



# NASCSP UPDATE & DISCUSSION WITH ERICA BURRIN, DOE WAP MANAGER

April 15, 2020

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# Agenda

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- ▶ Legislative Update
- ▶ LIHEAP Supplemental
- ▶ Production and Workforce Update
- ▶ DOE Update
- ▶ Open Discussion

# Legislative Updates

**Three Coronavirus related packages have become law:**

**1. H.R.6074 Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Supplemental Appropriations (March 6<sup>th</sup>)**

- ▶ Supplemental appropriations

**2. H.R. 6201-Families First Coronavirus Response Act (March 18<sup>th</sup>)**

- ▶ \$500 million WIC, \$400 million TEFAP, \$250 million Senior Nutrition Program.
- ▶ New emergency sick leave & expansion of existing FMLA

**3. H.R. 748 - CARES Act (March 27<sup>th</sup>)**

- ▶ \$1200 direct cash assistance to many Americans, enhanced unemployment insurance
- ▶ Supplemental appropriations:
  - ▶ \$900 million LIHEAP, \$1 Billion CSBG, \$750 million HeadStart, \$5 billion CDBG

# Legislative Updates

**NASCSP asked Congressional champions for the provisions below. Did not make it into Package #3, but hopefully future bill.**

## *Primary*

- ▶ Increase the average cost per unit (ACPU) for the current grant cycle (including 2020). Provide authority for the Secretary to adjust or waive the ACPU in times of emergency, disaster, pandemic, economic crisis or other event impacting weatherization.

## *Secondary*

- ▶ Increase allowable administrative costs percentage from 10% to 15%
- ▶ Change reweatherization date to 15 year rolling to allow WAP staff to begin reviewing previously weatherized lists, doing intake with potential clients, and building wait lists while production is stopped.
- ▶ Double the cost cap for solar to incentivize solar training and building organizational capacity for future solar installs while production is shut down.

# Legislative Updates

## Potential WAP Stimulus in 4<sup>th</sup> Package?

- ▶ NASCSP has fielded questions/inquiries from members of Congress about supplemental WAP funding
- ▶ NASCSP keeping the Hill updated on the current status of the WAP network
- ▶ Sharing what worked well and what did not work well with ARRA
  - ▶ ARRA focus was “shovel ready jobs” – a new stimulus needs to be about workforce development & sustainably growing the program
- ▶ Communicating principles:
  - ▶ Need sufficient time to ramp up and spend out
  - ▶ Robust resources for training and workforce development
  - ▶ No new/cumbersome requirements

# Legislative Updates

## **FY 2021 Regular Appropriations**

- ▶ NASCSP and other partners asking for \$310 million for WAP in FY2021
  - ▶ 2 year budget agreement, not a lot of new funding available
  - ▶ Increase of \$1.5 million over FY2020, increase to DOE HQ Training and technical assistance
  - ▶ House letter signed by 135 members, Senate letter 45 signatures
  - ▶ NASCSP submitted written testimony

## **WAP Reauthorization Bill Status**

- ▶ No updates or movement at this time

# LIHEAP Supplemental

**Coordination-** NASCSP encourages State WAP Managers to reach out to their LIHEAP counterpart to begin planning for the \$900 million in supplemental LIHEAP funding provided under the CARES Act. The funding could be distributed to states by the end of the month.

**Plans-** The supplemental funding will run through states' existing 2020 LIHEAP State Plans. States are free to make amendments to their LIHEAP Plans and do not need prior approval from HHS to do so. States will still need HHS approval to exceed a 15% transfer to weatherization. A state may choose not to transfer any of the additional funding to weatherization.

**Formula-** The CARES Act distributes the additional \$900 million dollars via a mix of the "old" and "new" formula. The bulk of the funding is directed via the "new" formula. More information about the LIHEAP formula can be found [here](#). The language in the CARES Act can be found [here](#).

