

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE BIL-7 EFFECTIVE DATE: December 4, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Weatherization Program Notice (WPN) BIL-7 addresses critical updates to the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Formula Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant program by:

- 1. Extending the grant period of performance to June 30, 2029.
- 2. Extending the Average Cost Per Unit (ACPU) to an average over seven years to align with the new grant period of performance.
- 3. Notifying Grantees that the remaining 50% of BIL funding will be obligated while retaining the requirements to meet the original milestones outlined in WPN BIL-1.
- 4. Provides the process for obtaining Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) agency approval, for Grantees who have not demonstrated the milestones outlined in WPN BIL-1.

SUBJECT: WAP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Award Extension and Obligating Remaining 50% of Funding

APPLICABLE TO: WAP Grantee Program Managers and Financial Staff

PURPOSE: To provide updated information regarding BIL WAP Formula grant period of performance, obligation of remaining 50% of BIL funds, and information on calculating the ACPU for BIL grants.

SUPERSEDES: This WPN supersedes WPN BIL-5, Section: Average Cost Per Unit

SCOPE: The provisions of this Guidance apply to all Grantees awarded financial assistance under DOE WAP BIL grants.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Title IV, Energy Conservation and Production Act (ECPA), as amended, authorizes the Department to administer the WAP (42 U.S.C. § 6861, et. seq.). All grant awards made under this Program shall comply with applicable law and regulations including, but not limited to, the WAP regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 10 CFR 440, DOE Financial Assistance Rules at 2 CFR 200, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), Public Law 117-58.

BACKGROUND: On November 15, 2021, the President signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which provides \$3.5 billion in funding for Weatherization.

SEC. 40551. WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the weatherization assistance program established under part A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.) \$3,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until expended.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) WAP issued <u>Weatherization Program Notice BIL 1: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Grants for the Weatherization Assistance Program on March 30, 2022, which included a framework for the release of BIL funds. On July 9, 2024, WAP issued <u>Weatherization Memorandum 131:</u> Requirements to Request Remaining 50% of Obligated Funds Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.</u>

This Weatherization Program Notice is issued to notify Grantees that DOE will be extending the period of performance for WAP BIL formula grant awards to June 30, 2029. As outlined in Public Law 117-58, Congress intended for funds to remain available until expended and DOE is aware of the extenuating challenges faced by the network to ramp up service delivery. Furthermore, DOE will obligate the remaining 50% of BIL funding, while retaining the requirements to meet the original milestones outlined in WPN BIL-1. To do this, Grantees who have not met the milestones and are not currently on ASAP approval, will be required to comply with ASAP agency approval process for their BIL award as outlined in the details below.

GUIDANCE:

Grant Period of Performance:

The Period of Performance for WAP BIL formula Grantees will be extended to June 30, 2029.

Average Cost Per Unit (ACPU):

For expenditure limits and renewable energy measures, BIL funded grants will now follow a 7-year average of annual ACPU limits from Program Years (PY) 2022-2028. DOE will track expenditures, production, and the ACPU throughout the life of the grant, but the ACPU for the award will be evaluated based on the final average ACPU. How averages will be calculated is outlined below.

Program Year	Total Allowable ACPU	Renewables ACPU (Renewables
		ACPU is part of the Total
		Allowable ACPU)
2022	\$8009	\$3929
2023	\$8250	\$4047
2024	\$8497	\$4169
2025	\$8547	\$4302
2026	TBD	TBD
2027	TBD	TBD
2028	TBD	TBD
BIL Grant Average	= Average of PY 2022 through PY	= Average of PY 2022 through PY
	2028	2028

Note: BIL does not provide Weatherization Readiness Funds (WRF), therefore if Grantees allow WRF dollars to be spent on BIL projects they are excluded from the ACPU.

Obligation of Final 50% of BIL funding and requirement for ASAP agency approval until WPN BIL-1 milestones have been demonstrated:

DOE will modify WAP BIL grant awards to obligate final 50% tranche of BIL funding. However, DOE retains the original requirement for Grantees to meet milestones outlined in <u>WPN BIL-1</u> to draw the final 50% of BIL funding. To ensure Grantees do not draw against more than the first 50% of BIL funds before meeting the BIL milestones, DOE is placing Grantees on ASAP Agency Approval.

DOE has identified three group types of Grantees and how this new process will impact each group type:

Type	Grantee ASAP Agency Approval Invoicing Status	Process
1	Grantees who have demonstrated achievement of the seven milestones outlined in BIL-1, submitted documentation and	No ASAP agency approval will be required.
	received approval by DOE to release the remaining 50% of funding.	
2	Grantees currently on ASAP approval because of identified risk and compliance factors.	Continue to follow the current ASAP approval process, which may include providing detailed back up documentation.
3	Grantees who have NOT met the seven milestones and are NOT currently on ASAP approval because of identified risk factors.	Follow the ASAP agency approval process as outlined in this WPN and WAP BIL Payment Request Instructions-Attachment 1.

This ASAP approval process is outlined in the WAP BIL Payment Request Instructions (Attachment 1) and will require Grantees to:

- Submit the required materials to your Project Officer **before** submitting a request for payment in ASAP:
 - o Standard Form (SF)-270 "Request for Advance or Reimbursement" (Attachment 2) and,
 - WAP BIL Agency Approval Template (Attachment 3) which aligns with Grantee PAGE budget. The spreadsheet is used to document any spending that is summarized in the SF-270 form.
 - Only Tab 1 "Draw Request" is needed for Type 3 Grantees as defined in the table above.

To ensure expediency with DOE invoice approvals, please only send the documentation requested.

WAP encourages Grantees to review Term 30 Payment Procedures outlined in their BIL Special Terms and Conditions.

When the Grantee has met or will soon meet the milestones in <u>WPN BIL-1</u>, the Grantees should reach out to their Project Officer and submit documentation to initiate the milestone review process outlined in <u>WAP Memo</u> <u>131</u>. Grantees will be unable to receive payment requests in ASAP that exceed the first 50% of BIL funds until

the Grantee has met the milestones outlined in WPN BIL-1.

Once all BIL milestones are met, the Project Officer has reviewed the Grantee's plan modification documentation, and the Contracting Officer has approved the modification, the ASAP approval condition will be lifted from the grant award.

Questions regarding these materials should be directed to your respective DOE Project Officer and/or sent to wapta@hq.doe.gov.

CONCLUSION:

DOE appreciates the efforts of the network in implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to ensure low-income households receive weatherization assistance that reduces energy burden and improves health and safety. We look forward to our continued partnership to ensure this valuable investment delivers on WAPs mission and purpose.

DAVID GIPSON Digitally signed by DAVID GIPSON Date: 2024.12.04 15:10:28 -05'00'

David Gipson
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Office of State and Community Energy Programs

Attachment:

Attachment 1: WAP BIL Payment Request Instructions Attachment 2: WAP BIL Agency Approval Template

Attachment 3: SF-270