

LIHEAP Weatherization and Partner Weatherization Agencies

LIHEAP Training hosted by the Office of Community Services (OCS) in the
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

March 3, 2021

Welcome:

Erin Steuer (NCAT)

Presenters:

Sharnice Peters (OCS)

Peter Edelman (OCS)

Erica Burrin (DOE)

Sara Loewen (Montana)

Brian Sarensen (Washington)



Welcome

Purpose of This Session

- Grantees will understand their role and responsibilities in the delivery of weatherization services
- Grantees will learn about the relationship between LIHEAP and WAP
- Grantees will gain a better understanding of how they can adapt their programs to address emergent needs, such as COVID-19
- Hear from partners in Montana and Washington about the program changes and adaptations they implemented.

Audience for This Session

- LIHEAP Grantees and program staff who are interested in obtaining information about the operation of their LIHEAP Weatherization programs. This includes:
 - *LIHEAP Coordinators*
 - *LIHEAP Weatherization Coordinators*
 - *LIHEAP Program Monitors*



Session Overview

Structure of The Session

- 50 minutes to review the LIHEAP weatherization program component, how LIHEAP and WAP work together, and how both WA and MT programs responded and adapted in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Includes discussion with panelists about putting these ideas in to practice
- 10 minutes for Q & A

Have a question?

- You are encouraged to ask questions as you have them by typing them into the “Chat” box – Please indicate the speaker you would like to respond.
- Submitted questions will be reviewed and responded to at the end of the webinar or via an e-mail.



Zoom Chat Box

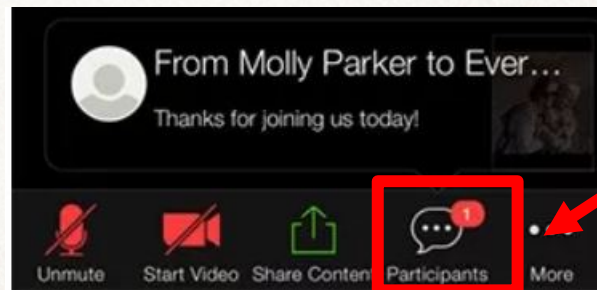
Chat on your Desktop

Meeting controls will be visible across the bottom of your screen.
Chat box will open on the right side of the screen.



Chat on your Device

Meeting controls will be visible across the bottom of your screen.
Chat box will open on the right side of the screen.



Administering a LIHEAP Weatherization Program

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Administering a Weatherization Program

- Up to 15% of total LIHEAP funds may be allocated to weatherization under LIHEAP statute
- A written waiver may be requested from HHS to increase the allocation up to 25% of total LIHEAP funds.
- LIHEAP Weatherization funds can be:
 - Administered directly by the LIHEAP grantee, or
 - Passed to a second state agency, which administers the DOE Weatherization Assistance Program



Program Reminder



If you include weatherization in your LIHEAP plan, it's important to ensure those funds are correctly obligated:

- Grantees are responsible under **OMB 2 CFR 200.332(d)** to monitor their sub-recipients regardless of an interagency agreement or MOU.



LIHEAP Statute

42 USC § 8624(c)(1)(D)

... describe...weatherization and other energy-related home repair the State will provide under subsection (k), including any steps the State will take to address the weatherization and energy-related home repair needs of households that have high home energy burdens, and describe any rules promulgated by the Department of Energy for administration of its Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program which the State...will follow...



Weatherization Rules

There are three options when deciding which weatherization rules will be adopted by your program:

- ✓ Exclusively DOE Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Rules

OR

- ✓ Exclusively LIHEAP Weatherization Rules

OR

- ✓ Combination of DOE and LIHEAP Weatherization Rules

NOTE: If your program uses some or all of the DOE rules, 42 USC § 8624(c)(1)(d) requires you to describe in your model plan to what degree you are going to adopt those rules and exactly which rules you intend to use.

NOTE: Exceptions should be outlined and submitted in your model plan.



LIHEAP Weatherization

WHAT IT IS:

Things done to a building where people live to **reduce energy use and lower energy costs** while making sure the people who live there are healthy and safe from weather-related conditions.

WHAT IT IS NOT:

- Housing Repair*
- Housing Rehabilitation
- Housing Restoration
- Housing Accessibility (i.e. installing a ramp)

**Exception: When repairs are needed to protect the weatherization measures*



Common LIHEAP WX Measures

- Furnace-related measures were most common,
- Followed by Weatherization needs assessments, and
- Insulation-related measures.



Planned use of WX Funds for FY21

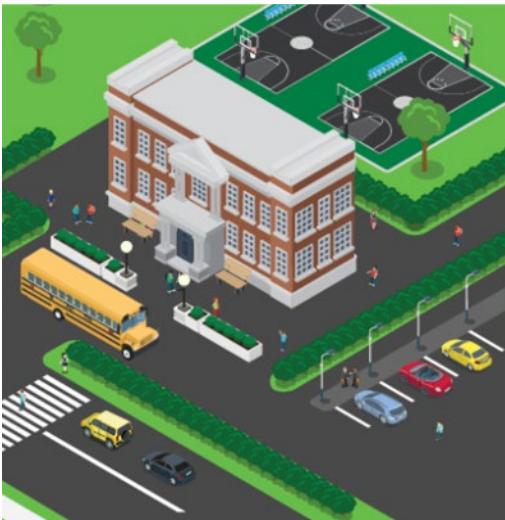
Some Possible Exceptions:

- Waiving the DOE WAP maximum statewide average cost per dwelling unit cap;
- Using the LIHEAP income eligibility threshold instead of the WAP threshold; and
- Waiving the DOE WAP Savings-to-Investment Ratio (SIR) standard.



