



Energy & Housing Services Department Memorandum

To: Interested Parties
From: Daniel Drost, Director – Energy and Housing Services
Date: October 30, 2018
Subject: 2019 DOE Weatherization Assistance Program State Plan
Repeal and Replacement of the Weatherization Assistance Program Rule (Chapter 25)

2019 DOE State Plan

As part of the annual application process, Maine State Housing Authority (MaineHousing) must submit to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) a State Plan application detailing how MaineHousing, as the Grantee, will utilize the funds and conduct its Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) in accordance with DOE guidance.

Normally, DOE announces its WAP annually. Through formal notices, DOE informs states of funding levels and specific program guidance as to how Grantees will conduct their weatherization efforts. DOE's WAP is administered through a sub-grantee system and Maine utilizes the Community Action Agencies (CAAs) as the Sub-grantee network.

WAP is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. For planning purposes, until a final full year FY 2019 budget is passed and signed by the President, Grantees have been advised to develop their Grantee Plans using the same funding level as the DOE 2018 Appropriated Funds outlined in Weatherization Program Notice (WPN) 18-2.

There are several parts to the grant application:

- Budget Summary – details how the grant funds will be spent by the grantee (MaineHousing) and the sub-grantees (the Community Action Agencies – CAAs).
- Annual File – describes changes to the program from the previous year's application
- Master File – a detailed plan of Maine's WAP with descriptions of how Maine will meet the guidelines/requirements of the DOE. This includes, but is not limited to: MaineHousing and CAA weatherization staff responsibilities, client eligibility, monitoring activities; audit procedures and tools; MaineHousing policies; and how MaineHousing and CAAs will adhere to DOE Health and Safety requirements.

For program year 2019 (April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020), MaineHousing will continue to administer, partnering with Sub-grantees, a quality weatherization program designed to make energy improvements to Maine's aging housing stock. These improvements assist households in reducing

the overall energy consumption and costs of heating their homes. Priority households are Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) eligible households with a high energy burden that include a household member who is elderly, a person with disabilities, or a child younger than 2 years of age.

There are no major program changes planned for 2019, however the minor updates are highlighted below:

1. Changes the definition of children for prioritization purposes from 2 years of age and younger to younger than 6 years of age.
2. Minor technical edits, clarifications and clean-up.

Repeal and Replacement of Weatherization Assistance Program Rule (Chapter 25)

In addition, MaineHousing intends to repeal and replace the Weatherization Assistance Program Rule (Chapter 25). The revisions to the rule do the following:

- (1) provide that priority ranking for assistance will be defined in the State Plan; and
- (2) make minor technical edits and clarifications.

Public Hearing and Comment Period:

A public hearing, allowing interested parties an opportunity to comment on the 2019 DOE State Plan and the repeal and replacement of the Weatherization Assistance Program Rule (Chapter 25) will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Written comments will be accepted until close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, November 30, 2018. The hearing notice is attached. **A draft of the 2019 DOE State Plan and a draft of the revised Chapter 25: Weatherization Assistance Program Rule are available on MaineHousing's website: www.mainehousing.org.**