Investing in Energy Efficiency through LIHEAP

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) meets the home heating and cooling needs of over 6 million low-income households each year. But LIHEAP does more than just help families pay their energy bills. LIHEAP also makes long term energy efficiency investments through a strategic partnership with the Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)1.

- By increasing the energy efficiency of low-income housing stock and reducing the amount of energy used, weatherization stretches life-saving LIHEAP dollars further. Every dollar spent on weatherization returns $1.72 in energy benefits and $2.78 in non-energy benefits such as health and safety2.

- Common WAP measures include: Insulation, air sealing, appliance safety testing, mechanical ventilation, programmable thermostats, high efficiency lightbulbs, vapor barriers, ductwork, and more.

- In 2017, 47 States and the District of Columbia transferred LIHEAP funds to their WAP. Just over $374 million in LIHEAP funds were dedicated to weatherization in 20173.

- LIHEAP funds are also used to restore, preserve, or improve heating or cooling service through emergency equipment replacement and repair. Grantees spent just over $70 million on emergency equipment repair and replacement in 2017.

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1 The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) allows states to transfer up to 15% of their LIHEAP allocation to WAP and up to 25% with an approved good-cause waiver.
2 Source: Oak Ridge National Lab Retrospective Evaluation ORNL/TM-2014/338
3 Source of all LIHEAP Data: LIHEAP Clearinghouse 2017 Reports