Weatherization & LIHEAP

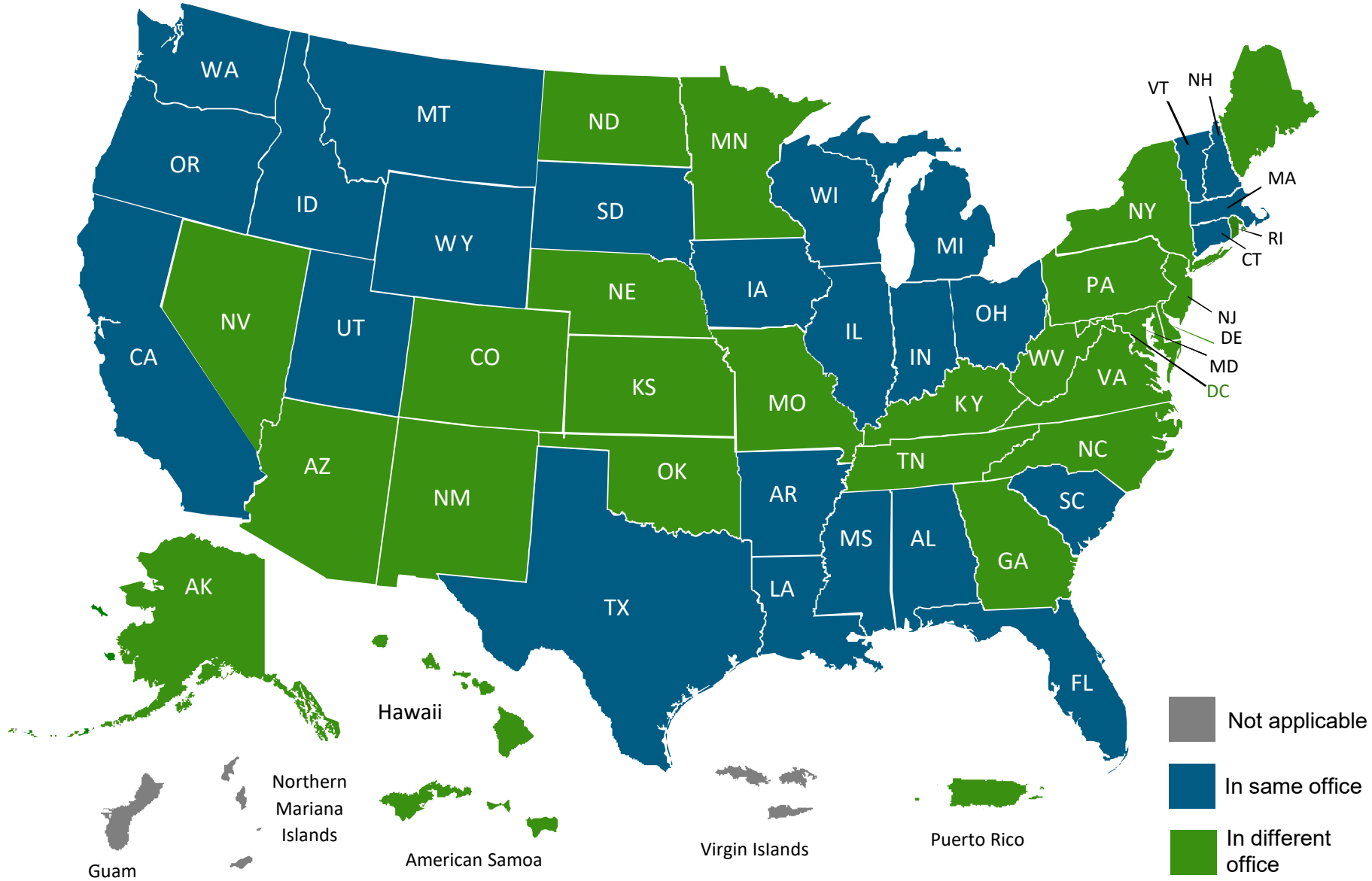
Erica Burrin, Program Manager
March 2021



