

# Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

#### WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE IIJA-1 Revised

**ISSUED DATE: April 3, 2025** 

#### **UPDATES:**

- All reference to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) have been changed to Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- President Trump issued the Executive Order "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Program and Preferencing" on January 20, 2025. Sections of this Weatherization Program Notice have been updated to reflect the intentions of the Executive Order. Specifically, elements related to diversity, equity, and inclusion have been removed. While IIJA grants have some requirements and/or topics that are specific only to that funding, Grantees should utilize relevant information issued in the annual Grant Application Weatherization Program Notice (WPN), currently WPN 24-1, as well as other active WPNs and Memorandums provided by DOE to ensure all current and relevant directives are being implemented. Please see Tables in Section 5.0 of WPN 24-1 to see a list of applicable notices and resources.

**SUBJECT:** Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Grants for the Weatherization Assistance Program

**INTENDED AUDIENCE:** Weatherization Grantee Managers, Weatherization Subgrantee Managers

**INTENDED USE:** The Department of Energy (DOE) issues Weatherization Program Notices (WPN) to establish the framework to administer appropriated funds to the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The content of this document, as well as the three attachments, provides programmatic information to Weatherization Managers to develop a WAP Grantee Plan to apply for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds. These funds are appropriated by Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58.

The WPN attachments serve as programmatic, financial, and legal resources with clarifying information on areas of the Application Instructions that must be incorporated into the submitted Grantee Plan. The Grantee Plan and other elements of the WAP Grant Application Package are submitted through WAP's reporting system, Performance and Accountability for Grants in Energy (PAGE).

New programmatic direction specific to the implementation of WAP formula funding from the IIJA is included in this WPN. While the IIJA did not significantly alter the statute governing the WAP, some key impacts and federal requirements are described as follows:

- IIJA Flow-down requirements General information on:
  - o Davis-Bacon Pages 3, 11, Item 2.13, and additional direction forthcoming
  - o Buy American Pages 3, 12, Item 2.14, and additional direction forthcoming
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Pages 3, 8, 9, Item 2.6, Item 2.7 and additional direction forthcoming

- Historic Preservation Pages 3, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, Item 2.6, Item 2.7, and additional direction forthcoming
- Five-Year Plan and optional IIJA Planning Workbook Page 4
- Separate financial tracking, monitoring and reporting for IIJA funding Page 3, and Item 2.1
- Fuel Switching—Page 12.

This WPN includes the following sections:

- 1.0 Purpose
- 2.0 Program Priorities and Initiatives
- 3.0 Funding
- 4.0 Applications for WAP IIJA Grants
- 5.0 Weatherization Program Notices and Memoranda
- **6.0** Website Information

## 1.0 PURPOSE

To issue grant guidance and management information to access funding under the IIJA. This notice is provided as an attachment to this Guidance.

- Attachment 1: Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD)
- Attachment 2: Application Instructions, to be used by all States, Territories, and Native American Tribes (and locals, if applicable) as supplemental information when applying for direct grants under the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons
- Attachment 3: WPN IIJA –2: IIJA Grantee Allocations

## 1.1 SCOPE

The provisions of this WPN apply to Grantees or other entities named in the Notification of Grant Award as the recipient(s) of financial assistance under the DOE WAP.

## 1.2 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, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR 200, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Public Law 117-58.

The table in Section 5.0, has been updated to list all active WPNs. This table provides references to relevant Program matters to assist Grantees in the development of their Grantee plans, policies, and procedures. This section also includes Memoranda that have been issued by DOE to update Grantees on current activities and issues that are of general interest to the network.

**BACKGROUND:** On November 15, 2021, the President signed into law the <u>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58)</u>, which provides \$3.5 billion in funding for Weatherization.

With respect to Weatherization, the IIJA includes the following amendments to the current statute:

## 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.
- **(b) APPLICATION OF WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS TO WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—With respect to work performed under 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.) on a project assisted in whole or in part by funding made available under subsection (a), the requirements of section 41101 shall apply only to work performed on multifamily buildings with not fewer than 5 units.

