

Memorandum

DATE: November 9, 2022

WAP Memorandum 099

REPLY TO

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

SUBJECT: Eligible Buildings – US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Lists

TO: Weatherization Assistance Program Grantees and Subgrantees

INTENDED

AUDIENCE: Grantee Program Managers, Grantee Technical Managers, Subgrantee Program Directors,
Subgrantee Technical Managers, Weatherization Training Centers

This Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Memorandum serves to transmit updated information to the WAP network on current buildings identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and published by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that meet income eligibility requirements without the need for further evaluation or verification. This list of buildings was developed in accordance with DOE rule 71CFR§3847, implemented on January 25, 2010, which reduces the procedural obstacles to determining the eligibility of such buildings for WAP, with the USDA lists updated on April 18, 2022.

Since February 2020, DOE WAP, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Low-Income Households Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and multiple programs within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have collaborated on how to better support interagency coordination – specifically in the area of client eligibility for their respective programs. Each of the agencies serves low-income families, and each uses varying income eligibility requirements to determine qualification for the services provided. The purpose of categorical income eligibility is to streamline program intake by accepting other agency-specified programs' income qualifications.

Extending WAP categorical eligibility to clients who meet USDA's income eligibility requirements will help advance this Administration's goal of delivering a clean energy economy that benefits all Americans, including the low-income communities served by our programs. DOE will continue the interagency work to reduce barriers to income qualifying USDA subsidized properties; however, in the meantime approved USDA lists are available [here](#).

Per [10 CFR 440.22\(b\)\(2\)](#): *A Subgrantee may weatherize a building containing rental dwelling units using financial assistance for dwelling units eligible for weatherization assistance under paragraph (a) of this section, where:*

(2) Not less than 66 percent (50 percent for duplexes and four-unit buildings, and certain eligible types of large multi-family buildings) of the dwelling units in the building:

(i) Are eligible dwelling units, or

(ii) Will become eligible dwelling units within 180 days under a Federal, State, or local government program for rehabilitating the building or making similar improvements to the building”

At least 66% of the units in each of the buildings (at least 50% of the units in 2-4 unit buildings) on this List are considered income eligible for WAP without further action by the WAP provider. If the WAP provider wishes to income qualify more than 66% of a building’s units (more than 50% of the units in 2-4 unit buildings) the provider must determine the percentage of income eligible residences by either contacting the building owner/manager to obtain such income records or by individually verifying with residents.

The rule expressly indicates that income qualified USDA assisted housing may be eligible recipients of WAP funds. The rule does not, however, require Grantees or local WAP service providers to set aside WAP funds for these properties. The Grantee and/or the local service provider retain the authority to set priorities for the use of WAP funds in their service areas. Funding for individual projects remains a function of Grantee or local program priorities and funding availability.

If you have any questions on the USDA lists including how to use the list, please contact your respective DOE Project Officer.