

# Memorandum

DATE: **June 1, 2021**

**WAP Memorandum 077**

REPLY TO

ATTN OF:  **Erica Burrin, Weatherization Assistance Program, Program Manager  
Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program Office**

SUBJECT: **Pilot Project Opportunity: Community Scale Projects in the Weatherization Assistance Program**

TO: **Weatherization Assistance Program Grantees**

On December 27, 2020, P.L. 116-260 was enacted which provides fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) through September 30, 2021. In addition to the \$310 million appropriation, \$5 million was allocated for DOE Headquarters Training & Technical Assistance (T&TA). Included in the T&TA provision was a \$1.5 million set-aside to conduct a pilot on community scale projects within the WAP.

A pilot program focused on community scale projects would provide funding to Grantees in collaboration with local weatherization agencies (Subgrantees) who demonstrate the ability to pilot complex programs, dealing with multiple tenants and/or building owners within a specific geographic area, housing type(s), and/or specific demographics. Community Scale projects can range from a cluster of single family houses, 2 (or more) small multifamily buildings, or a large multifamily building. To be a recipient, the state weatherization agency (Grantee) must certify that the Subgrantee has the capacity to carry out the proposed activities, and that the Grantee will include this project in addition to the oversight of their traditional WAP.

Further, to align with Executive Order 14008, which establishes the Justice40 Initiative with the goal of delivering 40% of the overall benefits of climate investments to disadvantaged communities, project plans must include an explanation on:

- The quality and manner in which the measures incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion goals in the project; and,
- Extent to which the project benefits underserved communities.

DOE defines "underserved communities" as populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list of in the definition of "equity" (E.O. 13985).

As applicable to geographic communities, applicants can refer to economically distressed communities identified by the Internal Revenue Service as Qualified Opportunity Zones; communities identified as disadvantaged or underserved communities by their respective States; communities identified on the Index of Deep Disadvantage referenced at <https://news.umich.edu/new-index-ranks-americas-100-most-disadvantaged-communities/>, and communities that otherwise meet the definition of “underserved communities” stated above.

Additional detailed information on the opportunity to apply for a Community Scale Pilot Project will be issued by DOE and timed to align with new grant awards. DOE is currently in the process of building the evaluation tool but anticipates evaluating projects based to include, but not limited to, experience with HOME Repair Funds through HUD or other home repair programs, ability to administer complex and multi-funding sources simultaneously, and capacity for outreach and community awareness.

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