

NASCSP

POLICY BRIEF

October 2024
Issue 01

*Increasing capacity in
States to achieve economic
security and energy
efficiency in low-income
communities since 1978.*

118TH CONGRESS,
2ND SESSION BILLS

FEDERAL RULES
AND REGULATORY
UPDATES

UPCOMING
LEGISLATION

NATIONAL
PARTNER
RESOURCES

CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP





WELCOME!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of NASCSP Policy Brief. We are thrilled to embark on this journey with you, our treasured members, as we share information and insights about legislation and policies that impacts your work.

In this first issue we share about legislation that has been introduced this Congress, resources from our national partners, information about federal regulatory comment periods, Congressional committee information and more. We hope you find this resource a useful and convenient way to learn more about what is happening on Capitol Hill and how it impacts both the Community Services Block Grant and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

We would love to hear from you! Please send any feedback and questions our way by emailing Britt Pomush at bpomush@nascsp.org!

**The future
belongs to those
who believe in
the beauty of
their dreams.
-Eleanor
Roosevelt**

118th Congress Bills

Priorities and themes from the first 3/4 of the 118th Congress.

As of this writing, fewer than 70 bills have become law this Congress, making the 118th Congress one the least productive - as far as bills go. However, that does not mean that Congress has been inactive. See the list below for a some of the bills introduced so far this Congress.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

H.R. 6639, The Federal Poverty Line Act: Rep. K. Mullin (D-CA-15) *NASCSP worked with Rep. Mullin's office to craft this bill and endorsed it.*

WEATHERIZATION

S. 1005, The Weatherization Program Improvements Act: Sen. J. Reed (D-RI) *NASCSP has worked with Sen. Reed's office to address WAP concerns and endorsed this bill.*

H.R. 8721, The Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act: Rep. P. Tonko (D-NY-20) *NASCSP has worked with Rep. Tonko's office to address WAP concerns and endorsed this bill.*

H.R. 3439, The Emergency Wildfire Act of 2023: Rep. J. Panetta (D-CA-19)

S. 1715, The Wildfire Emergency Act of 2023: Sen. D. Feinstein (D-CA)

H.R. 4296, The Weatherization Resilience and Adaptation Program Act: Rep. K. Mullin (D-CA-15)

WORKFORCE

S. 2122, The National Apprenticeship Act of 2023: Sen. T. Baldwin (D-WI)

H.R. 2851, The National Apprenticeship Act of 2023: Rep. R. Scott (D-VA-03)

S. 236, The Early Educators Apprenticeship Act: Sen. T. Young (R-IN)

S. 249, The Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act of 2023: Sen. C. Coons (D-DE)

H.R. 2900, The Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act of 2023: Rep. D. Norcross (D-NJ-01)

H.R. 658, The Strengthening Youth Apprenticeships Act of 2023: Rep. J. Castro (D-TX-20)

S. 2363, The Youth Apprenticeship Advancement Act: Sen. J. Hickenlooper (D-CO)

H.R. 7502, The Apprenticeship Program National Scorecard Act: Rep. C. Pappas (D-NH-1)

S. 2124, The Apprenticeship Pathways Act of 2023: Sen. M. Heinrich (D-NM)

H.R. 511, The American Apprenticeship Act: Rep. R. DeLauro (CT-3)

S. 83, The American Apprenticeship Act: Sen. A. Klobuchar (D-MN)

H.R. 3786, The Apprenticeships to College Act: Rep. J. Harder (D-CA-09)

S. 343, The Apprenticeships to College Act: Sen. A. Klobuchar (D-MN)

H.R. 5760, The Climate Resilience Workforce Act: Rep. P. Jayapal (D-WA-07)

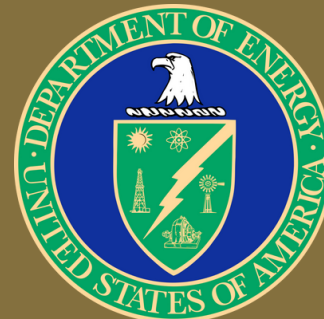
H.R. 1536, The Leveraging and Energizing Americas Apprenticeship Programs Act: Rep. N. Budzinski (D-IL-13)

S. 2838, The Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act: Sen. E. Markey (D-MA)

H.R. 5572, The Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act: Rep. A. Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14)



Rules & Regulations



Federal Rules and Regulations

It has been a big year for both CSBG and Weatherization with open comment periods and interim rules.

