National Association for State Community Services Programs



WINTER TRAINING CONFERENCE April 3 – 7 | Arlington, VA

MISSION POSSIBLE Restoring Hope

Maximizing WAP by Improving Coordination and Leveraging with LIHEAP

www.nascsp.org

LIHEAP&& COORDINATION WORKING GROUP

MEMBERS

Name	State	Region
Lynn Chamberlin	Nebraska	Region 3
Lawanda Jones	District of Columbia	Region 1
Maddy Kamalay	Michigan	Region 4
Scott Kuhn	Kansas	Region 3
Suzy Meneguzzo	Minnesota	Region 4
Beth Ryan	New York	Region 1
Kellye Rose	Minnesota	Region 4
Katie Svoboda	Nebraska	Region 3
Geoff Wilcox	Vermont	Region 1

4/5/2023 Sample Footer Text

WORK GROUP ACTIVITIES

- Regular Monthly Meetings
- Charter Development
- Comprehensive Survey
- Resource Collection
- Relationship Development

WORK GROUP RESULTS

- Regular communications with HHS
- Conference session
- Resources

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Maximizing WAP by Improving Coordination and Leveraging with LIHEAP

April 2023

Amanda Rains

Weatherization Assistance Program Senior Policy Analyst







Federal Interagency Collaboration









Long standing partnership with LIHEAP with funding weatherization and braiding funding, categorical eligibility, etc. and with HUD on issuing property lists.

FY 2022 Appropriations:

DOE has been directed to continue to collaborate with partners at Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- More recently, collaboration has included Department of Agriculture

Federal Memorandum of Understanding

- Secretary Granholm invited HHS, HUD and USDA to create a MOU to help identify and weatherize residences under various agencies' programs.
 - Outlines specific goals and objectives
 - Streamlining eligibility
 - Improving interagency data sharing
 - Program evaluation
 - Workforce development
 - Providing joint training and technical assistance
 - Aligning President Biden's Justice 40 strategies

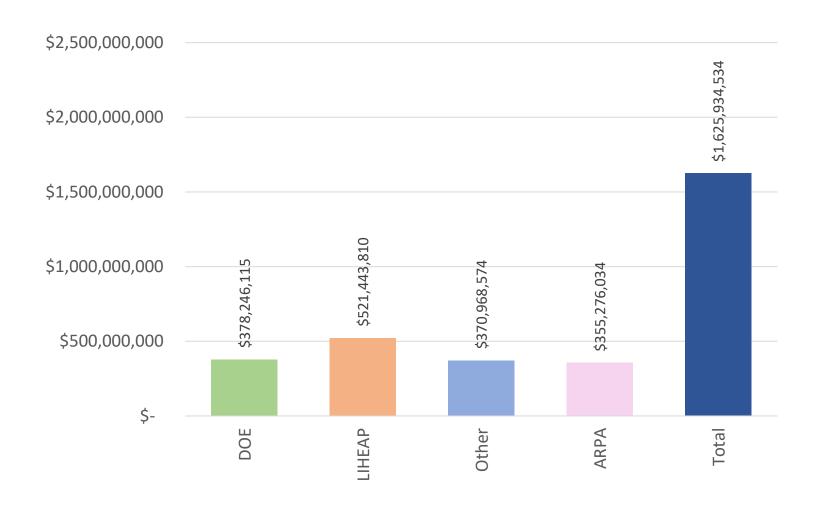
PROJECT STAGES

DOE Secretary Granholm Collaborating agencies MOU reviewed by agencies' DOE Secretary Granholm to invited collaborating drafted MOU. leadership. host roundtable with agencies to participate in collaborating agencies' MOU. secretaries to sign MOU. STAGE 03 STAGE 04 STAGE 01 STAGE 02

Interagency Collaboration Activities

- Long standing partnership with LIHEAP with funding weatherization and braiding funding, categorical eligibility, etc.
- Categorical eligibility approval for inclusion of Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Means-Tested Programs
- Multi-Agency Efforts on Braiding Resources
 - Webinars (posted on DOE website)
 - Co-presenting at conferences to promote collaboration between programs
 - Developing property lists for eligible HUD and USDA units
 - Assessing data in order to improve coordination of services

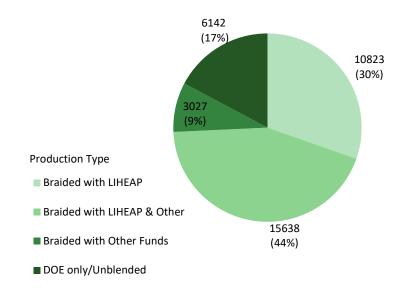
What do we know about WAP & LIHEAP funding?