There are other provisions in the IIJA that have applicability to the use of WAP IIJA funding, known as "flow-down requirements." These include application of Davis-Bacon prevailing wage, Buy American, Historic Preservation and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Another important consideration in the execution of WAP IIJA funding is ensuring it is tracked, monitored and reported on separately from WAP annual appropriations funding, and that WAP Grantees are planning now for the long-term use of the IIJA funding, since it is "available until expended."

**GRANT APPLICATION:** DOE strongly recommends Grantees plan to execute the funding and complete most of the retrofits within in 5-year timeframe of receipt of the funding, to provide relief from high energy burden through savings and improvements to the homes of low-income families. To assist Grantees, DOE is providing tools and technical assistance to enable the most expedited execution of the significant increase provided by IIJA WAP funding for local weatherization efforts.

The IIJA will significantly increase the DOE portion of funding for local weatherization efforts. With these additional funds, it is expected that each Grantee will develop and implement production plans, including hiring and training staff and contractors, over the first 18 months to prepare for meeting the IIJA goals and expectations. DOE will assist Grantees throughout the planning process.

Grantees are required to submit a WAP Grant Application Package through PAGE providing a 5-year\* plan to identify how the Grantee program will address:

- **Program Management**: Identification of needed positions to either hire or contract out, needed state-level positions for training, monitoring and oversight expansion, procurement and Buy America requirements and Davis-Bacon management.
- **Subgrantee Network**: Plans on how to manage the Subgrantee Network and if there will be any additional local organizations added.

- **Production and Expenditures**: Discuss the approach on how your Subgrantee Network will meet the identified IIJA production and expenditures targets.
- Training: The Training & Technical Assistance (T&TA) Plan must detail the required or needed Grantee staff and Subgrantee network training to ramp up the workforce to perform the weatherization work along with the other elements identified within Section V.8.4 (Training & Technical Assistance Approach and Activities) of the Application Instructions. Grantees are strongly encouraged to include in the T&TA plan a transition to high quality jobs and DOE encourages applicants to work with labor organizations to meet the demand for workers.
- **Monitoring**: With the IIJA funds, Grantees are responsible to expand their monitoring and oversight of their Subgrantees. The monitoring plan must address the expansion along with addressing the specific requirements within <u>WPN 20-4</u>: <u>Weatherization Assistance Program Monitoring Procedures</u>, issued January 22, 2020.

Grantees must also explicitly recognize any possible challenges faced in the identified areas that include, but are not limited to, workforce availability and training, monitoring and oversight, quality control, intake and qualification, management information systems, and equipment and supply chain shortages, and how these challenges can be met.

DOE strongly recommends Grantees to use the optional *IIJA Planning Workbook* that includes a five-year planning template with goals and milestones, and T&TA and monitoring planning templates.

\*Should a Grantee have project plans that exceed the 5-year period, Grantees may request an extended project period, during the final year of the project, providing additional information with the necessary information justifying the request for the extension. DOE will review extension requests on a case-by-case basis.

Please remember these important regulations or resources when developing your plan:

Since the inception of the Program, procedures for selection, replacement, or termination of community action agencies (CAA) or other public or non-profit organizations (known collectively as "Subgrantees"), are set forth in the WAP regulations at 10 CFR 440.14 and 440.15. Grantees must plan for program expansion by following these regulations.

<u>WAP Memorandum 015: Weatherization Financial Toolkit – 2 CFR 200 Regulations and Procurement Procedures</u>, issued January 6, 2016, provides training material for WAP Grantees and Subgrantees regarding how to comply with the financial regulations governing the WAP. The curriculum provides a detailed explanation of budgetary systems, including a comprehensive overview of financial management systems, protocols, regulations, and procedures for the WAP. Whether buying materials and equipment, procuring contractor services, accounting for resources, or developing financial reports, all management rules and regulations must be followed appropriately.