**LIHEAP Clearinghouse:** <https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/navigator>

# NASCSP Resources on COVID

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## WAP

- **NASCSP Weatherization Q & A** (Updated 4-2-20)
- **Strategies & Tips for Continuing Operations During Suspended Production**– This document has suggested activities for crew members, tips about uses of T&TA funds, as well as additional meeting and project ideas during suspended WAP production.
- **Weatherization Online Training Opportunities** (Excel)- Compiled by DOE and the WAP Trainers Consortium
  - **WAP Administrative Training Online Modules** | Other DOE **online trainings**
  - **BPA Virtual Conference**
- **COVID Resources for Contractors**-A new resource from the DOE EERE Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program containing a summary of the relief available from the U.S. Small Business Administration and other resources for Home Performance Contractors.

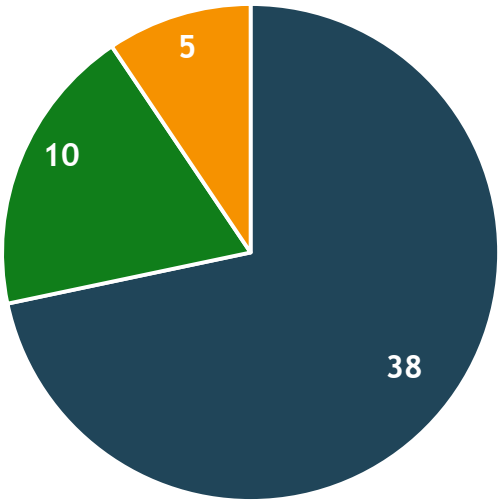
<https://nascsp.org/coronavirus-resources/nascsp-resources-on-covid/>



# Production & Workforce Impacts

Are WAP workers entering client homes in your state or territory?

■ No ■ Yes ■ Only Emergencies



	Are subgrantee WAP staff being asked to use earned leave?	Are subgrantee WAP staff currently furloughed?
Yes	3	11
No	26	32
Unsure	17	3

# Grantee Guidance and Management

- ▶ Developed state-specific guidance
- ▶ Shared DOE Memo 60, CAPLAW guidance, NASCSP and other resources
- ▶ Holding regular virtual meetings or teleconferences with subgrantees (weekly)
- ▶ Temporarily changed policy to allow for partial draws to be able to get contractors some pay but requiring 10% holdback if jobs have not been QCI inspected
- ▶ Encouraging subgrantees invest in workforce development and use T&TA for salaries
  - ▶ Each agency created employee-specific training plans and client safety protocols
  - ▶ Providing daily training webinars and topics accessible by laptop and smart phone
- ▶ Allowing use of Admin and Operations funds to pay staff while working remote
  - ▶ First use available T&TA, then program operations while staying within ACPU
- ▶ Utilizing alternative funding sources and leave to pay for salaries
- ▶ If we merge program years per DOE allowance, this would require a large administrative undertaking. We are trying to leverage LIHEAP to stay under ACPU.
- ▶ SBA Paycheck Protection Program

# Workforce Impacts

- ▶ Grantee & subgrantee staff working remotely
- ▶ Moving to virtual application intake and allowing for electronic signatures
- ▶ Some subgrantees are able to redirect their weatherization crews to assist with other duties, such as working on other federal programs
- ▶ Some subgrantees opting for layoffs and unemployment
  - ▶ We do not anticipate any lay offs if the workforce is able to SAFELY enter homes soon
- ▶ Concern about loss of contractors and contractor staff
  - ▶ A prolonged stoppage will likely put some out of business
- ▶ Moving toward a new normal: planning for re-entry into client homes
  - ▶ Updating client education tools and safety protocols
  - ▶ None of our subgrantees want to put their workforce in danger
  - ▶ Concern about availability of Personal Protective Equipment

# Erica Burrin, Program Manager

## Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program

WAP website: [energy.gov/eere/wap](https://energy.gov/eere/wap)



### WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Message to Grantees on COVID-19  
Questions

WAP Administrative Professional  
Training

Review the WAP Grantee Manager's  
Training Toolkit

# Open Discussion



# Upcoming Webinars

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- ▶ DOE Administrative Training Modules
  - ▶ IREC, NREL and NASCSP
  - ▶ Thursday April 16, 2:00-3:00 pm ET | [REGISTER](#)
- ▶ Regional Calls: May 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>

# Thanks for attending!



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