

## **Q&A: COVID-19 and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**

**Q:** We have our public hearing on the PY 2020 State WAP Plan scheduled in the next few weeks. Due to state declarations of emergency and associated bans on public gatherings, can we substitute a virtual hearing for the traditional in-person format?

**A:** DOE has communicated that virtual hearings conducted via webinar or video conferencing are acceptable, as long as the proper 10-day public notice (as required in 10 CFR 440) was observed, and there is a transcript of the hearing (as required in the grant guidance WPN 20-1). Include clear instructions to access the virtual hearing in the public notice, and consider including additional opportunities/methods for the public to comment on the state plan.

**Q:** Due to state declarations of emergency, we are concerned that state and local workers will soon be unable to enter into homes to perform monitoring or even weatherization work. Has DOE weighed in on WAP workers in homes at this time?

**A:** DOE has provided the following information: The determination on whether Grantee and Subgrantee staff should be working in client homes is not a DOE decision. Those are state authorities and local agency employment matters. Federal regulations state that in a shutdown or disaster employees can be paid out of federal funds if there are written leave policies approved by the governing board ([See 2 CFR 200.431b](#)). However, direct costs for labor accrue to the ACPU and DOE has no authority, at this time, to waive those federal requirements.

**Q:** Can T&TA funds be used to pay labor hours for staff if they complete online training while working from home?

**A:** Yes. We recommend obtaining certificates or proof of satisfactory completion of all completed online training. Here are a few suggestions for virtual T&TA:

- Online courses providing CEUs that will satisfy a BPI certification requirement.
- DOE EERE [Program Updates and Training Resources](#) – webinars are available under each program heading.
- DOE [Training for WAP Administrative Professionals](#). Developed in response to WAP network feedback, these self-paced online trainings are designed for WAP Subgrantee staff, yet are applicable to Grantees, subcontractors, and WAP stakeholders. To create an account, please click on the link associated with "first time logging in" and use "waptraining" for the code. Follow the instructions sent to your email to complete registration.

*This resource will be updated as more information becomes available. Updated 3-16-2020.*