The WAP regulation, in <u>10 CFR 440.23(a)</u> - Oversight, Training and Technical Assistance, prescribes that DOE "shall monitor and evaluate the operation of projects carried out by

[Community Action Agencies] CAA's receiving financial assistance under this part through onsite inspections, or through other means, in order to ensure the effective provision of weatherization assistance for the dwelling units of low-income persons." Section 440.23(b) states that "DOE shall also carry out periodic evaluations of a program and weatherization projects that are not carried out by a CAA and that are receiving financial assistance under this part."

UPDATED: See <u>WPN 24-4</u>: Weatherization Assistance Program Monitoring Procedures, issued May 10, 2024 and <u>WPN IIJA-4</u>: DOE Monitoring in WAP, <u>WPN IIJA-7</u>: IIJA Award Extension and Obligation of Remaining 50% of Funding, <u>WAP Memo 131</u>: Requirements to Request Remaining 50% of Obligated Funds Under the IIJA for most recent directives, and <u>WAP Memo 115</u>: Weatherization Procurement Resources.

**ALLOCATION FORMULA:** Grantees will notice a significant increase in funding from previous years. In part, this is because the level of funding for the IIJA triggers the 1995 revised allocation formula. These formula changes increase the overall equity of the allocation of funds among the Grantees by providing warm-weather States a greater share of the funding, while protecting existing program capacity in cold-weather States.

# 2.0 PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES UNDER THE IIJA

This Section informs Grantees of the priorities within the IIJA. They are not considered Program policy until provided in forthcoming WPNs.

The IIJA, including the \$3.5 billion for WAP, is an investment in our nation's infrastructure, workers, and families. For lower-income households who already spend up to 30% of their income on energy costs, energy savings are essential. IIJA funding will deliver a dependable energy future by:

- Investing in American manufacturing and workers,
- Expanding access to energy efficiency for families and communities,
- Delivering reliable, and affordable power to more Americans, and
- Reducing fuel cost volatility.

DOE expects to develop and issue WPNs on a timely and regular basis that address program priorities under the IIJA, including:

- Improving program implementation and flexibility,
- Increasing EE and RE technologies, braiding,
- Minimizing deferral, and
- Workforce development.

#### 2.1 BUDGET/EXPENDITURES

As with every grant, DOE encourages WAP Grantees to spend their allocated funds efficiently and wisely. With the addition of the IIJA grants, Grantees will now have two funding streams on different timelines to manage and make sure they are actively working to meet their quarterly production and expenditure milestones.

Grantees must segregate the obligations and expenditures related to funding under the IIJA. Financial and accounting systems should be revised as necessary to segregate, track and maintain these funds apart and separate from other revenue streams. With the exception of DOE WAP annual formula funds, IIJA funds can be used in conjunction with other funding sources as necessary to complete projects but tracking and reporting must be separate from other funding sources to meet the reporting requirements of the IIJA and OMB Guidance.

Both the average cost per unit (ACPU) expenditure limit and ACPU for renewable energy measures will remain the same throughout the expenditure of IIJA grants and the life of the grant. See section 3.1.1 below for additional information.

WAP IIJA Grant		WAP Annual Grants	
Grantees can weatherize a home using		Grantees can weatherize a home using their	
the WAP IIJA grant funds WITH one of		regular annual DOE WAP grant funds WITH	
the following grants that was generated		one of the following grants that was generated	
from the IIJA (if awarded):		from the WAP annual appropriation (if	
<ul> <li>IIJA Sustainable Energy</li> </ul>		awarded):	
Resources for Consumers		o SERC Grant	
(SERC) Grant		o E&I Grant	
<ul> <li>IIJA Enhancement and</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Community Scale Grant</li> </ul>	
Innovation (E&I) Grant			

DOE intends to obligate the IIJA funds based on the following milestones, pending that

- Grantees must submit a PY 2022 WAP Annual Grant Application Package on time for negotiation and award. IIJA Plans will not be reviewed until PY 2022 WAP Annual Grant Application Packages are submitted by Grantees.
- SF 424 and SF 424A must be submitted in PAGE within 30 days of DOE's issuance of the IIJA ALRD.
- 15% of total allocation will be granted at time of initial award (after submission and approval of the SF-424 and SF-424A).
- 35% of total allocation will be granted upon DOE approval of the Grantee Plan that identifies the quarterly milestones over the 5-year period of performance (due by July 1, 2022).

