Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc. (HOCN,) is a nonprofit Community Development Corporation currently operating the City of Buffalo’s Weatherization Assistance Program for the Ellicott and Niagara Districts. HOCN is proud to be able to offer qualified homeowners weatherization services to help keep their homes warm and their energy bills low.

The Weatherization Assistance Program will provide eligible homeowners with an energy audit and consultation to learn about any energy and comfort related concerns in your household. Up to $5,000 per structure are available to assist with weatherization upgrades in the home, as determined by the energy audit, including insulation, weather-stripping, and heating system repairs.

In order to be eligible to apply, homeowners must:

- Show proof (current bill and receipt) that you are up to date on (or on a certified payment plan) all City taxes, County taxes, User fees, Sewer Fees, Water fees, Parking Violations, Trash Violations, and any other City Adjudications;
- Have owned and occupied your home for at least one (1) year;
- Be the principal homeowner (with name on deed) and own no other properties;
- Have a household income of less than 80% AMI;
- Have a household assets value that does not exceed $20,000;
- Must fill out application with HOCN staff in person or over the phone;
- Must provide all required income verification and required documentation (please note that documentation may need to be collected more than once);
- Must comply with a five year occupancy term; and
- Must pay a $70 fee for closing in the form of a money order made payable to Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA)*

*not required at application intake