026

Chair Krueger, Chair Pretlow, and Members of the Legislature:

My name is **Alan R. Jones**, and I serve as Executive Director/CEO of Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. (ACAP), the federally designated Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provider for **Essex County**.

ACAP strongly supports the joint testimony submitted by NYSWDA, the Association for Energy Affordability, and NYSCAA. We respectfully urge the Legislature to restore and protect the 10 percent HEAP allocation to the Weatherization Assistance Program in the FY 2027 State Budget.

For decades, New York State has allocated 10 percent of Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) funding to WAP. This framework is essential to delivering permanent energy efficiency improvements, heating system upgrades, and critical health and safety measures to low-income households. The proposed diversion of these funds represents an estimated 60 percent reduction in our available weatherization resources — a level of loss that would fundamentally undermine program sustainability in our rural region.

In Essex County, where winters are long and severe, weatherization is not optional — it is critical infrastructure. ACAP’s Weatherization program:

- Reduces energy burden for seniors, families with children, and individuals with disabilities
- Improved housing quality and heating system safety for 41 households in the last year.
- Prevents utility arrears and housing instability
- Supports skilled building science professionals and local contractor networks

Aging Services

Nutrition Program

Hospital Food Service

Child and Family Services

After School

Child Care Resource and Referral

Early Head Start

Parenting Education

Supervised Visitation

Head Start

Community Services

Emergency Needs

Food Pantry

Homeless Assistance

Employment and Training

OneWorkSource Business & Employment Center (Partner Agency)

Weatherization and Energy Services

Without the HEAP-designated WAP funding, ACAP would be forced to reduce services dramatically, lay off trained staff, disrupt longstanding contractor relationships, and potentially dismantle essential weatherization infrastructure built over decades. These losses would not be temporary; once dismantled, this capacity will be extremely difficult to rebuild.

Weatherization is one of the most cost-effective housing stabilization tools available. It permanently lowers utility bills, improves health and safety, and strengthens rural communities like ours in the North Country.

We respectfully request that the Legislature restore and protect the 10 percent HEAP Weatherization set-aside through Social Services Law §97(5) in the final FY 2026–27 State Budget.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to housing stability and energy affordability for New Yorkers.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Jones
Executive Director/CEO