Balance of total allocation (50%) is based on the Grantee demonstrating progress in meeting expenditures goals, production targets and reporting requirement compliance. Demonstrated progress is defined as:

- 1. 30% of all units estimated to be weatherized in approved Weatherization Plans are weatherized.
- 2. Each Grantee has been fulfilling its monitoring and inspection protocol as part of its approved annual Grantee plan.

- 3. Each Grantee is monitoring local agencies at least once each year to determine compliance with administrative, fiscal, and Grantee field policies and guidelines.
- 4. Local quality control efforts are in place.
- 5. At least 5% of the completed units are inspected by the Grantee Quality Control Inspection (QCI) staff during the course of the year.
- 6. Grantees progress reports are acceptable, submitted in accordance with grant requirements, including being on time and accurate.
- 7. Monitoring reviews by DOE confirm acceptable performance.

If DOE's review reveals deficiencies, such as funds not disbursed, insufficient technical monitoring, or failure to meet reporting requirements, DOE reserves the right to place a hold on current balances and withhold funding until deficiencies are corrected.

DOE will revise the current monitoring procedure for WAP grants and advise Grantees accordingly. With the significant funding increase, Grantees should expect more frequent monitoring by DOE. DOE will conduct periodic progress reviews to assess Grantees' compliance with Program requirements. These reviews will include monitoring of Subgrantee performance as well. DOE will also conduct technical assistance visits to assist Grantees and Subgrantees in meeting performance requirements.

*UPDATED:* See <u>WPN IIJA-7</u>: IIJA Award Extension and Obligation of Remaining 50% of Funding and <u>WAP Memo 131</u>: Requirements to Request Remaining 50% of Obligated Funds Under the IIJA for most recent guidance.

## 2.2 PARTICIPATION IN ADDITIONAL EVALUATIONS/STUDIES

With the increase of T&TA IIJA funding, DOE WAP plans to invest in national program evaluations to update previously completed studies and assess the progress and success of new programs. Grantees and Subgrantees will be expected to participate in these studies. Retrospective evaluations will provide insight on program outcomes such as energy and non-energy impacts.

DOE also encourages WAP Grantees and Subgrantees to participate in evaluations/studies related to weatherization programs. Particularly, Grantees are urged to conduct regular program evaluations. While national-level studies allow DOE to see macro elements, by participating in well-designed regional-level, state-level or local-level evaluations/studies, more clarity can be attained on the impact specific protocols have on the energy savings and other benefits garnered through WAP. Grantees are urged to establish a protocol for Subgrantees to follow when asked to participate in an evaluation/study. Grantee's policies should include what the study is about and ensure that privacy interest of individuals participating in WAP are maintained.

See Section V.6 Weatherization Analysis of Effectiveness in the IIJA Application Instructions.

## 2.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety for both workers and dwelling unit occupants is a top priority for DOE. Over the years, DOE has updated the Health & Safety guidelines with new standards and procedures to ensure that weatherization activities do not cause or exacerbate existing health and safety problems. As new standards and concerns arise, DOE strives to address them accordingly. DOE released a revised version of the WAP Health and Safety Program Notice, <u>WPN 22-7</u> on December 15, 2021. Grantees are to review this WPN and its associated attachments and fully implement the requirements outlined herein. Grantees are urged to consult with Subgrantees in developing the implementation plan.

See Section V.7 Health & Safety in the IIJA Application Instructions.

## 2.4 MULTIFAMILY RETROFIT TOOLS AND WORKFORCE RESOURCES

DOE developed and maintains the <u>Standard Work Specifications (SWS)</u> for multifamily home energy upgrades to ensure that energy efficiency upgrades are effective, durable, and safe. The <u>Multifamily Job Task Analyses (JTAs)</u> define the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) that multifamily practitioners use to perform jobs effectively and safely. The JTAs provide a foundation for developing high-quality training and credentialing programs.

