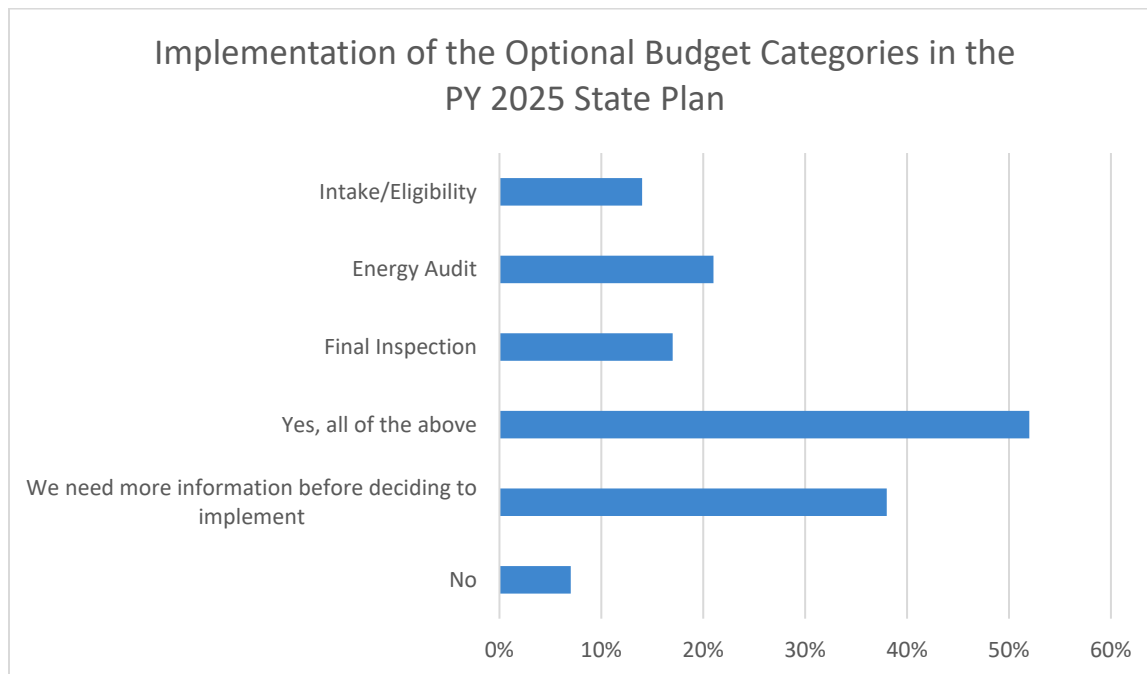


Implementation of new Optional Budget Categories

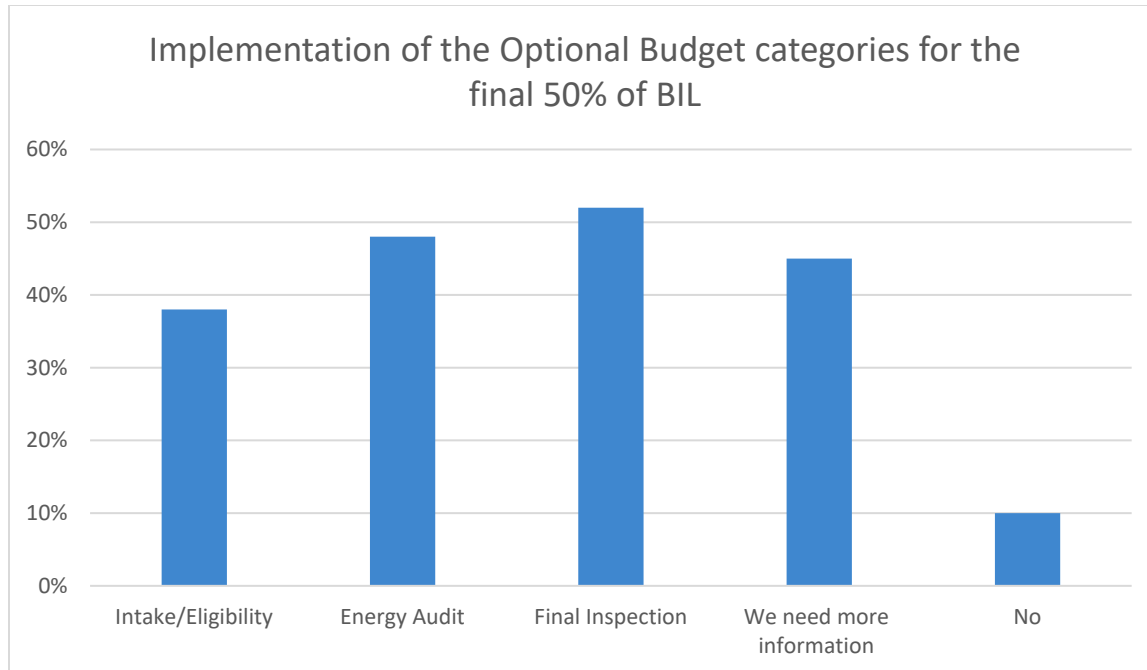
NASCS Member Survey – January 2025

Twenty-nine Weatherization (WAP) Grantees responded to a NASCS member survey regarding implementation of the new Optional Budget Categories ([WPN 24-7](#)) in their PY 2025 state plan and the final modification of the BIL state plan.