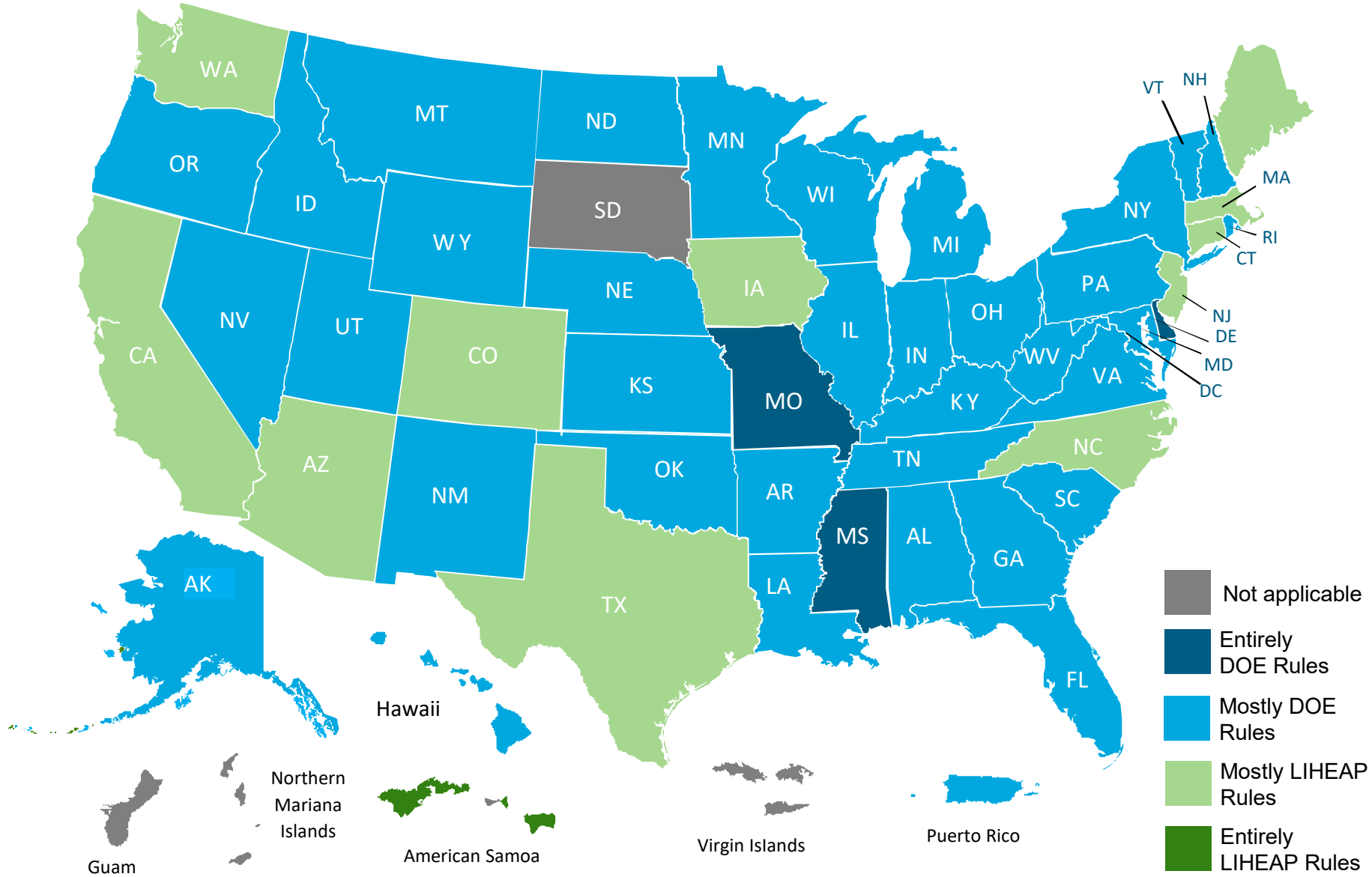
Overview

- Some background information on what rules Grantees are applying to LIHEAP Weatherization, if the programs are co-located and the percentage of transfer to LIHEAP weatherization
- COVID Related WAP resources and information

