

# Energy Assistance: Keeping the Lights On

**Tim Zimmer**, *Assistance Director of Energy Services*  
Oregon Housing and Community Services

September 22, 2021

House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

# OHCS Vision and Mission

## **VISION**

All Oregonians have the opportunity to pursue prosperity and live free from poverty.

## **MISSION**

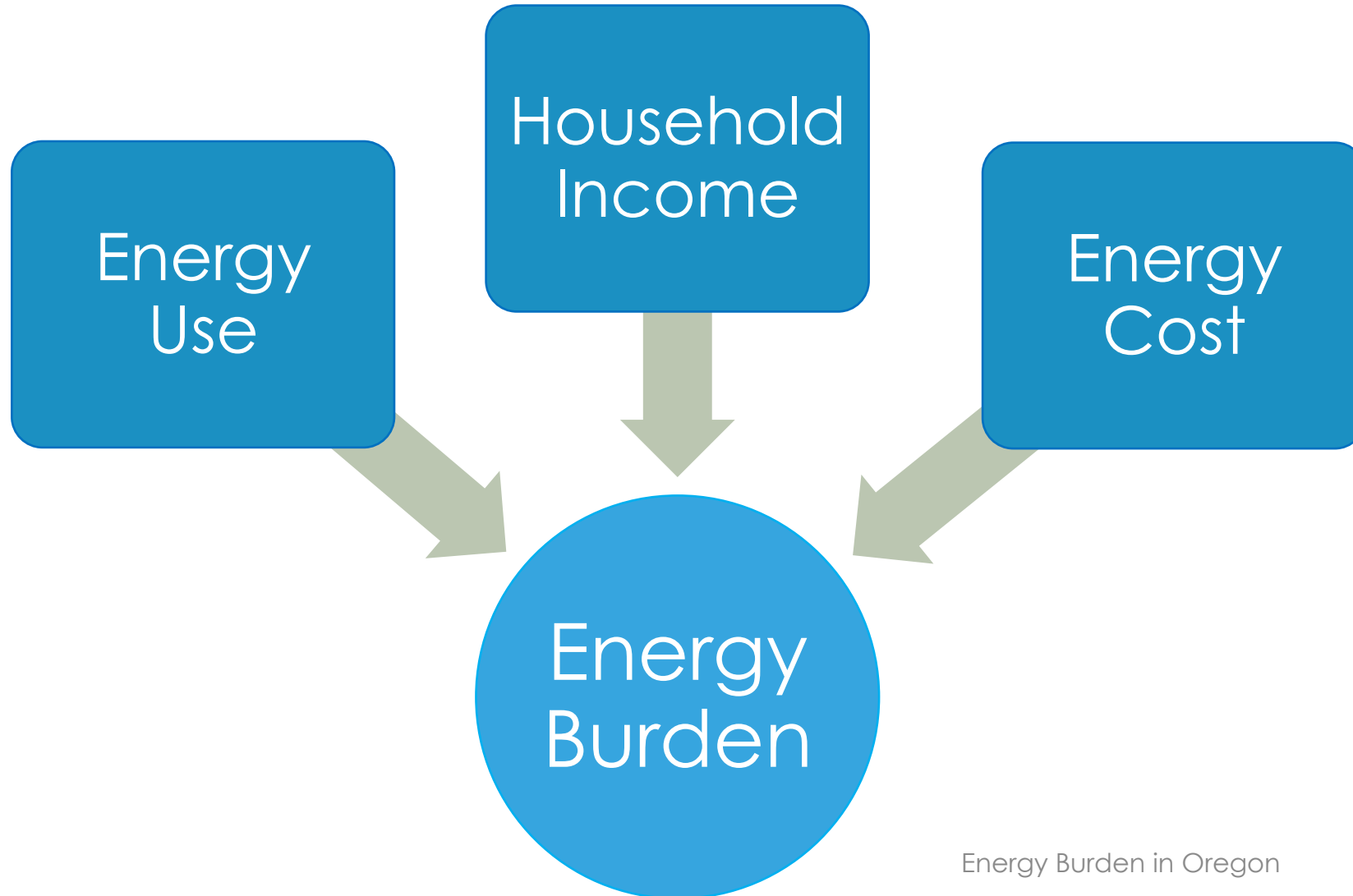
We provide stable and affordable housing and engage leaders to develop integrated statewide policy that addresses poverty and provides opportunity for Oregonians.