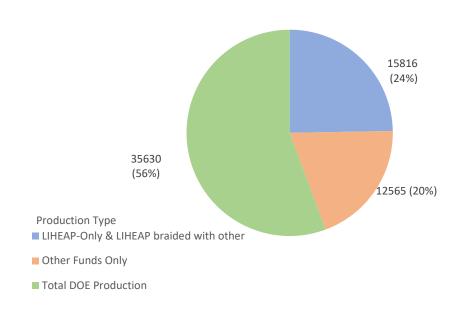
From NASCSP 2021 Funding Survey

Braided Production

DOE Production



All Production



From NASCSP 2021 Funding Survey

Why look for Opportunities to Braiding Resources

- Allows the dollars to go further so more families can be served
- Projects receive more comprehensive services
- Helps address causes of deferrals and make homes weatherization ready

Especially important for spending BIL funding!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

Braiding Resources | Deep Retrofits Example



Air Sealing	\$800.00
Attic Insulation	\$2,000.00
Sidewall Insulation	\$2,800.00
Refrigerator Replacement	\$800.00
ASHRAE Ventilation	\$550.00
Energy Audit	\$500.00
Quality Control Inspection	\$500.00
DOE Subtotal	\$7,950.00
Heating System Replacement	\$5,000.00
Roof Repair	\$1,200.00
Door Replacement	\$800.00
Other Baseload (Power Strips, LEDs)	\$500.00
LIHEAP subtotal	\$7,500.00
TOTAL	\$15,400.00

Note: Measure costs include proportion of total labor

Importance of Collaboration

- Creates the most flexibility in both WAP and LIHEAP
- Helps reach more potentially eligible households by promoting each other's programs
- By collaborating with the LIHEAP office, your program can build a pipeline of income eligible households

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families Office of Community Services Division of Energy Assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

2023 National Association for State Community Services Programs
Winter Training Conference

April 5, 2023

AKM RAHMAN, OPERATIONS BRANCH CHIEF
HEATHER JONES, POLICY & EVALUATION BRANCH CHIEF



LIHEAP Overview

Purpose:

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with <u>energy costs</u>. LIHEAP provides federally funded assistance to reduce the costs associated with home <u>energy bills</u>, <u>energy crises</u>, <u>weatherization</u>, and minor energy-related home repairs.

Target Population:

LIHEAP benefits target households with low incomes, particularly those that have a high home energy burden (percentage of income that goes to heating and cooling bills) and/or include an older adult, individual with a disability, and/or a young child.

Helps manage energy costs by:

- Providing assistance with home <u>heating</u> and <u>cooling</u> bills.
- •Providing services during a household <u>energy crisis</u> (required response timeframes).
- Providing low-cost weatherization measures.
- Providing energy <u>education and counseling.</u>

Federal Coordination - LIHEAP

- The Federal LIHEAP statue and regulations require coordination with low income programs, including Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

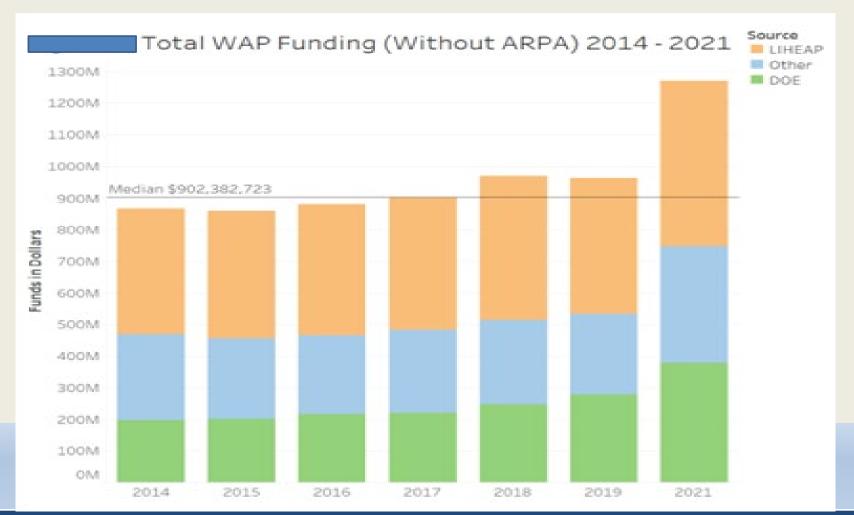
Assurance 4: "coordinate its activities under this title with similar and related programs administered by the Federal Government and such State, particularly low-income energy-related programs..."

