

2020

ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

A Virtual Event

Solid Foundations: Developing Policy in Partnership with the WAP Provider Network

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READY



RESILIENT



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Solid Foundations: Developing Policy in Partnership with the WAP Provider Network

Minnesota—Land of 10,000 Lakes In the Summer





In the winter,
we can walk on water!



Minnesota Terms

- SP = Service Provider (subgrantee)
- MWAG = MN Weatherization Advisory Group
- No Yeah = Yes
- Yeah no = No
- Yeah no for sure = Definitely





WAP is administered by the
Minnesota Department of
Commerce's Division of Energy
Resources

23 Service Providers

18 CAPs

3 Tribal nations

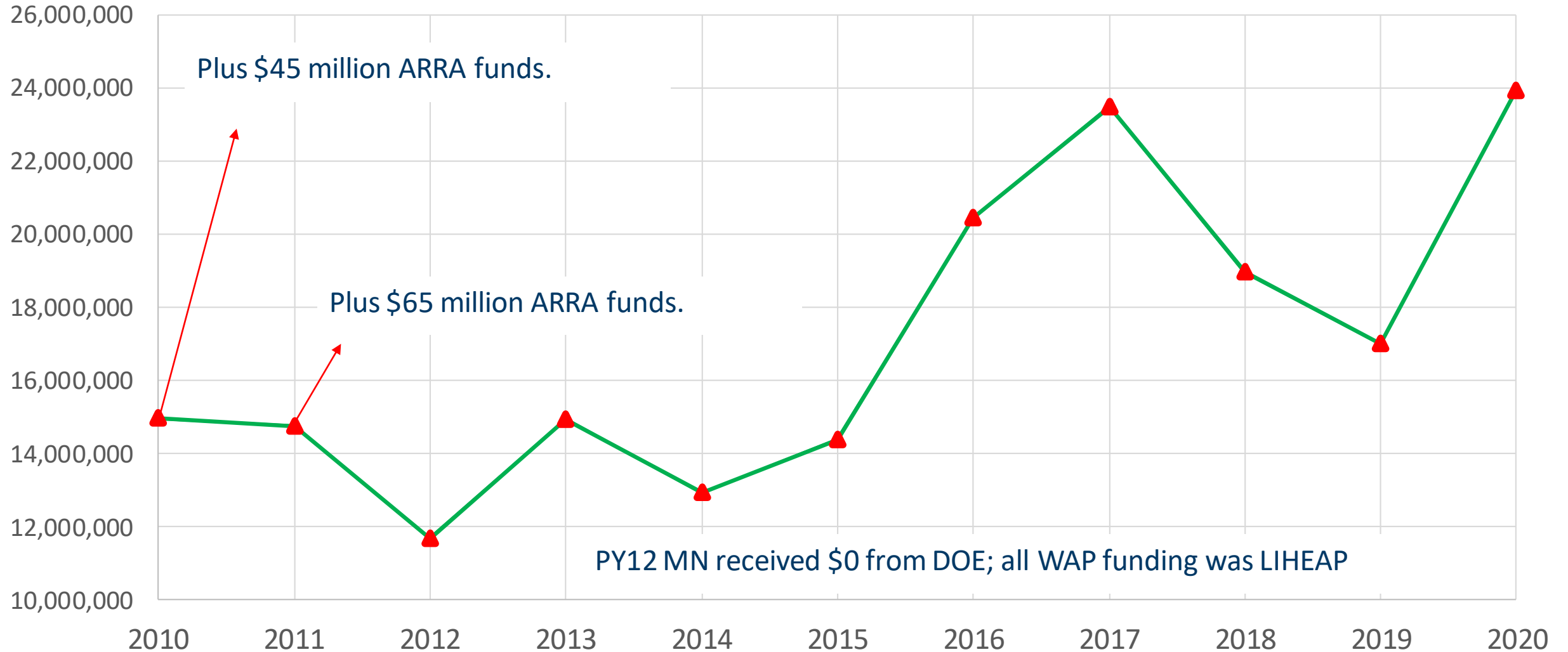
1 Local Unit of

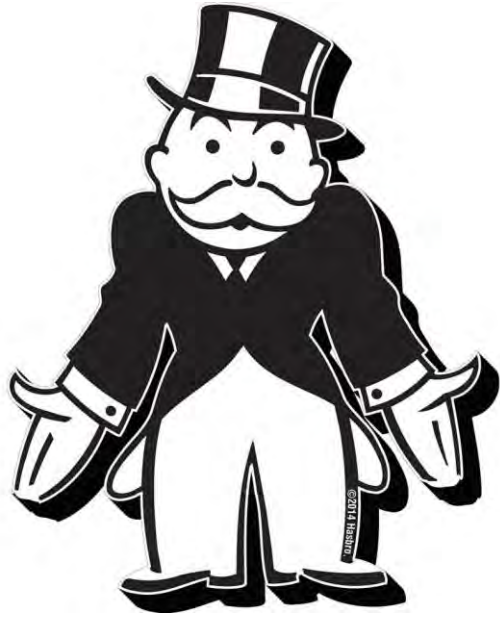
Government

1 Non-profit



Total MN Federal WAP Funding





The aftermath of ARRA is
the setting for our story



SERVICE PROVIDERS PERSPECTIVE: What factors lead to this?

- ARRA was stressful and relationships between SPs and the state were strained
- SPs were spending most MWAG meetings complaining about the program
- Leadership in Commerce changed after ARRA
- A new relationship developed between SPs and Commerce
- New leadership of MWAG
- Both sides were receptive to a new format



Why did SPs want to try this?

- ❖ Wanted to develop a new tone in working with the state—we are all in this together
- ❖ Wanted trust throughout the group—we are in this together and not each SP for themselves “against” the state
- ❖ Wanted every SP to have the chance to speak up and give their opinion, if they wanted to
- ❖ Wanted to share the knowledge and experience seasoned Weatherization Staff had with the newbies, we want to leave the program in good shape for them
- ❖ Wanted to enjoy MWAG meetings again



COMMERCE



PERSPECTIVE:

- ❖ Commerce conducted statewide listening sessions after ARRA that led to many changes
- ❖ Starting in PY15 Commerce began updating the policy manual twice a year
- ❖ Commerce was asking for policy suggestions and not receiving many responses
- ❖ At the same time Commerce was reviewing ACSI Survey results from PY19
 - ❖ Having more input on policy changes was an area with lower scores than expected

Yesterday's solution can become part of the tomorrow's problem



First Meeting

- ❖ MWAG group asked for a meeting with Commerce leadership
- ❖ We had a very open conversation about areas where SPs had concerns
- ❖ We attacked issues not people
- ❖ Ultimately deciding to try a new approach to policy revisions