# What is Energy Burden?

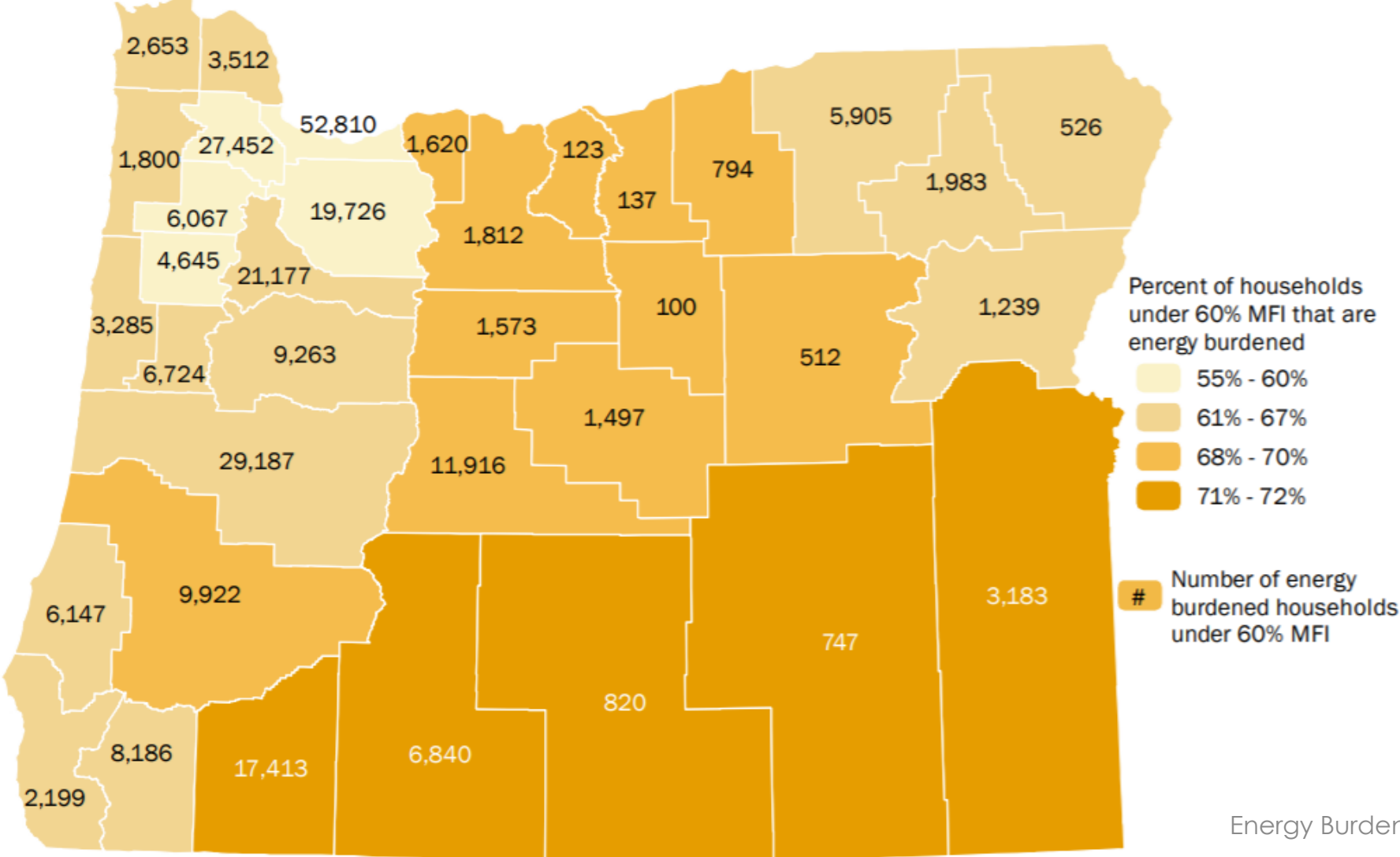
If a household spends **more than 6%** of their income on energy costs, they are considered energy burdened.

