Weatherization Program Notice 98-5

Effective Date - February 27, 1998

**SUBJECT**: 1998 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES AND DEFINITION OF INCOME

**PURPOSE**: To provide States with the 1998 Poverty Income Guidelines and Definition of Income for use in the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (Weatherization).

**SCOPE**: The provisions of this guidance apply to all grantees applying for financial assistance under the Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE).

**BACKGROUND**: Title IV, Energy Conservation and Production Act as amended authorizes the Department of Energy to administer the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program. All grant awards made under this program shall comply with applicable law including, regulations contained in 10 CFR Part 440, and other procedures applicable to this regulation as DOE may from time to time prescribe for the administration of financial assistance.

**PROCEDURES**: The annual revision of the poverty income guidelines was published in the Federal Register/Volume 63, Number 36/Tuesday February 24, 1998, on pages 9235-9238. Attached is a table displaying the revised guidelines' threshold incomes and our computed income eligibility limits at both 125 percent and 150 percent of the poverty threshold. Guideline tables for Alaska and Hawaii are included. These guidelines are effective as of February 24, 1998, and apply to both farm and non-farm families. States should distribute these tables immediately to their subgrantees for their use. Additionally, this notice provides grantees with a definition of income for use in the Weatherization Program. This definition is unchanged from the previous year's guidance.

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Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

1998 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

Contiguous U.S. Grantees

Effective February 24, 1998

Size of Family Unit          Threshold     125%          150%

1………………………….      8,050       10,063      12,075

2………………………….     10,850      13,563      16,275

3………………………….      13,650     17,063      20,475

4………………………….      16,450     20,563      24,675

5………………………….      19,250     24,063      28,875

6………………………….      22,050     27,563      33,075

7………………………….      24,850     31,063      37,275

8………………………….      27,650     34,583      41,475

Each Added Member Add      2,800     3,500     4,200

**1998 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES**

**Alaska**

**Effective February 24, 1998**

**Size of Family Unit             Threshold      125%     150%**

1………………………….      10,070     12,588      15,105

2………………………….      13,570     16,963      20,355

3………………………….      17,070     21,338      25,605

4………………………….      20,570     25,713      30,855

5………………………….      24,070     30,088      36,105

6………………………….      27,570     34,463      41,355

7………………………….      31,070     38,838      46,605

8………………………….      34,570     43,213      51,855

Each Added Member Add    3,500         4,375     5,250

**1998 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES**

**Hawaii**

**Effective February 24, 1998**

**Size of Family Unit              Threshold      125%     150%**

1………………………….        9,260     11,575      13,890

2………………………….      12,480     15,600      18,720

3………………………….      15,700     19,625      23,550

4………………………….      18,920     23,650      28,380

5………………………….      22,140     27,675      33,210

6………………………….      25,360     31,700      38,040

7………………………….      28,580     35,725      42,870

8………………………….      31,800     39,750      47,700

Each Added Member Add      3,220     4,025          4,830

**Definition of Income**

Definition of Income

Refers to total annual cash receipts before taxes from all sources, with the exceptions noted below. Income data for a part of a year may be annualized in order to determine eligibility--for example, by multiplying by four the amount of income received during the most recent three months. The method of calculation is to be determined by the Grantee. Grantees should have a consistent policy covering its subgrantees on re-certification of applicants whose eligibility may have changed due to the length of time that may have expired awaiting weatherization services.

INCOME INCLUDES money wages and salaries before any deductions; net receipts from non-farm or farm self-employment (receipts from a person's own business or from an owned or rented farm after deductions for business or farm expenses).

INCOME ALSO INCLUDES regular payments from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment compensation, strike benefits from union funds, worker's compensation, veteran's payments, training stipends, alimony, and military family allotments; private pensions, government employee pensions (including military retirement pay), and regular insurance or annuity payments; dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings.

INCOME EXCLUDES capital gains; any assets drawn down as withdrawals from a bank, the sale of property, a house, or a car; one-time payments from a welfare agency to a family or person who is in temporary financial difficulty; tax refunds, gifts, loans lump-sum inheritances, one-time insurance payments, or compensation for injury.

INCOME ALSO EXCLUDES non-cash benefits, such as the employer-paid or union-paid portion of health insurance or other employee fringe benefits, food or housing received in lieu of wages, the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms, the imputed value of rent from owner-occupied non-farm or farm housing, and such Federal non-cash benefit programs as Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, school lunches, and housing assistance. non-cash benefits, such as the employer-paid or union-paid portion of health insurance or other employee fringe benefits, food or housing received in lieu of wages, the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms, the imputed value of rent from owner-occupied non-farm or farm housing, and such Federal non-cash benefit programs as Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, school lunches, and housing assistance.

NOTE: Child support payments and college scholarships are excluded.