DOE supported the development of multifamily energy auditing tools to advance the WAP's ability to address this building type with the creation of the Multifamily Tool for Energy Audits (MulTEA). In 2021 DOE also supported the development of a priority list for small multifamily rental buildings with 5 to 24 units. The priority list and additional instructions will be shared in a future Weatherization Memorandum.

See Section V.5 Type of Weatherization Work to be Done in the BIL Application Instructions.

## 2.5 QUALITY WORK PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Compliance with the current version of the SWS and the Grantee's approved installation standards is mandatory for all DOE WAP projects.

DOE works with Grantees and Subgrantees to ensure that independent, third-party quality control inspections are conducted on every completed dwelling unit and results are shared with relevant parties. These inspections must be verified by a certified Quality Control Inspector (QCI). DOE recently issued WPN 22-4: Quality Work Plan Requirement Update, to update Grantees on what defines what constitutes a quality installation of weatherization measures, outlines how those measures are inspected and validated, and prescribes acceptable training and credentialing of workers. DOE also permits Grantees to develop alternative approaches by working with their DOE PO.

Grantees are responsible for ensuring that Grantee technical monitors are QCI-certified and that Subgrantee staff fulfilling this role possess an active QCI-certification.

Grantee, Subgrantee and Contractor staff who repeatedly fail to perform to Program expectations must be disqualified from performing work in the future. Grantees must establish protocols to remove poor performers in their network.

See Sections V.5.1 Technical Guides and Manuals and V.5.3 Final Inspection in the IIJA Application Instructions.

## 2.6 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT INFORMATION (NEPA)

Effective with WPN 20-1, DOE determined certain 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 the activities listed in the PY 2021 NEPA determination. Recipients should review the NEPA determination specific to IIJA their award documents for the list of activities that have been categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Grantees are required to attend a DOE led online training covering NEPA and Historic Preservation. The training will be available in early 2022 to entities involved with WAP projects including grantees, Subgrantees and local weatherization providers to better understand NEPA, Historic Preservation, and how to complete reporting requirements for each. DOE Project Officers will notify grantees when the training is available.

See Section V. Types of Weatherization Work to be Done in the IIJA Application Instructions.

*UPDATE:* See <u>WPN 25-1</u>: PY 2025 Weatherization Grant Application for most current directive on NEPA and the NEPA Determination in the award documents-Attachment 6 of the IIJA award Special Terms and Conditions.

## 2.7 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DOE must comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) prior to authorizing the use of Federal funds. Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the impact(s) on historic properties with projects weatherized with DOE funding. Most Grantees have a DOE executed Programmatic Agreement (PA) to streamline the Section 106 process. All DOE executed PAs are available on the Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs website: <a href="https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/historic-preservation-executed-programmatic-agreements">https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/historic-preservation-executed-programmatic-agreements</a>. For recipients without a PA, they are restricted to activities on structures less than 45 years old, unless those activities are reviewed by DOE. A Historic Preservation Review form was developed to assist recipients in submitting review requests to DOE for structures which are 45 years old or older. All recipients must follow the restrictions in their NEPA determination for historic preservation.

See Section V. Types of Weatherization Work to be Done in the IIJA Application Instructions.

*UPDATE*: See <u>WPN 25-1</u>: PY 2025 Weatherization Grant Application for most current directive.

#### 2.8 DEFERRAL TRACKING TOOLS AND TRAINING

DOE encourages the tracking of deferrals using consistent terminology for recording the *reasons* and *what repairs would be necessary* in order to proceed with weatherization. When repairs are necessary in order to install energy efficiency measures, but those repairs are beyond the allowable limits of incidental repairs and/or health and safety cost categories, deferral is often required. If other funding sources were available to address the repairs, it would increase the number of low-income homes WAP could effectively weatherize. DOE WAP has developed a <u>tracking tool</u> to provide consistent terminology and a brief <u>video</u> training describing how the tool

is organized. DOE WAP will continue to work with our providers to address additional barriers and facilitate effective braiding of funds. DOE is developing training resources, including in the Learning Management System (LMS) to assist Grantees in braiding funds to address structural issues and enable deeper retrofits. Newly released SERC and E&I grant opportunities also allow for deeper retrofits being braided with typical weatherization work.

