

## **Energy Upgrade California Launches:**

### **Up to \$4,500 Back for City of Santa Monica Homeowners!**

#### **CONTRACTOR QUESTIONS:**

##### **How do contractors become qualified to participate?**

- Contractors interested in participating must be fully licensed, take the utility-approved and administered training course and agree to abide by the program guidelines.
- To provide services beyond basic house sealing and insulation, contractors must be accredited by or have someone on staff certified by the Building Performance Institute (BPI), which works with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop best practices for home energy efficiency.
- Homeowners must work with participating contractors, who have been trained in energy efficiency methods.

##### **What are the costs to contractors who want to participate?**

- If the contractor is already a BPI Analyst (or has one on staff), all that is required is a free half-day orientation session to understand the program and incentive structure.
- If the contractor is not a BPI Analyst, a three-day training course is required for participation. These are conducted hands-on, in a rented house, to ensure contractors understand the “whole house” approach and the basic sealing and insulation elements.
- The three-day course is also provided at no cost to contractors.

##### **How is this going to create jobs for contractors?**

- Participating contractors have access to a new pool of potential clients with significantly less competition for the work than they would face on the open market.
- The resulting stream of new work will drive need for additional employees, creating jobs that offer the opportunity to build a true “green” skill set.

##### **What is the contractor’s role in securing the incentive funds? Is there paperwork to file?**

- Before beginning work on a home, contractors submit a scope of work to Energy Upgrade California.
- The work scope will be reviewed and approved, and funds set aside for that homeowner’s incentive.
- When work is completed, the contractor and homeowners work together to complete the required paperwork and supporting documentation.
- The contractor files the completed paperwork and the utilities will mail the check directly to the homeowner.
- The contractor is ultimately responsible for submitting the paperwork.

##### **Will the work be subject to inspection?**

- All work performed by participating contractors is subject to ongoing quality control and quality assurance measures.

**Will contractors be penalized if the homeowner does not receive the upgrade funds because of their work? Are contractors “on the hook” for those funds?**

- All participating contractors are licensed, bonded and have undergone Energy Upgrade California training.
- Receiving the incentive is not contingent upon a successful inspection - when contractors file the paperwork after the upgrade work is completed, the incentive will be awarded.
- If a homeowner believes the work performed is not acceptable, they can call the Energy Upgrade hotline and request an independent quality assurance inspector to check on the work.
- If any work is found to be outside of the Energy Upgrade California quality control standards, the contractor will be required to come back to the home and re-do it.