Health and Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Services (OCS) issued a notice of proposed collection activity on April 22, 2024. Found in the [Federal Register](#), the notice invited public comments on proposed revisions to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Annual Progress Report. The clearance for the current Annual Report expired on June 30. Comments were due within 60 days of publication, on June 21. NASCSP submitted a

letter on behalf of its membership and worked closely with the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) and CAPLAW to submit network-wide comments to OCS; they can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

On April 24, OCS also issued an [information collection request](#) to extend clearance for continued use of the CSBG State Plan 3.0. No changes were proposed to the State Plan Application; comments were due June 23.

OCS initiated the second phase of the information collection request. The corresponding Dear Colleague Letter noted that “OCS did not receive comments from the CSBG network and other CSBG

DID YOU KNOW?

Federal agencies like HHS and DOE get the authority to make rules and regulations from laws enacted by Congress. Agencies go through a public rule-making process that codifies how programs are carried out at the grantee and subgrantee level. Agencies can engage in the rule-making process at other times too, for reasons like changes to technology, a Presidential directive, and more. When a rule changes grantees and subgrantees must ensure their policies and procedures are up-to-date and reflect the most recent rules. (Source: [Federal Register](#))

stakeholders therefore, OCS has resubmitted with no revisions.” Submittal started the clock on a 30-day comment period ending on August 11.

Department of Energy

On the Weatherization side, the Department of Energy (DOE) held a webinar concerning potential changes to 10 CFR 440, the regulations governing the Weatherization Assistance Program. The May 8 webinar touched on

many different aspects of the regulation and solicited comments in real time and in the immediate future. According to a rule published in early July and found [HERE](#), DOE is developing interim rules, which do not require a 60-day comment period.

NASCSP submitted comments to DOE on May 31. We anticipate publication of the interim rule in September.

Upcoming Legislative Business

As the legislative cycles continue on, upcoming business changes but never goes away.



Authorizing Legislation

As we look back over the year and toward the beginning of a new Congress in 2025, there is much on the horizon. This year, NASCSP has been on the Hill, virtually and in person, building relationships, and helping congressional staffers and legislators understand how to support CSBG and WAP state offices. We are working hard to make sure your issues and successes are heard on the Hill!

After hearing from you, we worked with key House and Senate stakeholders to introduce two Weatherization bills in the House and Senate. These companion bills would raise the ACPU and permanently authorize the Weatherization Readiness Fund. These are bills that came from your mouth to Congress' ears and we all need to work together to push

them forward. You can find Sen. Jack Reed's (D-RI) and Rep. Paul Tonko's (D-NY) bills [HERE](#) and [HERE](#), respectively. Original cosponsors of these bills include Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Chris Coons (D-DE) in the Senate, and Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Elissa Slotkin (D-MI). We'll be watching these bills for movement in the relevant committees and for additional cosponsors to help us understand the interest and appetite for the legislation.

FY25 Appropriations

The House and Senate have begun work on several spending bills, including the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bills.

What can you do?

- If you are able to in your official or personal capacity, let your elected officials know about the importance of these to their local communities!
- Make sure your representatives know the importance of CSBG funds and the WAP!

The House Committee passed its version of the Energy and Water bill on July 9, while the Senate Committee approved its bill on August 1. The House bill includes a drastic cut to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which houses the Weatherization Assistance Program, and would fund the Office at \$1.9 billion, a \$1.5 billion cut from FY24.

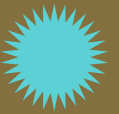
Health and Human Services bill has stalled and the Senates does not appear to have begun its path forward. The House bill includes a \$10 million increase to CSBG but a total striking of

Community Economic Development funds. What happens next is anyone's guess - we'll continue tracking and sharing out information as we get it.

Continuing Resolution

Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) on September 26. The CR continues federal government funding at 2024 levels until December 20, 2024. The bill also extends the FY2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act provisions, inclusive of allowable use of the 200% federal poverty line for eligibility.

Partner Resources



As the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency work to roll out programs signed into law through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), many of our national partners are also working hard to ensure effective implementation through research and education.