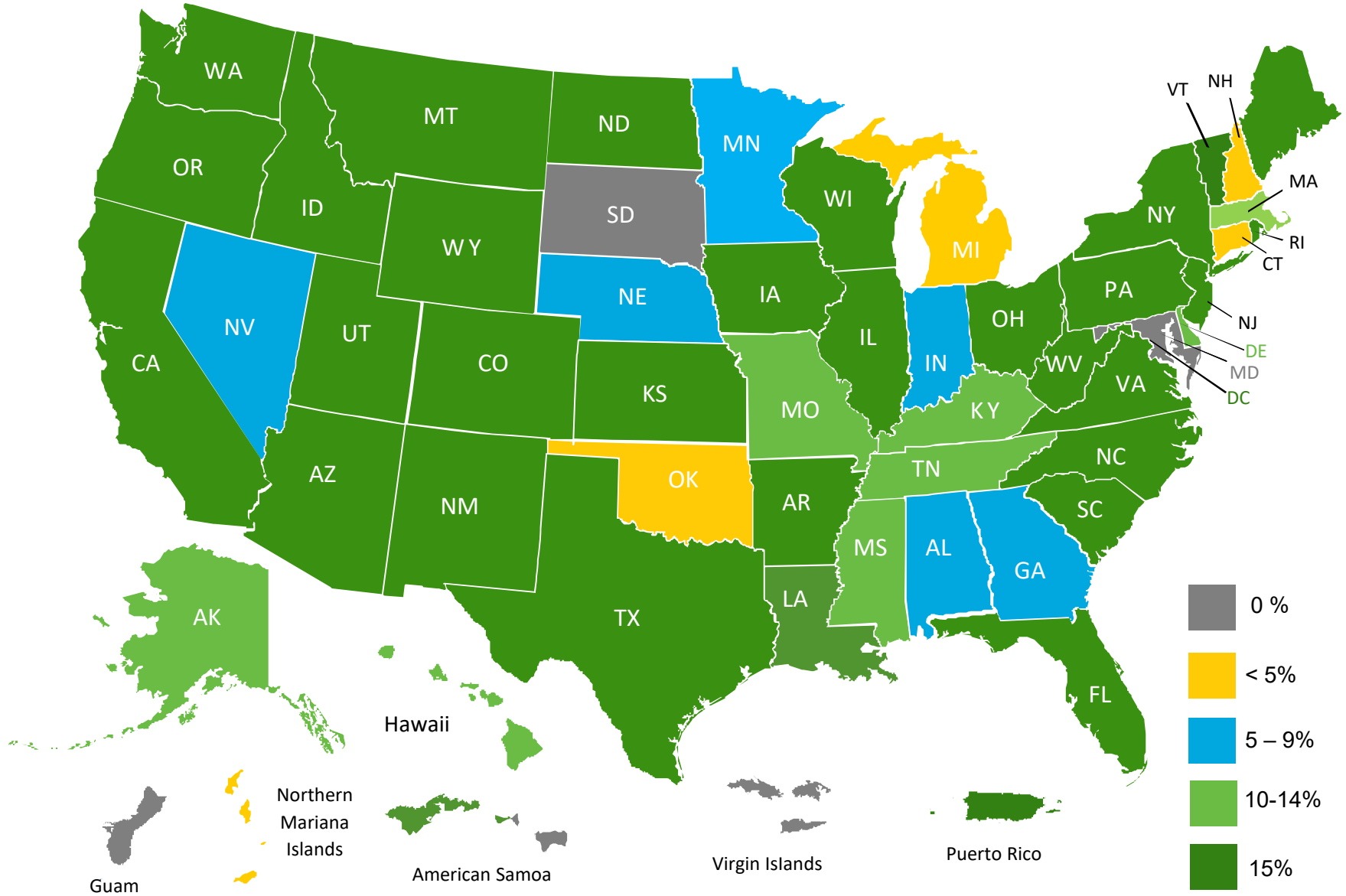
WAP/LIHEAP Office Overlap



Agency Rules | FY 2021



Percentage of LIHEAP Funds Transferred



Blended WAP/LIHEAP Funds In a House Can Pay For...

- Whole-House Energy Audit
- Measures installed to Standard Work Specifications(SWS)
- Final Inspection/Quality Control Inspection(QCI)
- Administrative Costs
- Training

LIHEAP Funds ONLY In a House Can Pay For...

- Health & Safety measures not allowed in Weatherization Program Notice 17-7, such as cookstove replacements.
- Scopes of work that do not meet DOE guidelines, for example, Weatherization without meeting ASHRAE ventilation standards.

COVID-19 Update & Support Materials

Memo 060:
**Frequently Asked Questions
Related to COVID-19**

Memo 067:

**Weatherization Assistance Program's
Response to Guidelines for Opening Up
America Again - Phases Two and Three,
plus Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
released August 14, 2020.**

