

Memorandum

DATE: July 6, 2022

WAP Memorandum 094

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: Erica Burrin, Program Manager

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program Office

SUBJECT: Reminder of Client Priority – High Energy Burden in the Weatherization Assistance Program

TO: Weatherization Assistance Program Grantees

INTENDED

AUDIENCE: Grantee Program Managers

Due to recent, significant increases in the price of fuels the Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) strongly encourages all Grantee Managers to review their client priority policies and, if justified, use high energy burden, as defined in [10 CFR 440.3](#), as a priority criterion for servicing clients.

While the current short-term fuel price increases are primarily driven by global instability in energy markets, coupled with low fuel stores in the United States, the short-term fuel prices cannot dictate long-term audit calculations. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA) data, the temporary fuel price outlook will further exacerbate energy burden needs for low-income families; however, long-term EIA forecasts have not changed.

As the efficacy of the Weatherization Assistance Program is measured on a 30-year outlook, long-term fuel price predictions remain essential. Grantees may prioritize clients based on temporary fuel price increases, as their energy burden has increased; however, Grantees are to continue using the long-term fuel price indices provided by the EIA along with their DOE-approved method of annually updated fuel price data in energy audits. Should EIA alter the long-term forecasts, WAP audits will reflect these changes when they occur and modify/elevate fuel prices within Grantee energy audits.

For guidance regarding the prioritization of “high energy burden” clients, please refer to [WPN 22-01, Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons: Application Instructions](#), Section V.3. Consideration for households with high energy burden may be in combination with other priority categories. Grantees are reminded that the categories listed in [10 CFR 440.16 \(b\)](#) are the only allowable priorities for the DOE WAP. Unless a higher energy burden is demonstrated, a Grantee may not prioritize clients based solely on fuel type (i.e., electrification for the sake of electrification is not allowable). Electrification to lower energy burden is allowable and encouraged. Electrification for demonstrated health and safety improvements is allowable. For specifics regarding fuel switching, Grantees should seek guidance in Revised Energy Audit Procedures, currently [WPN 19-4: Revised Energy Audit Approval Procedures, Related Audit, and Material Approvals, Attachment 5](#).

If you have questions regarding the information in this Memorandum, please contact your DOE Project Officer.