Assurance 6: "to the extent it is necessary to designate local administrative agencies in order to carry out the purposes of this title, to give special consideration, in the designation of such agencies, to any local public or private nonprofit agency which was receiving Federal funds under any low-income energy assistance program or weatherization program…"

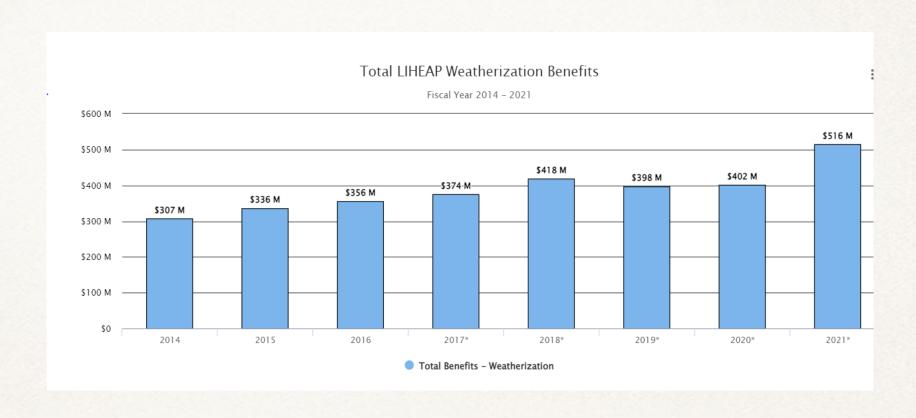
- Other sections of the statute and LIHEAP regulations provide additional details about LIHEAP-funded weatherization activities.

National Perspective: Weatherization Total Funding

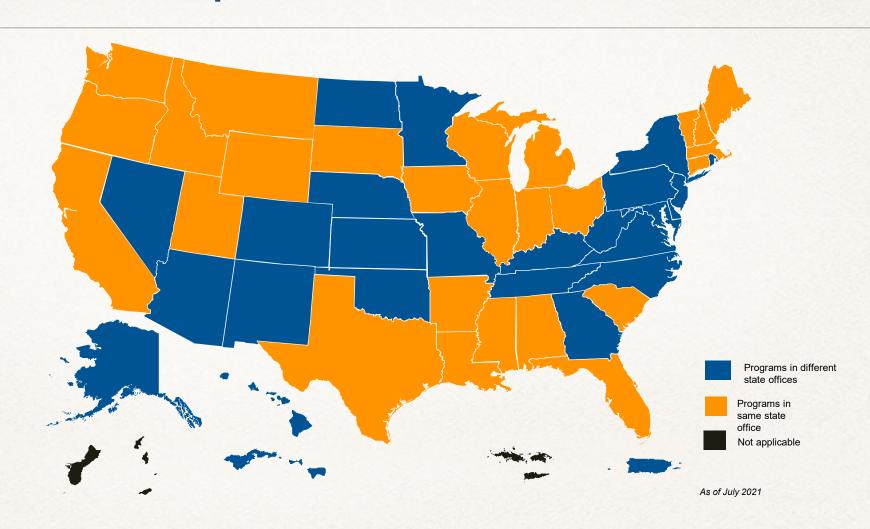
*Source: NASCSP 2021 Weatherization Annual Funding Survey | Tableau Public