May 2020

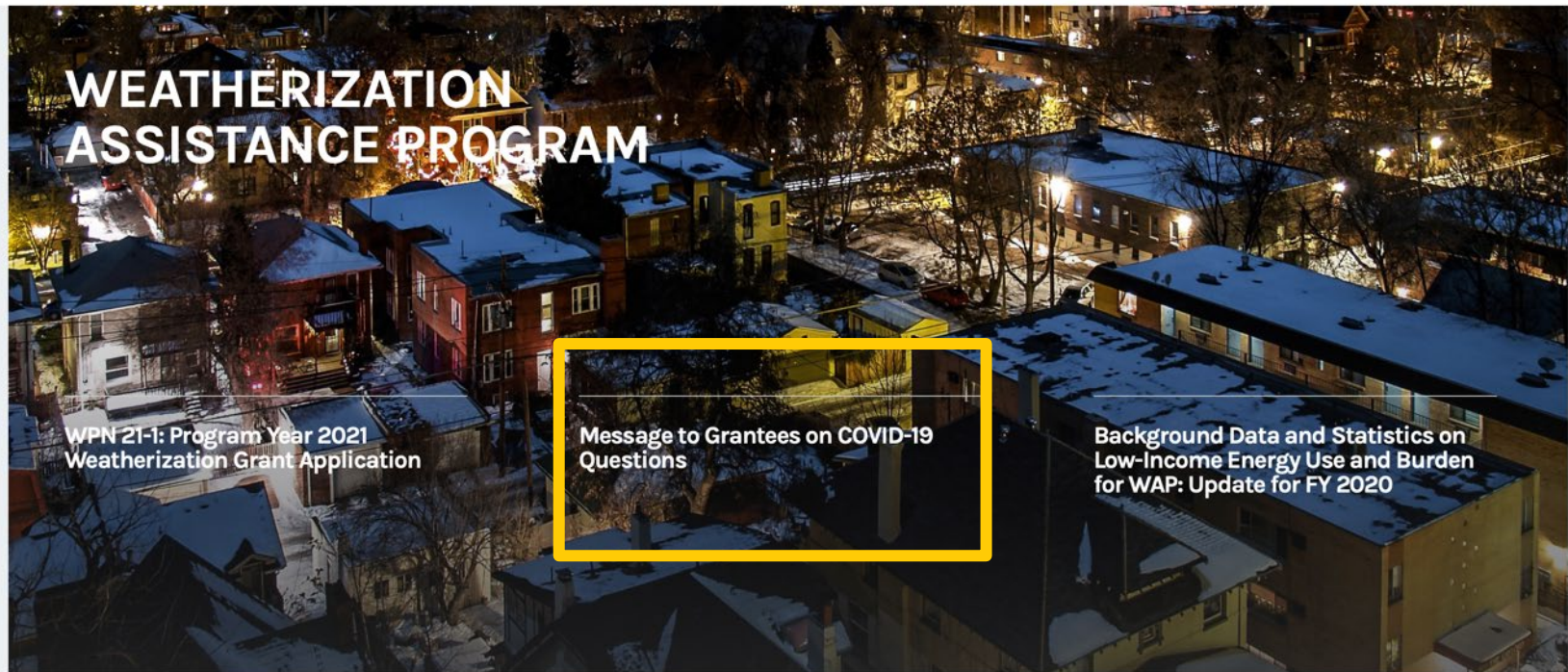
Mar. 2020

Aug. 2020

Memo 062:
**Phase One
and FAQs**

WAP Website – COVID 19

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. The program supports **8,500 jobs** and provides weatherization services to approximately **35,000 homes every year** using DOE funds.


Through weatherization improvements and upgrades, these households save on average **\$283 or more every year** according to a national evaluation of the program. Since the program began in 1976, WAP has helped improve the lives of more than 7 million families through weatherization services.

Message to Grantees on COVID-19| Questions

FAQs

Weatherization Program Administration and Production	+
Weatherization Workforce and Clients	+
Increased Focus on Certification and Training	+
Weatherization Eligibility	+
Applicant Selection and Preparation	+
Client Follow-up	+

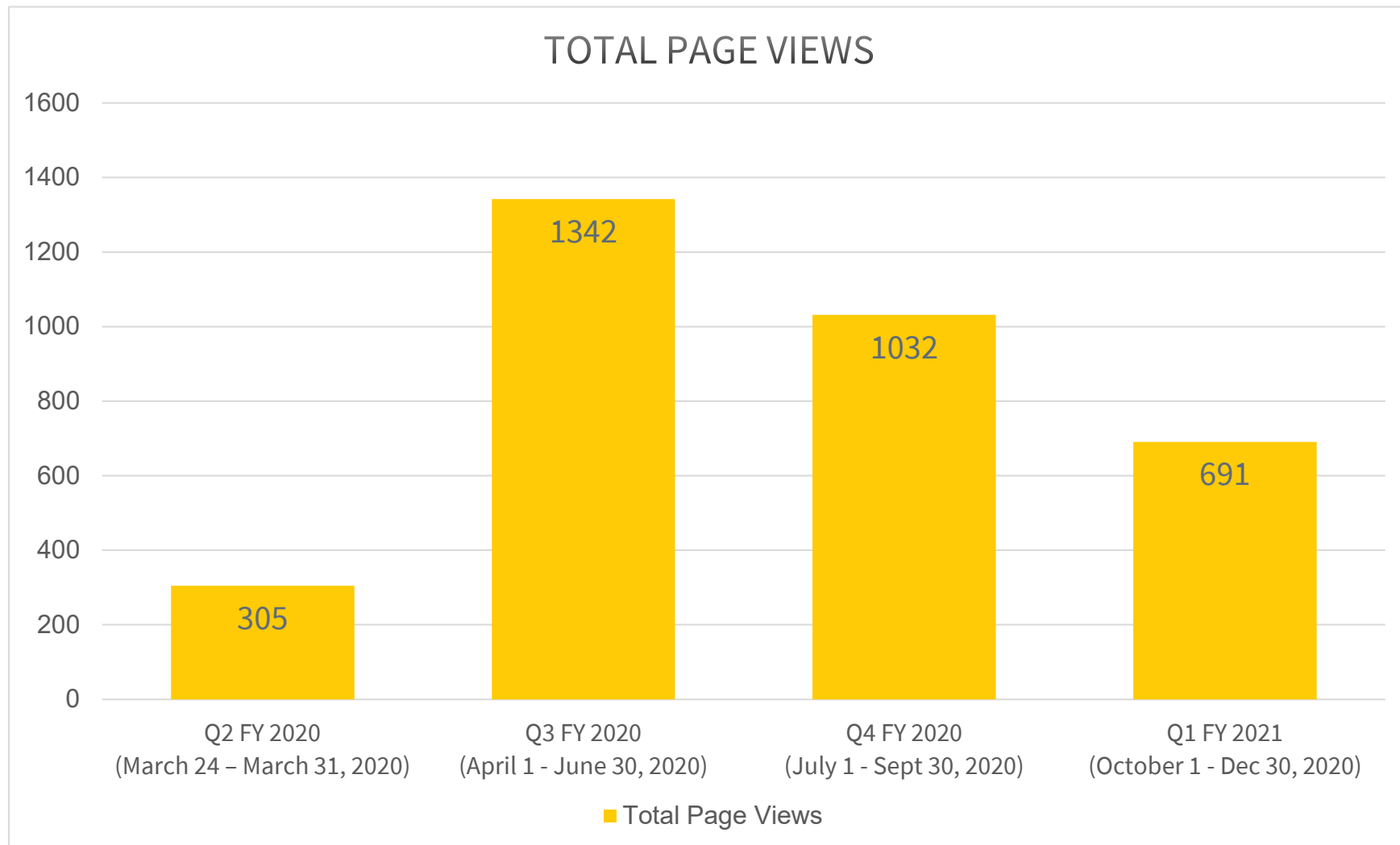
If you have questions regarding the information in this Memorandum, please contact your DOE Project Officer.