1 NASEO

- [Wages, Benefits, and Change: A Supplemental Report to the 2020 Annual U.S. Energy and Employment Report](#)
- [Manufactured Housing in Rural America: How States are Supporting Energy Efficient Homes and Reducing Energy Costs for Residents](#)



2 NEADA

- [While the Price of Winter Energy Bills are Declining, Families Struggle to Pay their Energy Bills](#) April 23, 2024
- [April 2024 Hardship Report](#) April 13, 2024

3 ACEEE

- [Study Shows How States Can Maximize Impact of Federal Home Energy Retrofit Funds](#) May 30, 2024
- [Report: Electrifying U.S. Homes Can Save \\$96 Billion in Energy Costs — If Done Equitably](#) May 28, 2024
- [Low-Income Households Spend Nearly 20% of Income on Home Energy and Auto Fuel Costs](#) May 13, 2024





Committee Membership



People underestimate the impact they can have on the process through contact with legislators. By being part of an organized group in an area that you have an interest in, you can multiply the impact of your own ideas.

– former Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH)

Appropriations Subcommittee Membership

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees, through their 12 subcommittees, hold hearings to examine the budget requests and needs of federal spending programs. The House and Senate then produce their own appropriations bills to fund the federal government. ([NSF](#))

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Chair: Tammy Baldwin (WI)

Ranking Member: Shelley Moore Capito (WV)

Democrat Members

Patty Murray (WA)
Richard Durbin (IL)
Jack Reed (RI)
Jeanne Shaheen (NH)
Jeff Merkley (OR)
Brian Schatz (HI)
Chris Murphy (CT)
Joe Manchin (WV)

Republican Members

Lindsey Graham (SC)
Jerry Moran (KS)
John Kennedy (LA)
Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS)
John Boozman (AR)
Katie Britt (AL)
Marco Rubio (FL)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Chair: Patty Murray (WA)

Ranking Member: John Kennedy (LA)

Democrat Members

Jon Tester (MT)
Richard Durbin (IL)
Jeanne Shaheen (NH)
Jeff Merkley (OR)
Christopher Coons (DE)
Tammy Baldwin (WI)
Martin Heinrich (NM)
Kyrsten Sinema (AZ)

Republican Members

Mitch McConnell (KY)
Lisa Murkowski (AK)
Lindsey Graham (SC)
John Hoeven (ND)
Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS)
Bill Hagerty (TN)
Katie Britt (AL)

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Chair: Robert Aderholt (AL)

Ranking Member: Rosa DeLauro (CT)

Republican Members

Mike Simpson (ID)
Andy Harris (MD)
Chuck Fleischmann (TN)
John Moolenaar (MI)
Julia Letlow (LA)
Andrew Clyde (GA)
Jake LaTurner (KS)
Juan Ciscomani (AZ)
Chuck Edwards (NC)

Democrat Members

Steny Hoyer (MD)
Barbara Lee (CA)
Mark Pocan (WI)
Lois Frankel (FL)
Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ)
Josh Harder (CA)

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies

Chair: Chuck Fleischmann (TN)

Ranking Member: Marcy Kaptur (OH)

Republican Members

Mike Simpson (ID)
Ken Calvert (CA)
Dan Newhouse (WA)
Guy Reschenthaler (PA)
Mike Garcia (CA)
Julia Letlow (LA)
Michael Guest (MS)
Stephanie Bice (OK)

Democrat Members

Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)
Susie Lee (NV)
Mike Quigley (IL)
Joe Morelle (NY)
Derek Kilmer (WA)

Senate Committee Membership

DYK? The **Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee** has jurisdiction over all of Health and Human Services programs like CSBG, LIHEAP, and more! The **Energy and Natural Resources Committee** has jurisdiction over Department of Energy programs like WAP and State Energy Offices, and more!

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Chair: Bernard Sanders (VT)

Ranking Member: Bill Cassidy (LA)

Democrat Members

Patty Murray (WA)
Robert Casey (PA)
Tammy Baldwin (WI)
Christopher Murphy (CT)
Tim Kaine (VA)
Tina Smith (MN)
Ben Ray Lujan (NM)
John Hickenlooper (CO)
Edward Markey (MA)
Margaret Wood Hassan (NH)

Republican Members

Rand Paul (KY)
Susan Collins (ME)
Lisa Murkowski (AK)
Mike Braun (IN)
Roger Marshall (KS)
Mitt Romney (UT)
Tommy Tuberville (AL)
Markwayne Mullin (OK)
Ted Budd (NC)

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Chair: Joe Manchin (WV)

Ranking Member: John Barrasso (WY)