National Perspective: LIHEAP Weatherization Total Funding



HHS LIHEAP and DOE WAP State Grant Recipient Office Overlap

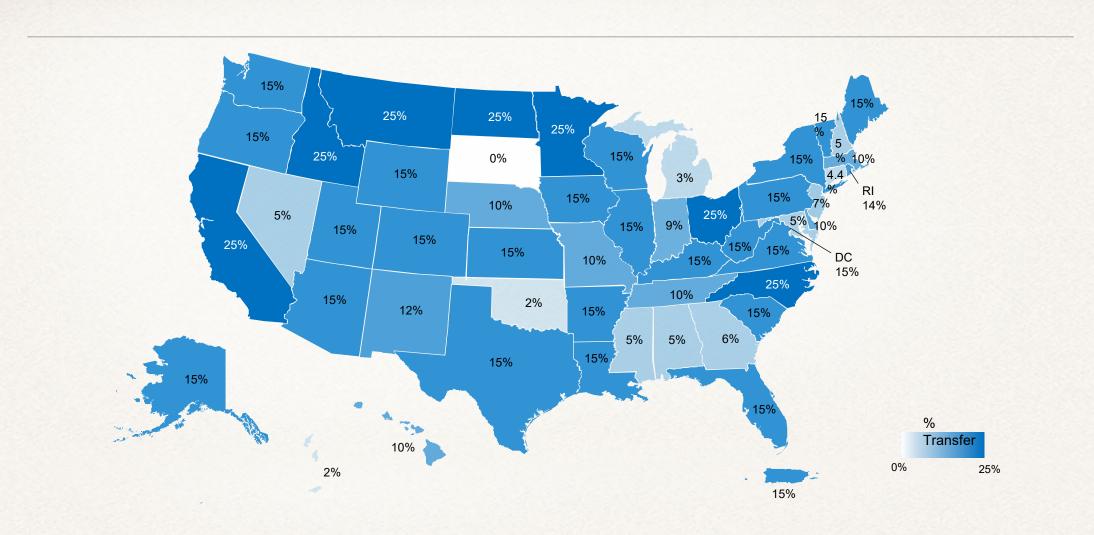


LIHEAP Weatherization Allocation

Most states and territories administer a LIHEAP weatherization program.

- A LIHEAP Grant Recipient may allocate up to 15% of total LIHEAP funds to weatherization.
- A LIHEAP Grant Recipient may request a written waiver from HHS to increase the allocation up to 25% of total LIHEAP funds.
 - HHS can only approve waivers from April 1 –September 30
- LIHEAP weatherization funds can be:
 - Administered directly by the LIHEAP Grant Recipient, or
 - Passed to a state agency, which administers the DOE Weatherization Assistance Program.

Percentage of LIHEAP Funds Allocated to Weatherization – 2022



HHS LIHEAP State Plans

Each plan is reviewed and accepted individually by HHS:

- Section 1:
 - Component %
- Section 5 outlines:
 - Eligibility
 - Rules
 - Average Cost Per Unit (ACPU)
 - Type of LIHEAP assistance (not exhaustive)
 - Other

LIHEAP State and Territory Plans, Manuals and Delegation Letters

State LIHEAP Manuals | Delegation Letters

State FY 2022 LIHEAP Plans

District of Columbia

Georgia

Hawaii

Idaho

Illinois

IndianaIowa

Kansas

- Alabama
 Kentucky

 Alaska
 Louisiana

 Arizona
 Maine

 Arkansas
 Maryland

 California
 Massachusetts

 Colorado
 Michigan

 Connecticut
 Minesota

 Delaware
 Mississippi
 - Missisarrusetts
 Michigan
 Minnesota
 Mississippi
 Missouri
 Montana
 Nebraska
 - Nebraska
 Nevada
 New Hampshire
 New Jersey
 New Mexico
 - New JerseyNew MexicoNew YorkNorth Carolina

- North Dakota
- OhioOklahomaOregonPennsylva
- Pennsylvania
 Rhode Island
 South Carolina
 South Dakota
 Tennessee
- TexasUtahVermontVirginiaWashington
- West Virginia
 Wisconsin
 Wyoming