 [WAP Memorandum 060: Weatherization Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19](#)

 [WAP Memorandum 062: WAP's Response to Guidelines for Opening Up America Again - Phase One & FAQs](#)

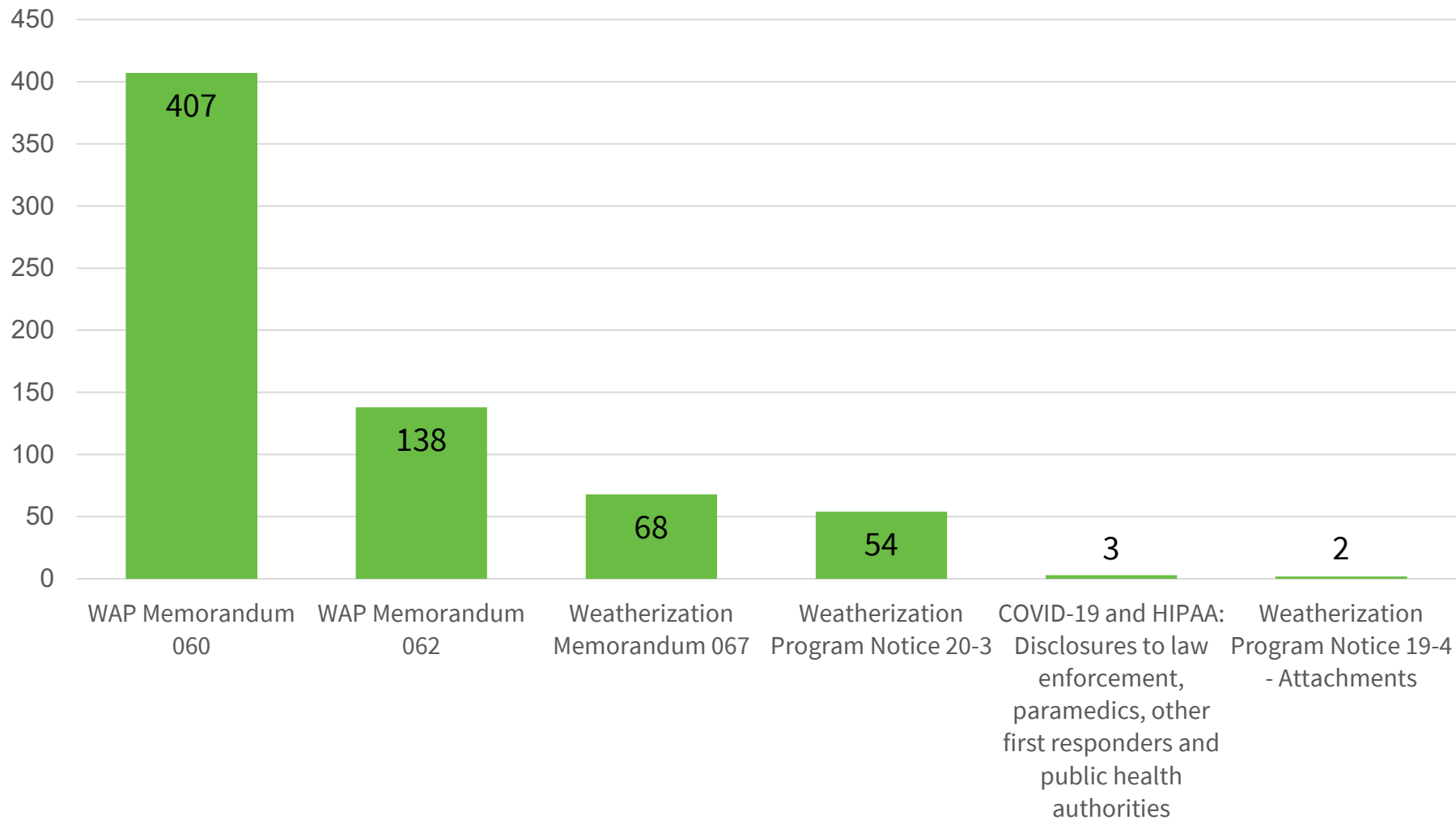
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/wap/downloads/message-grantees-about-wap-questions-related-covid-19>

