Description
The Weatherization Assistance Program enables low-income homeowners to permanently reduce their energy bills through energy efficiency upgrades to their home. In Kentucky, the Weatherization Assistance Program had been housed at another state agency until 2009 when it was moved to Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC). Along with other challenges that come with integrating an existing program to an organization, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 brought with it more funding for the program and the need for more comprehensive reporting and tracking.

KHC GREEN (Gathering and Reporting Energy Efficiency Needs of Kentucky) is a Web-based monitoring and real-time reporting system for the Weatherization Assistance Program. It tracks information required for state and federal reporting, including training and technical assistance, technical monitoring, Davis Bacon tracking, and compliance monitoring.

Prior to the development of KHC GREEN, there was no central location for Weatherization Assistance Program information; different staff and departments stored information in Excel spreadsheets in different locations. This approach was not efficient or practical. While needed information could be extracted from the spreadsheets, it took a great deal of time and effort to gather.

KHC GREEN was developed in five weeks and was officially launched in May 2010. The system has several features that have enhanced efficiency within the Weatherization Assistance Program and created uniformity in how information is tracked.

1. All staff who work with the Weatherization Assistance Program, regardless of if they are Weatherization staff or part of a support department, like those who conduct compliance reviews, are able to access and enter information in KHC GREEN.
2. The system includes summaries of monitoring reviews that have been conducted and can sort reviews by review type or by organization (KHC partners with different organizations to conduct weatherization home repairs).
3. Automatic alerts are sent to staff when a program requirement is due.
4. Staff can upload documents and/or images to the system, which is useful for identifying and documenting potential problems.

Depending on the staff ability and technology capabilities, this software could easily be used by other state housing agencies.

Accomplishments
The amount of staff time that has been saved through the use of KHC GREEN has easily outweighed the cost of staff time to create the program. KHC staff can now create accurate, up-to-date reports without having to extract the information from Excel spreadsheets. This system has simplified data entry and programmatic updates. Also, with features, such as the ability to upload images/documents and automatic alerts when a deadline is near, KHC staff are better able to manage all aspects of the Weatherization Assistance Program.