

Minimum Standards for Residential Energy Efficiency Contractors

1. **State Business** – Contractors are incorporated as a business in the state in which they operate.
2. **Licensing, Bonding, and Insurance** - Contractors must be licensed and bonded, and meet applicable state and local legal and administrative requirements for performing retrofits. Contractors must maintain at least a designated amount of general liability insurance; automobile liability insurance and other applicable insurance.
3. **No Excessive Violations of Law.** Contractors may have no excessive violations of workplace laws in the past three years, including Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) wage and hour laws, etc.
4. **No Debarment.** Contractors may not have not been debarred from bidding on public contracts by any jurisdiction, or been decertified, debarred, or declared ineligible for participation in any public weatherization or retrofit program in the past three years.
5. **Wages.** Contractors must compensate workers at a pre-determined amount per hour plus an additional designated amount in benefits or additional wages. Workers enrolled in state-approved apprenticeship programs may be paid the rate specified by that program, even if that rate is below the rate state above. Tasks requiring a specialized license, e.g. electrical, plumbing, HVAC, shall be paid at the designated state or federal prevailing wage rates whether or not the program is subject to prevailing wage requirements.
6. **Training and Certification.** Contractors must demonstrate that key staff have received training in performing energy efficiency retrofits such as (i) certification in a program-approved credentialing program; (ii) participation in a pre-determined amount of training in energy efficiency- related fields; or (iii) completion of a state-registered apprenticeship program for energy efficiency or weatherization.
7. **Experience.** Contractors can demonstrate previous experience in performing retrofits.
8. **Capacity.** Contractors must demonstrate staffing and/or subcontractor capacity to work on a designated number of simultaneous retrofits.
9. **Reporting.** Contractors must meet programmatic reporting requirements.
10. **Subcontracting.** Contractors must require all subcontractors to comply with licensing, wage payment, and wage reporting requirement of the program.
11. **Limitation on Overhead.** Contractors shall limit overhead charges on subcontracted portions of program work to a designated amount.

Energy efficiency programs help contractors understand and meet eligibility requirements by providing documents listing contact information for relevant regulatory and certifying agencies and business support resources that can help them meet program requirements.

Energy efficiency programs can require additional standards designed in accordance with the President's Implementing Guidance on ARRA. High Road Standards help projects produce a higher level of quality assurance, better quality jobs, and more equitable access to employment and business opportunities. For examples of such standards, visit www.greenforall.org/eetoolkit.