

**MaineHousing**  
**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program**  
**Weatherization Waiver Request**

MaineHousing hereby requests the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to waive the maximum percentage limits placed on funds used for weatherization services within the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). We are requesting a good cause waiver of the fifteen percent (15%) limit for weatherization on Maine’s FFY 2015 grant award.

Currently, Maine has allocated fifteen percent (15%) of our FFY 2015 LIHEAP funds to weatherization. We are requesting approval to use up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the FFY 2015 LIHEAP grant for weatherization. Maine is still taking and processing applications for fuel assistance. Therefore, the precise amount available for transfer cannot be determined at this time. After payment of all eligible applications, Maine will transfer additional funds to weatherization if total grant expenditures are projected to be less than ninety percent (90%) of the FFY 2015 grant award.

All eligible applicants will be served so that the requested transfer to weatherization will not have any adverse effect on fuel assistance applicants’ ability to receive benefits.

**Households Served and Energy Assistance Provided**

| <b>FFY 2014 (sources – Household Report and Grantee Survey)</b> |              |
|---|--------------|
| LIHEAP Grant Award  | \$37,762,749 |
| Energy Assistance   | \$27,600,849 |
| Households Served   | 39,333       |

| <b>FFY 2015 (estimated)</b> |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| LIHEAP Grant Award          | \$37,320,033 |
| Energy Assistance           | \$23,736,730 |
| Households Served           | 36,973       |

**Weatherization Assistance**

Maine strongly supports low-cost residential weatherization as a way to help low-income Mainers reduce energy costs. All weatherization activities are included in the most recent state plan submitted on September 1, 2014. LIHEAP weatherization activities carried out in this fiscal year for which the waiver is requested have been in accordance with the Department of Energy

requirements. All weatherization measures must produce measurable savings – savings to investment ratio must be greater than or equal to 1.0. Our analysis shows that on average, a Maine household receiving weatherization will realize a twenty-five to thirty percent (25% to 30%) reduction in home heating costs.

With one of the oldest housing stocks in the country, Maine has a significant number of LIHEAP-eligible households waiting for and in need of weatherization services.

### **Waiver Public Hearing and Comment Period**

MaineHousing will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 28, 2015 to receive testimony on its proposal to increase the weatherization allocation from fifteen percent (15%) to up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the FFY 2015 grant award.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Monday, June 8, 2015. Comments should be submitted to [LIHEAP@mainehousing.org](mailto:LIHEAP@mainehousing.org) or mailed to:

MaineHousing  
353 Water Street  
Augusta, Maine 04330-4633  
Attn: Michael Baran

### **Waiver Request**

MaineHousing respectfully requests a waiver for good cause to increase the percent of LIHEAP funds spent on low-cost residential weatherization and other energy-related home repair for low-income households from fifteen (15%) to up to twenty-five percent (25%), effective immediately.

Respectfully Submitted,

John G. Gallagher  
Director  
Maine State Housing Authority