

United States Government
Department of Energy

Memorandum

DATE: **December 6, 2016**

WAP Memorandum 020

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: **David Rinebolt, Weatherization Assistance Program Manager**
Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program Office



SUBJECT: **Clarification on DOE Evaluation Studies vs. Independent Studies**

TO: **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Network**

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In recent weeks, DOE has been advised some Grantees and Subgrantees are receiving calls from individuals identifying themselves as researchers working on a project related to the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). All Grantees are advised, and should communicate to their Subgrantees, the U.S. Department of Energy is not engaged in any evaluation project related to the WAP at this time.

Further, DOE wishes to remind the Grantees of language in WPN 16-1 regarding participation in independent studies:

2.2 PARTICIPATION IN ADDITIONAL EVALUATIONS/STUDIES

DOE encourages WAP Grantees and Subgrantees to participate in studies related to the Weatherization Program. While national-level studies allow us to see macro elements, by participating in well-designed state-level or regional-level studies, more clarity can be attained on the impact specific protocols have on the energy savings and other benefits garnered through WAP. Grantees are urged to establish a protocol for Subgrantees to follow when asked to participate in a study. This policy should include what the study is about and ensure that WPN 10-08 Weatherization Guidance on Maintaining the Privacy of Recipients of Services is followed. If Grantees need assistance in establishing or reviewing these protocols, please contact your respective Project Officer.

As noted in WPN 16-1, we encourage participation in studies that will contribute to the mission of WAP. Involving DOE staff in the study development process can help ensure the effort is not duplicative of existing research and the researcher is aware of what work has already been done in a particular area; determine if there are opportunities to coordinate with other studies of the program; incorporate findings into our standards and procedures as warranted; and, effectively communicate findings across the network.