Message to Grantees on COVID-19 | Impact

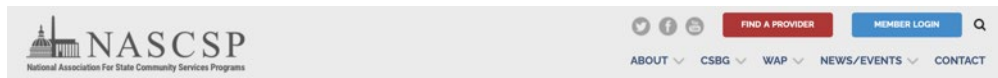


Message to Grantees on COVID-19 | Impact

TOTAL DOWNLOADS (MARCH 24, 2020 - FEB. 8, 2021)



COVID Support Materials



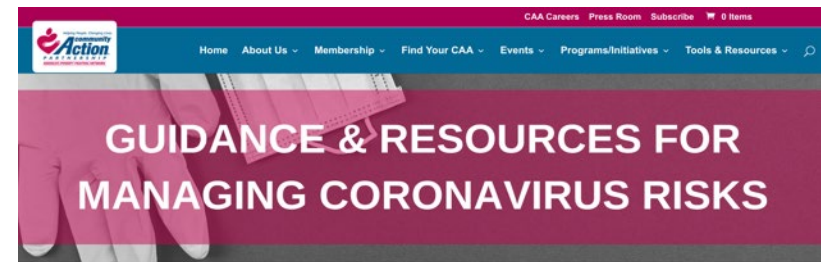
Coronavirus Resources



- > Coronavirus Resources
- Federal Guidance on COVID
- NASCSP Resources on COVID
- National Partner Resources
- Legislative Resources
- Remote Work Tips and Resources

NASCSP Data keeps its members, the federal government, and other interested parties informed about issues related to CSBG and WAP through its publications and training.

<https://nascsp.org/coronavirus-resources/nascsp-resources-on-covid/>



COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

Join Community Action National Partners CAP, CAPLAW and NASCSP for updates on the impact of COVID-19 on the network, taking place every other Thursday at 3 ET / 2 CT / 1 MT / 12 PT (3 AST / 10 AKST / 9 HST). NCAF will participate as schedules allow.

[Register Here](#)

STATEMENT FROM THE PARTNERSHIP

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Community Action Partnership is reaffirming the recommended safety measures for the Community Action network provided by Community Action Program Legal Services (CAPLAW), as well as guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The wellbeing of our members and their customers continues to be our paramount concern.

In addition, the Partnership recognizes that any national crisis always hits the families Community Action serves the hardest. We also recognize that local Community Action Agencies will face their own challenges in terms of responding to this crisis. Unlike some organizations that can adapt to staff working remotely or changing their work environment, Community Action can only be effective when we are IN the community, particularly those communities where there are fewer resources to adapt to a rapidly changing environment.

The Partnership is working with the National Partners, State Associations, non-profit leaders, and with local CAA's to learn how we can respond effectively to the changing environment. We have daily conversations with members across the network about their concerns, their questions and their strategies for

GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES



National Partner Resources

Testing and Contact Tracing



Guidance on CSBG

Guidance on WAP & LIHEAP

Other Federal Guidance



Centers for Disease Control

World Health Organization

<https://communityactionpartnership.com/guidance-and-resources-for-managing-coronavirus-risks>

Virtual/Online Training

WAP Network Offerings

- [WAP Subgrantee Administration Training](#)
 - Use the code "waptraining" to create an account.
- [WAP Program Manager's Training Toolkit](#)
- [Current Weatherization Online Trainings](#)
 - Compiled by DOE and the WAP Trainers Consortium
 - Weatherization and other project related trainings (financial, management, software, etc.)

COVID-19 Impacts – November 2020

- 35 WAP Grantees responded to a NASCSP information request:
 - 2 reported the state/territory office is under a furlough due to COVID-19 (Puerto Rico and Washington)
 - 21 reported the state/territory office is under a travel restriction that is impacting their ability to perform on-site monitoring
 - 7 reported at least one local agency is closed, furloughed or quarantined due to COVID-19
 - 26 reported equipment and material shortages or delays
 - Refrigerators, freezers and HVAC units are most common with delays for HVAC equipment ranging from 3 to 8 weeks in some regions
 - 3 Grantees noted delays for PPE materials, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer

LIHEAP Weatherization COVID Response

HOW LIHEAP CAN HELP FAMILIES DURING
THE PANDEMIC



Montana Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

SARA LOEWEN

INTERGOVERNMENTAL HUMAN SERVICES BUREAU
CHIEF



MONTANA

- DOE, LIHEAP, CSBG, and utility funding under one roof
- No Cost Extension of FY2019 LIHEAP grant to 8/30/2021
- Good Cause Waiver to allow up to 25% of LIHEAP funds for weatherization and energy related home repair



MONTANA Cont.

- Infectious Disease and Response Plan from all agencies
- Protocols and Client Checklist



MONTANA Cont.