See Section V.1.2 Approach to Determining Building Eligibility in the IIJA Application Instructions.

#### 2.9 UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

On December 15, 2021, DOE WAP announced three initiatives designed to increase opportunities to serve WAP clients: Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) grant program, Community Scale Pilot Project, and the Enhancement & Innovation (E&I) funding opportunity. DOE's aim is to provide information to Grantees as they begin their IIJA planning. Although these grants may not directly affect the Grantee's IIJA package submission, Grantees may want to consider where there may be synergy to use multiple IIJA funding streams within units to better serve our clients. Specific additional opportunities anticipated during the PY 2022 cycle include: IIJA SERC grant program and IIJA E&I funds.

#### 2.10 FEDERAL COORDINATION EFFORTS

DOE WAP, HHS LIHEAP, and HUD Lead Hazard Control and Health Homes Programs continue to collaborate on how to better support interagency coordination. Each of the agencies serves households with lower incomes, using varying income eligibility requirements. DOE WAP will continue to work with our providers to address additional barriers, facilitate effective braiding of funds, and improve program implementation and flexibility. DOE will also pursue coordination with HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), USDA's Rural Development Office, and FEMA's resilient infrastructure programs to understand the potential for leveraging resources. DOE is committed to ensure our providers are fully supported in their efforts to use resources effectively and meet community needs through leveraging non-traditional sources of funds for repairs and costs WAP is not able to address through our DOE program.

#### 2.11 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

With IIJA funds, DOE anticipates significant opportunities in attracting, training, and retaining new employees and contractors to WAP. Each Grantee will receive a IIJA T&TA allocation to support workforce development activities. Applicants are highly encouraged to include a plan to attract, retain, or transition a local workforce needed to enable the project goals. The plan can include the use of workforce partners, unions, community colleges, potential supportive services, and use of Registered Apprenticeships or other joint, labor-management partnerships training programs, or other high-quality training models. Grantee T&TA plans must ensure WAP workers receive comprehensive training on a regular basis, as defined by the Grantee, for the position in which the worker is employed. DOE encourages flexibility in designing curricula to ensure trainings are customized to meet the needs of the weatherization workforce and unique energy efficiency programs. The Department will assess the degree to which WAP contributes to high-quality job creation by supporting good-paying jobs with a free and fair choice to join a union and incorporate strong labor standards, such as through the use of project labor

agreements. DOE will continue to develop resources to address any additional barriers and improve ability to increase workforce expansion. Further, DOE encourages Grantees to braid funds to increase deployment of additional technologies, workforce expansion, project construction, and in on-going operations and maintenance.

See Section V.8.4 Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) in the IIJA Application Instructions.

## PREVAILING WAGES/DAVIS-BACON

With respect to work performed under the Weatherization Assistance Program on a project assisted in whole or in part by WAP funding, the IIJA (Section 41101 and 40552) requires the payment of prevailing wages for work performed on multifamily buildings with not fewer than 5 units.

Therefore, all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on multifamily building projects with not fewer than 5 units funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Federal Government pursuant to the IIJA shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor. Additional program direction will be released as soon as it is available.

For reference purposes only, it is strongly recommended that WAP Grantees review archived WPN 09-9, Guidance on Implementation of the Davis-Bacon Act Prevailing Wage Requirements in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, WPN 09-9, Guidance on Implementation of the Davis-Bacon Act Prevailing Wage Requirements in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, issued July 21, 2009, which provided guidance to WAP Grantees and Subgrantees on implementing Davis-Bacon Act (DBA) requirements in the WAP. In addition, Grantees should also review archived WPN 10-4, Davis-Bacon Commercial Labor Rates in Large Multifamily Buildings Impact on Saving-To-Investment RatiosInvestment Ratios, issued November 10, 2009, which addressed the determination of the cost-effectiveness of weatherization materials installed in multifamily buildings.