If a household spends **more than 10%** of their income on energy costs, they are considered severely energy burdened.

# Calculating Energy Burden



# Statewide Energy Burden for Low Income Communities



Energy Burden in Oregon



# OHCS Energy Assistance Programs

Energy Services programs are designed to support housing stabilization for low-income Oregonians by providing energy bill payment assistance and weatherization services to effectively reduce energy costs and improve health.

# Our Partners and Program Delivery



# Ongoing Energy Bill Pay Assistance Programs

## Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

<b>Eligibility:</b> Statewide	<b>Funding source:</b> Federal, US Department of Health and Human Services	<b>Funding level 2020 FY:</b> \$37 million	<b>Households Served:</b> 67,376
----------------------------------	---	---	-------------------------------------

## Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP)

<b>Eligibility:</b> PGE & Pacific Power service territory	<b>Funding source:</b> State, PGE & Pacific Power customers	<b>Funding level 2020 FY:</b> \$20 million	<b>Households Served:</b> 34,711
--	--	---	-------------------------------------

***We are only able to serve less than 20% of those eligible due to funding constraints.***





# COVID Response: Utility Assistance

- The CARES Act allocated an additional \$9.5 M for LIHEAP
- ARPA included an additional \$54.5 M for LIHEAP
- The Energy Assistance Stability Coronavirus Relief (EASCR) Program provided an additional \$15 M in utility assistance, Coronavirus Relief Funds allocated by the Emergency Board
- Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP) can cover utility bills as well as rent
- Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program will roll out in 2022 (\$13.8 M)

# Thank you

## Questions?

**Nicole Stingh**, *Assistant Director of Government Relations*  
Oregon Housing and Community Services  
[Nicole.Stingh@Oregon.gov](mailto:Nicole.Stingh@Oregon.gov)

# Reference Slides

# Weatherization Programs in Oregon

Program	Funding Source	Eligibility
<b>LIHEAP Weatherization</b>	Federal	Statewide, all fuel types
<b>USDOE Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE WAP)</b>	Federal	Statewide, all fuel types
<b>Energy Conservation Helping Oregonians (ECHO)</b>	Ratepayer PGE/PAC	PGE/PAC service territory
<b>Oregon Multifamily Energy Program (OR-MEP)</b>	Ratepayer PGE/PAC	PGE/PAC service territory
<b>Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)</b>	Ratepayer COU	BPA territory
<b>State Home Oil Weatherization (SHOW)</b>	Fuel oil dealers	Statewide, fuel oil homes
	<b>Total</b>	

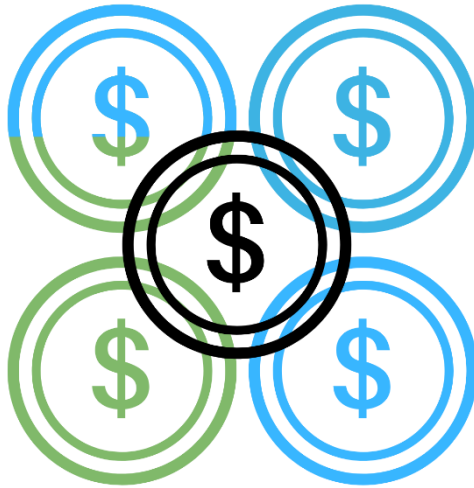


# What can weatherization programs fund?

- Attic, floor and wall insulation
- Replacement/repair of unsafe heating systems
- Replacement/repair inefficient appliances, such as furnaces and refrigerators
- Inspection of air quality especially carbon monoxide
- Conservation kits: energy efficient lighting, low-flow shower and faucet heads, window covers when available, carbon monoxide alarm, safety caps for electrical outlets

On average, a weatherized home saves \$350 annually. This equates to approximately 3,500 kWh of electricity saved or 2.5 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e.