- PPE allowance
- Weatherization Training Center provided additional training resources



Washington Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

BRIAN SARENSEN

LIHEAP PROGRAM MANAGER



WASHINGTON

- Year round program October 1 – September 30
- Furnace repair/replacement maximum increased to \$7,500
- Rental assistance cap increased to 15% of award
- \$500 contingency benefits allowable through September 30
- Weatherization Flexibility and Pilots



The Virtual Audit - Office of Housing City of Seattle

Base Information

- Assessor's Website
- County GIS
- Permit Activity
- E-Real Estate website

Audit

- Client must be able and willing to take picture
- Audit Questionnaire
- Default Air Leakage Calculator

Contractor

- Receives work order
- Schedules walk through
- Blower Door
- Duct Leakage
- Pre and Post photos



Completed Job

- Auditor confirms client satisfaction with work done and contractor performance
- Quality Control Inspection (QCI) reviews and verifies all photo documentation and completes a final inspection via remote virtual platform with the contractor



Ductless Heat Pump Projects

- Competitive Process with Established Agencies
- Staged Projects
- Ductless Heat Pumps
- Focus on Exterior Work
- Allow use of Funds for Short Term Hotel Stays



Questions?

LIHEAP Team

- Brian Sarensen, Program Manager, brian.sarensen@commerce.wa.gov
- Joseph Brown, Contracts Manager, joseph.brown@commerce.wa.gov
- Yvette Ybay, Contracts Manager, yvette.ybay@commerce.wa.gov
- Lisa Lipsey, Program Specialist, lisa.lipsey@commerce.wa.gov
- LIHEAP Mailbox, liweap@commerce.wa.gov



Summary

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Summary

- Grantees have options in the administration and delivery of weatherization services:
 - Administering agencies
 - Weatherization program rules
- Weatherization program design options (rules you will follow) need to be clearly established in writing in your plan.
- Rules and policies need to be reviewed and sub-recipients should be monitored on their compliance with such rules.



Summary cont.

- LIHEAP and WAP are designed to work together, but be sure you understand the funding structure and rules for each program

- Programs can be adapted to meet emergent needs such as those arising from COVID-19
 - Response Plans and working with Agencies
 - Virtual Audits



Questions and Answers



Weatherization Resources

GUIDANCE, INFORMATION, AND STATUTORY RESOURCES

LIHEAP Statutory References

42 USC § 8624

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/USCODE-2010-title42/USCODE-2010-title42-chap94-subchapII-sec8624>

42 USC § 8624(b)(1)(C)

Allows for use of LIHEAP funds for weatherization

42 USC § 8624(b)(4)

Regarding coordination with WAP

42 USC § 8624(b)(6)

Regarding coordination with local agencies administering WAP

42 USC § 8624(c)(1)

Requires grantees to describe in the LIHEAP Plan the weatherization benefit, steps to address “weatherization and energy-related home repairs,” and which rules the State will follow

42 USC § 8624(k)(1)

Sets weatherization allotment limit of not more than 15 percent of funds

42 USC § 8624(k)(2)

Allows for weatherization allotment up to 25 percent with a waiver



Regulatory Resources

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

LIHEAP: 45 CFR §96.83

Details requirements for requesting a funding waiver up to a limit of 25%

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CFR-2007-title45-vol1/CFR-2007-title45-vol1-sec96-83>

WAP: 10 CFR §440

Department of Energy Weatherization Program regulations

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CFR-2011-title10-vol3/CFR-2011-title10-vol3-part440>



Program Guidance Resources

Optional Use of DOE Weatherization Rules for LIHEAP Funds Spent on Weatherization Activities

LIHEAP IM 1999-11. (Published June 15, 1999)

Establishes options for grantee use of funds for weatherization

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/optional-use-of-doe-weatherization-rules-for>

Common Findings from Compliance Reviews Conducted in FY 2011, 2012, and 2013.

LIHEAP IM 2014-2. (Published November 26, 2013)

Reviews findings on grantee monitoring of LIHEAP Weatherization components

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-im-2014-2-common-findings-from-compliance-reviews-conducted-in-fy>

WAP Guidance

DOE/Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

All DOE Weatherization Program Notices and other information

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-program-guidance>



Informational Resources

Weatherization: Coordinating LIHEAP and WAP

LIHEAP Clearinghouse

Clearinghouse article on weatherization

https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/webfiles/docs/LIHEAP_Weatherization_Report.pdf

Weatherization Assistance Program Website

DOE/EERE

Main website for DOE Weatherization

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-assistance-program>

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) National Evaluations, WAP Retrospective, and WAP ARRA (Recovery Act) Period Evaluations

DOE/EERE

Reports on the national study of Weatherization in 2008-09

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/downloads/weatherization-assistance-program-national-evaluation>

LIHEAP Performance Management, LIHEAP Data Warehouse

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

LIHEAP statistical information

https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/data_warehouse/index.php?report=homepage



Contact Us

If we are not able to respond to your question during the webinar, we will follow-up via e-mail.

If you have additional questions, please e-mail:

- Erica Burrin, Program Manager, Weatherization Assistance Program, erica.burrin@ee.doe.gov
- Sara Loewen, Bureau Chief, Montana Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau, sloewen@mt.gov
- Brian Sarensen, LIHEAP Program Manager, Washington Department of Commerce, brian.sarensen@commerce.wa.gov
- Office of Community Services, Division of Energy Assistance, [Federal Staff Contact List](#)

