

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: Community Action & Human Services Miami-Dade County

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE : WAP BIL E&I Recipient Not Requiring NEPA Log

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0002912

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-SE0001332

NEPA Control Number
GFO-SE0001332-001

CID Number
GO28308

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

B1.16 Asbestos removal

Removal of asbestos-containing materials from buildings in accordance with applicable requirements (such as 40 CFR part 61, "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants"; 40 CFR part 763, "Asbestos"; 29 CFR part 1910, subpart I, "Personal Protective Equipment"; and 29 CFR part 1926, "Safety and Health Regulations for Construction"; and appropriate state and local requirements, including certification of removal contractors and technicians).

B2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation

Installation of, or improvements to, building and equipment instrumentation (including, but not limited to, remote control panels, remote monitoring capability, alarm and surveillance systems, control systems to provide automatic shutdown, fire detection and protection systems, water consumption monitors and flow control systems, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water

(a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) has approximately \$18.6 million available for the Enhancement and Innovation (E&I) Program under the 2021 appropriations for the WAP E&I Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0002912), in support of Section 40551 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

This NEPA Determination is specific to Community Action & Human Services Miami-Dade County under DE-FOA-0002912 to execute energy retrofit projects on low-income dwelling units that may fall outside the scope of the WAP formula grant program. The Recipient would leverage these funds with other DOE funds, as well as other federal and non-federal resources for the activities listed below under "Allowable Activities".

Any activities on tribal lands or tribal properties are restricted to homes/buildings less than forty-five (45) years old and without ground disturbance. Recipients must contact their Project Officer for a Historic Preservation Worksheet to request a review of "Allowable Activities" listed below tribal lands or tribal properties forty-five (45) years and older and/or with ground disturbing activities. Approval from the DOE is required prior to initiating activities reviewed on a Historic Preservation Worksheet.

Also, the Recipient shall adhere to the restrictions of their DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement. DOE executed historic preservation programmatic agreements are available on the website: <https://www.energy.gov/scep/historic-preservation-executed-programmatic-agreements>. The Recipient is responsible for contacting NEPA with any NEPA or historic preservation questions at GONEPA@ee.doe.gov.

DOE has determined the following "Allowable Activities" are categorically excluded from further NEPA review, absent extraordinary circumstances, cumulative impacts, or connected actions that may lead to significant impacts on the environment, or any inconsistency with "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) as they relate to a specific activity.

Allowable Activities:

1. Administrative activities associated with creation and management of programs for energy saving activities, including staff hiring and training, contractor selection, and initial planning.
2. Conduct outreach through community education, corpmember training, outreach sessions, and the design and enrollment of the Solar Design College Credit Certificate Program 3
3. The following measures that adhere to the requirements of the respective Recipients' DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement, no ground is disturbed beyond the placement of a 10 sq foot pad for Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems adjacent to building foundations, and no trees are removed or trimmed. Activities are limited to :
 - a. Limited testing, containment, removal or disposal of lead, asbestos, mold, and moisture in areas of weatherization activities.
 - b. Pest and infestation management in areas of weatherization activities
 - c. Roof replacement including, replacing decking material and roof, and/or changing roof material (e.g. shingles to metal) to current codes
 - d. Replace windows and install accordion shutters
 - e. HVAC system replacement and retrofits including central air conditioning units and heat pumps
 - f. Electric panel upgrades and replacement

Most activities listed under "Allowable Activities" are more restrictive than the Categorical Exclusion. The restrictions listed in the "Allowable Activities" must be followed.

The Recipient is responsible for reviewing the online NEPA PowerPoint trainings at www.energy.gov/node/4816816 and contacting NEPA with any questions at GONEPA@ee.doe.gov

The Recipient is responsible for identifying and promptly notifying DOE of extraordinary circumstances, cumulative impacts, or connected actions that may lead to significant impacts on the environment, or any inconsistency with the "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) relating to any proposed activities. Additionally, the Recipient must inform DOE of activities in the 100-year floodplain and wetlands.

DOE is required to consider floodplain management and wetland protection as part of its environmental review process (10 CFR 1022). As part of this required review, DOE determined requirements set forth in Subpart B of 10CFR 1022 are not applicable to the activities described in "Allowable Activities" above that would occur in the 100-year floodplain (hereinafter "floodplain") or wetland because the activities would not have short-term or long-term adverse impacts to the floodplain or wetland. These activities are minor modifications of existing facilities to improve environmental conditions. All other integral elements and environmental review requirements are still applicable.

For activities not listed in the "Allowable Activities," additional NEPA review is required. The Recipient must complete the environmental questionnaire (found at <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA.aspx>) for review by DOE.

EERE is aware of the November 12, 2024, decision in *Marin Audubon Society v. FAA*, No. 23-1067 (D.C. Cir. Nov. 12, 2024). To the extent that a court may conclude that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA are not judicially enforceable or binding on this agency action, EERE has nonetheless elected to follow those regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, in addition to DOE's procedures/regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, to meet the agency's obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 12/10/2024.

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: **Matthew Blevins**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 12/17/2024

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
 Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____