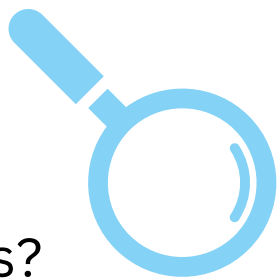
Democrat Members

Ron Wyden (OR)
Maria Cantwell (WA)
Bernard Sanders (VT)
Martin Heinrich (NM)
Mazie Hirono (HI)
Angus King (ME)
John Hickenlooper (CO)
Alex Padilla (CA)
Catherine Cortez-Masto (NV)

Republican Members

James Risch (ID)
Mike Lee (UT)
Steve Daines (MT)
Lisa Murkowski (AK)
John Hoeven (ND)
Bill Cassidy (LA)
Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS)
Josh Hawley (MO)

Not sure
where to
find your
legislators?



Use this link!

<https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/addr/>

House Committee Membership

DYK? The **Education and Workforce Committee** has jurisdiction over all of Health and Human Services programs like CSBG, LIHEAP, and more! The **Energy and Commerce Committee** has jurisdiction over Department of Energy programs like WAP and State Energy Offices, and more!

House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Chair: Virginia Foxx (NC)

Ranking Member: Robert “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Republican Members

Joe Wilson, (SC)
Glenn Thompson, (PA)
Tim Walberg, (MI)
Glenn Grothman, (WI)
Elise Stefanik, (NY)
Rick Allen, (GA)
Jim Banks, (IN)
James Comer, (KY)
Lloyd Smucker, (PA)
Burgess Owens, (UT)
Bob Good, (VA)
Lisa McClain, (MI)
Mary Miller, (IL)
Michelle Steel, (CA)
Ron Estes, (KS)
Julia Letlow, (LA)
Kevin Kiley, (CA)
Aaron Bean, (FL)
Eric Burlison, (MO)
Nathaniel Moran, (TX)
John James, (MI)
Lori Chavez-DeRemer, (OR)
Brandon Williams, (NY)
Erin Houchin, (IN)

Democrat Members

Raúl M. Grijalva, (AZ)
Joe Courtney, (CT)
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Northern Mariana Islands
Frederica S. Wilson, (FL)
Suzanne Bonamici, (OR)
Mark Takano, (CA)
Alma S. Adams, (NC)
Mark DeSaulnier, (CA)
Donald Norcross, (NJ)
Pramila Jayapal, (WA)
Susan Wild, (PA)
Lucy McBath, (GA)
Jahana Hayes, (CT)
Ilhan Omar, (MN)
Haley M. Stevens, (MI)
Teresa Leger Fernández, (NM)
Kathy E. Manning, (NC)
Frank J. Mrvan, (IN)
Jamaal Bowman, (NY)

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Chair: Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA)

Ranking Member: Frank Pallone (NJ)

Republican Members

Michael C. Burgess, (TX)
Bob Latta, (OH)
Brett Guthrie, (KY)
Morgan Griffith, (VA)
Gus Bilirakis, (FL)
Larry Bucshon, (IN)
Richard Hudson, (NC)
Tim Walberg, (MI)
Buddy Carter, (GA)
Jeff Duncan, (SC)
Gary Palmer, (AL)
Neal Dunn, (FL)
John Curtis, (UT)
Debbie Lesko, (AZ)
Greg Pence, (IN)
Dan Crenshaw, (TX)
John Joyce, (PA)
Kelly Armstrong, (ND)
Randy Weber, (TX)
Rick Allen, (GA)
Troy Balderson, (OH)
Russ Fulcher, (ID)
August Pfluger, (TX)
Diana Harshbarger, (TN)
Mariannette Miller-Meeks, (IA)
Kat Cammack, (FL)
Jay Obernolte, (CA)
John James, (MI)

Democrat Members

Anna Eshoo, (CA)
Diana DeGette, (CO)
Jan Schakowsky, (IL)
Doris Matsui, (CA)
Kathy Castor, (FL)
John Sarbanes, (MD)
Paul Tonko, (NY)
Yvette Clarke, (NY)
Tony Cárdenas, (CA)
Raul Ruiz, (CA)
Scott Peters, (CA)
Debbie Dingell, (MI)
Marc Veasey, (TX)
Annie Kuster, (NH)
Robin Kelly, (IL)
Nanette Barragán, (CA)
Lisa Blunt Rochester, (DE)
Darren Soto, (FL)
Angie Craig, (MN)
Kim Schrier, (WA)
Lori Trahan, (MA)
Lizzie Fletcher, (TX)

NASCSP

POLICY BRIEF