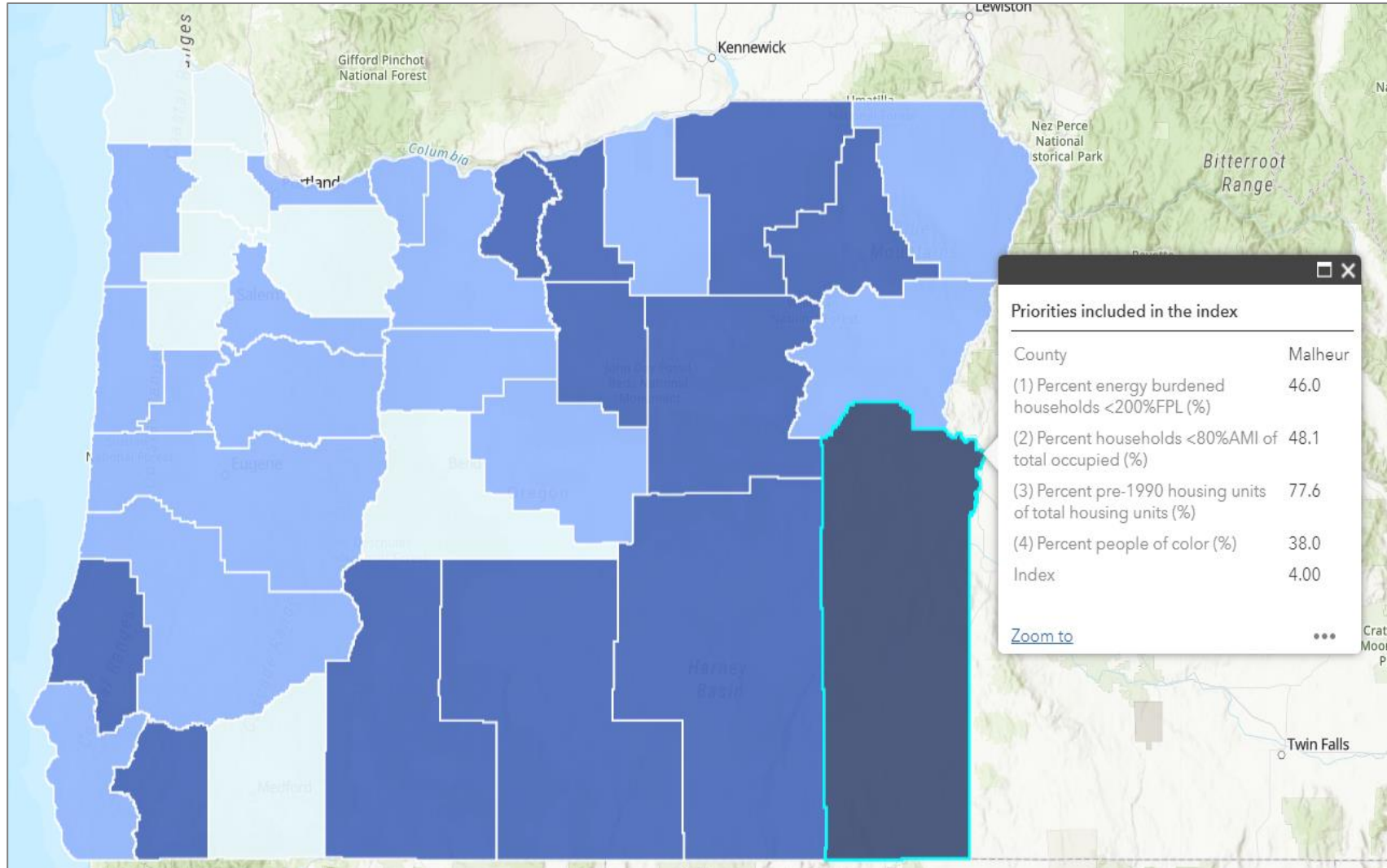
# Weatherization Benefits



For every \$1 spent on weatherization, we see a \$1.40 return on energy savings. When health and safety benefits are considered, we see a \$4 return on our investment.

- Results in persistent energy savings
  - Increases the resiliency of the household to fluctuations in utility costs
  - Results in reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Provides non-energy benefits to a household
  - Improved health
  - Safety and comfort

# Statewide Energy Burden: High Priority Index



Energy Affordability Gap of low-income Oregonians is **nearly \$350 million per year**

[Affordable Housing Assessment Tool](#)

[How to Guide](#)