The BetterBuildings for Michigan residential program provides direct support—including home energy assessments, incentives and access to affordable loan options—to Michigan homeowners looking to make their homes more energy efficient.

The residential program targets 27 neighborhoods in several regions in Michigan, including the suburbs of southeast Michigan, the cities of Detroit, Grand Rapids, Wyandotte, Traverse City and Marquette, St. Joseph County and Bath and Dewitt Townships.

The residential program will offer energy efficiency improvements to more than 11,340 homes statewide.

Selected neighborhoods must have strong neighborhood groups, synergy with local partners including utilities, foundations and community action agencies, and a high percentage of home ownership.

Participating homeowners can expect to save hundreds on their utility bills while improving the comfort and value of their home.

Participants will also be helping to make their communities healthier and more sustainable places to live.

To market the program, partners, supporters and community members “sweep,” or canvass between 400 and 1,200 homes in targeted neighborhoods to educate homeowners and offer the program’s incentives.

Energy assessments and home weatherization and efficiency measures will be offered to homeowners who express an interest for a small fee ranging from $25 to $150.

Homeowners determine what additional energy efficiency measures make the most sense for their home and their budget. The energy assessment will provide them with a roadmap for making their home more energy efficient.

Affordable, no-down-payment loans to finance improvements will be offered to homeowners through the Michigan Saves Home Energy Loan Program. (www.michigansaves.org)

Homeowners will work with a Michigan Saves advanced contractor who has met requirements for licensing, insurance, and third-party certification, and who can perform a broad array of services and improvements.

For more information about the residential program, visit www.betterbuildingsformichigan.org.

BetterBuildings for Michigan uses a community approach to deliver energy efficiency improvements for homes and businesses by providing access to incentives and affordable loans. The program is supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and developed by the Michigan Energy Office; Michigan Saves; the City of Grand Rapids; the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Detroit; and the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office.