Archives: 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021

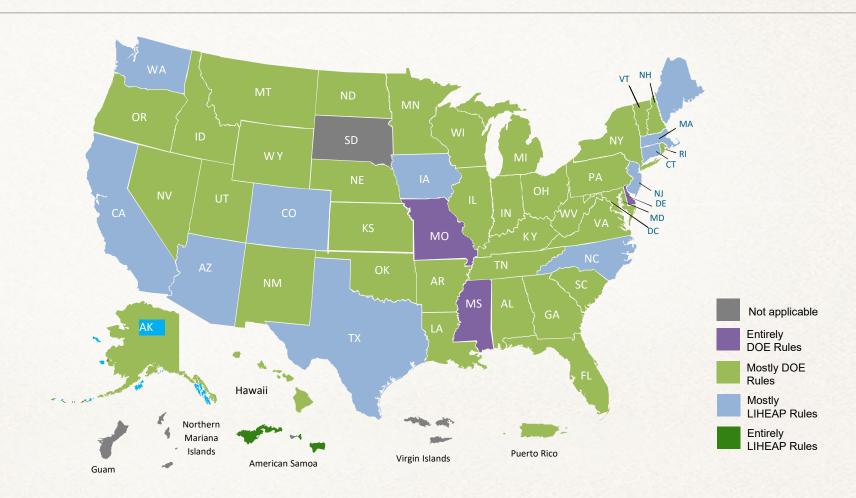
https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/stateplans.htm

LIHEAP Grant Recipient Rules

Rules can create the flexibility Grant Recipients seek in running their program.

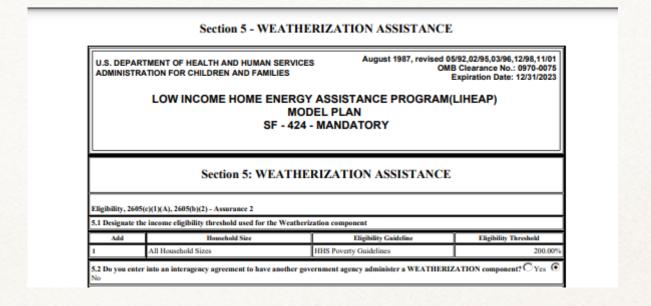
- Section 5 of the LIHEAP Model Plan has the option to use rules of LIHEAP and/or DOE that best fit the needs of the grant recipient.
- How are the rules decided?
- Grant Recipients determine which rules
- Why might a Grant Recipient choose one over the other?
- To allow flexibility and to tailor rules to meet the grant recipient area.

LIHEAP Grant Recipient Agency Adopted Rules – FY 2022



What is the Most Flexible Approach – Within HHS LIHEAP Plan?

5.1 – Aligning eligibility threshold as 200% Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) or 60% State Medium Income (SMI), if that is the greater eligibility amount



What is the Most Flexible Approach – Within HHS LIHEAP Plan?

5.5 -- Selecting "Mostly LIHEAP" with at least the following selected:

- Income Eligibility Threshold (aligning with 5.1 to increase to WAP eligibility levels).
- Weatherization of entire multifamily housing structure.
- By Selecting "Mostly LIHEAP" funding is not subject to the WAP maximum statewide averages nor is it subject to Saving Investment Ratio (SIR) requirements.

What is the Most Flexible Approach – Within HHS LIHEAP Plan?

5.11 – Select all pre-populated measures

- Include as "other" any measures that are prevalent in specific area or aligned with current priorities (e.g., air source heat pumps, air conditioner replacement, energy related repairs, etc.)
- Also include any renewable technologies that may be priorities within your region.

LIHEAP Weatherization – Common Exceptions to DOE rule

According to 2022 LIHEAP Plans, common exceptions:

- Average cost per unit (24 Grant Recipients)
- Savings to investment ratio (19 Grant Recipients)
- Re-weatherization date (12 Grant Recipients)
- Energy related repairs
 - Possible measures: minor structural repairs, mold/moisture control, electrical repairs
 - Unallowable practices: roof replacement, major construction
 - Important to base your program design on data (<u>deferral tracking</u>) and set cost or other limits on repairs.

LIHEAP Weatherization – Other Exceptions to DOE rule

Other DOE rule exceptions:

- ■No Health and Safety (H&S) limit or higher H&S limit.
- No Quality Control Inspection (QCI) required, but does require inspections.
- ■No SIR or SIR <1.0
- Cook stove replacement is allowed.
- HVAC Replacement.

LIHEAP Clarifications

Question - Is it allowable under LIHEAP weatherization?

Most common answer – It depends on the Model Plan rule options adopted for LIHEAP weatherization and if the exceptions from the DOE rule are sufficiently described. In general,

- ➤ Vehicle Purchases Allowable under LIHEAP Weatherization, if the grant recipient's statewide rules allow it. Shared uses must follow cost allocation based on planned usage.
- ➤ Heath and Safety Allowable under LIHEAP weatherization. LIHEAP must identify the exceptions to DOE rule (if used) and create a written policy.
- ➤ Training and Technical Assistance Allowable, depending on the LIHEAP grant recipient's policy and administrative limitation.
- ➤ Construction Construction and permanent improvement of land is not permitted under LIHEAP.