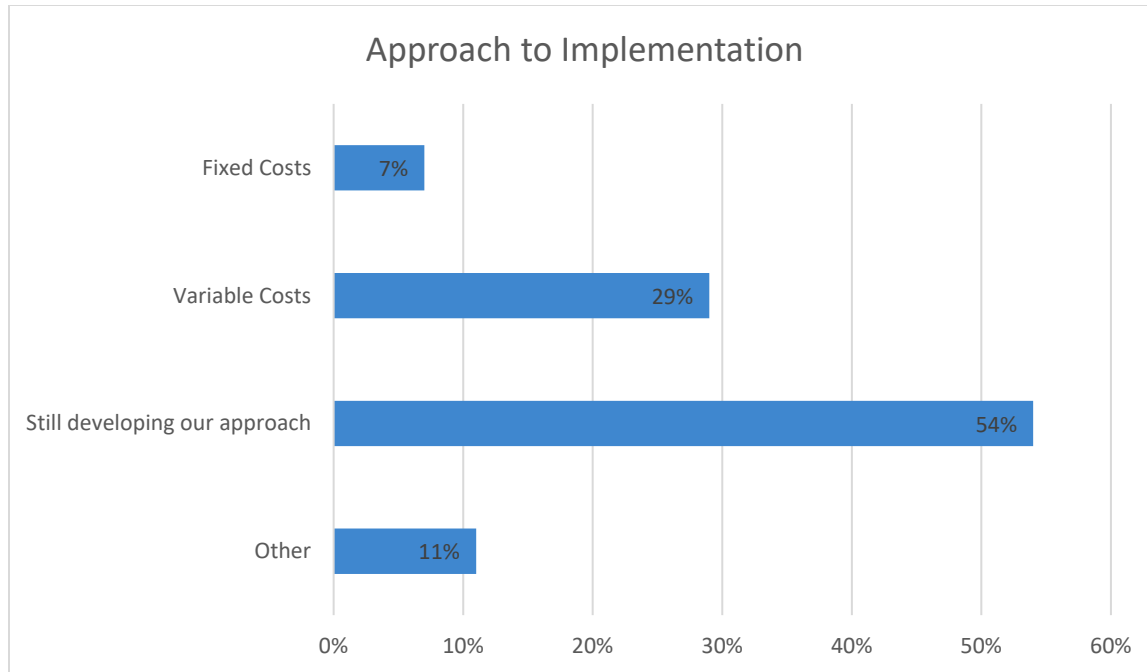
Implementation: Of the Grantees who responded, 52% stated they would be implementing the new budget categories in one form or another. Most of the Grantees plan to implement using all three categories of intake/eligibility, energy audit and final inspection. Thirty-eight percent of respondents stated they needed additional information before deciding to implement the optional budget categories in PY 2025. Only 7% of respondents will not be implementing the new optional budget categories.



Implementation for BIL: Grantees were asked if they planned to implement the same updates to the remaining 50% of their BIL award modification. Of the Grantees who responded, 52% plan to implement it for final inspections, 48% for energy audits and 38% for intake/eligibility. Another 45% were unsure of its use as they were still in need of additional information before coming to a conclusion. Ten percent stated they would not be implementing the optional budget categories for the BIL program.



Barriers: When asked how they planned to implement the new optional budget categories the majority (54%) said that they were still working to develop their approach. Twenty-nine percent stated they would be using variable costs and 7% stated they would be using fixed costs. Additionally, the overwhelming majority (68%) stated they were still working on program guidance for implementation and budget cost tracking. Another 32% stated they have yet to begin a draft.



Additional Questions: Grantees were asked to share lingering questions about the implementation of the optional budget categories for DOE. Most respondents were unsure of the implementation piece and would like examples shared of program guidance, implementation and success stories. Others requested concrete examples to determine fees for the energy audit and the quality control inspection as well as eligible activities such as software data entry and work order development. Finally, some Grantees asked how to maximize the benefits by proposing budget reorganization strategies that could also be applied to LIHEAP WAP and utility funded WAP operations. Understanding how audit tool software can be utilized to plan, track and account for the new budget categories may be of interest to Grantees.