LIHEAP Noteworthy Practices

State level coordination between LIHEAP and Weatherization Office

- Communication
- Setting Expectations
- Joint Statewide Outreach
- Local Level Coordination and Outreach Between LIHEAP and Weatherization Providers
- Joint Application and Common Eligibility Standards
- Beneficiary Referral Between LIHEAP and Weatherization Offices and viceversa
- Coordination of Crisis Cases
- Policies around exception to priority system

What does HHS Recommend as Practical Next Steps?

From HHS perspective, Grant Recipients should:

- Coordinate the LIHEAP State Plan and WAP State Plan in preparation to ensure maximum flexibility.
- Participate in (and or share) Advisory Group.
- Coordinate the Public Hearings, if possible.
- Ensure there is a MOU between LIHEAP and WAP offices (if they are in different state offices).
- Outline LIHEAP's monitoring relationship with WAP, if LIHEAP funds are allocated for weatherization purposes.
- Aim to facilitate better coordination between LIHEAP and WAP stakeholder groups and local agencies.

LIHEAP Data Dashboards



HHS LIHEAP Resources

<u>LIHEAP Website</u>: The OCS website provides resources for LIHEAP grant recipients including Information Memoranda, Dear Colleague Letters, Action Transmittals, and training materials.

<u>LIHEAP FY 2023 Data Dashboard</u> This site provides information and data on LIHEAP and is intended to be used to track the impacts of LIHEAP.

<u>LIHEAP Performance Management Website</u>: The LIHEAP Performance Management website includes a data warehouse with basic and advanced reporting tools. Additionally, the website contains a wealth of grant recipient resources related to LIHEAP data, required reporting, and Performance Management.

<u>LIHEAP Clearinghouse</u>: The LIHEAP Clearinghouse contains LIHEAP State Plans, Manuals, contracts, and other administrative documents. Additionally, the Clearinghouse provides an extensive list of publications related to all areas covered in this training session. Grant recipients are encouraged to call Clearinghouse staff if they need assistance finding resources.

Energy Help.US: This multi-lingual service locator page allows the public to look up their local intake site, call and email the National Energy Assistance Help Line (NEAR).

Questions?

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HEATHER.JONES@ACF.HHS.GOV



LIHEAP Resources

LIHEAP Coordination Resources

- LIHEAP Model State Plan Graphics
- LIHEAP Model State Plan Transfer & Rules One Pager
- DATA LIHEAP State Plan Characteristics 2022

LIHEAP Deferral Programs

- Michigan-LIHEAP-State-Plan-FY2021
- Ohio LIHEAP Transfer Waiver Request 3.2018
- Pennsylvania 2019-2020 LIHEAP Deferral Program

Links

- LIHEAP Clearinghouse
- LIHEAP Data warehouse
- LIHEAP State Plans

Webinars

LIHEAP Clearinghouse Walkthrough Video for WAI

Reports and Fact Sheets

LIHEAP State Plan Data Analysis 2022 and Other LIHEAP Info

- LIHEAP Model State Plan Transfer & Rules One Pager (NASCSP)
- LIHEAP State Characteristics 2022
- Weatherization: Coordinating LIHEAP and WAP LIHEAP Clearinghouse

LIHEAP & Collaboration



Strong relationships between LIHEAP and WAP make a critical difference in supporting energy burdened households across the country.



According to the LIHEAP statute, LIHEAP dollars can be used for weatherization purposes as long as the installed measures meet one of these three criteria: low-

atherization or other energy related home ion. Beyond what is stated in the statute, it is the nature of their weatherization programs. VAP transfer to provide flexibility into the e national transfer was 11%.

Funding Report, 46 WAP Grantees reported wailable for energy efficiency activities. This 2 percent, \$92,442,155, over the funds ransferred to WAP comprised 32 percent of

Reports

Weatherization: Coordinating LIHEAP and WAP (HHS, 2016)

LIHEAP Above 15% Waiver Samples

- 45 CFR 96.83
- Washington

RESOURCES

QUESTIONS?

AMANDA RAINS - DOE HEATHER JONES - HHS AKM RAHMAN - HHS

SCAN TO COMPLETE EVALUATION