Under 10 CFR 440.21(d), each individual weatherization material and package of weatherization materials installed in an eligible dwelling unit must be cost-effective. These materials must result in energy cost savings over the lifetime of the measure(s), discounted to present value, that equal or exceed the cost of materials, installation, and on-site supervisory personnel as defined by DOE.

Per the terms of the IIJA, higher wage rates on multifamily buildings with not fewer than 5 units may not meet the cost-effectiveness requirement established in regulation, whereas the same measures would be cost-effective if installed on low-rise buildings. Therefore, as per WPN IIJA-6, for purposes of calculating cost-effectiveness, a local agency may use either the weatherization labor rates or the commercial prevailing wage for weatherization measures installed in high-rise buildings. However, in accordance with IIJA requirements, prevailing wages for labor must be paid.

*UPDATE:* Please see <u>WPN IIJA-6</u>: Applicability of Davis Bacon Act Prevailing Wage Requirements to WAP BIL for most current directive.

## 2.12 BUY AMERICAN

The IIJA made changes to domestic content preference laws, which require that certain goods purchased with federal funds be manufactured primarily in the United States. "Buy America" requirements previously applied to iron, steel, and certain manufactured goods. Title IX of HR 3684 "Build America, Buy America" broadens coverage to include nonferrous metals, such as copper used in electric wiring; plastic- and polymer-based products; glass, including optical fiber; and certain other construction materials, such as lumber and drywall. Additional program direction will be released as soon as it is available.

*UPDATE:* Please see <u>WAP Memo 104</u>: Weatherization Assistance Program "Build America, Buy America" and <u>WPN 25-1</u>: ARLD language for most current directive.

#### 2.13 FUEL SWITCHING

In an effort to achieve the intent of the funding, DOE WAP Grantees are reminded they may perform cost-effective fuel-switching installations as outlined in current DOE guidance (WPN 19-4) utilizing any combination of funds available including E&I and SERC funds for this purpose. Health and Safety related fuel-switching is also allowed as outlined in the current DOE guidance (WPN 22-7). Any Grantee that desires to administer fuel-switching may submit a request to implement the necessary procedures and policies to their DOE Project Officer of record. DOE will continue to work with our providers and develop resources to address additional barriers and improve ability to braid funds increase use of additional technologies.

*UPDATE:* see <u>WPN 23-6</u>: Revised Energy Audit Approval Procedures, Related Audit and Material Approvals Including Fuel-Switching and Solar PV for most current directive.

## 3.0 FUNDING

WAP funding listed in the application and requiring DOE approval prior to expenditure may derive from several sources:

- Appropriated Weatherization IIJA Funding
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds designated for expenditure under DOE regulations
- Leveraged Resources designated for expenditure under DOE regulations (e.g., utility funds, state trust funds, other)
- Petroleum Violation Escrow (PVE) Funds
  - Warner and EXXON oil overcharge funds
  - Stripper Well and other oil overcharge funds (including Texaco) which are subject to Stripper Well settlement rules
- Program Income

See Section III. Budget in the IIJA Application Instructions.

## 3.1 IIJA APPROPRIATED WEATHERIZATION FUNDING

Grantees should create IIJA plans using WPN IIJA -2, IIJA Grantee Allocations.

## 3.1.1 ADJUSTED AVERAGE COST PER DWELLING UNIT (ACPU)

ACPU expenditure of financial assistance provided under WAP for labor, weatherization materials, and related matters cannot exceed \$6,500, as adjusted (see, 10 CFR §440.18(a) and (c)). The adjusted average for IIJA grants is determined by using the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (all items, United States city average) for FY 2021or 3 percent, whichever is less. The percentage increase in the CPI for the previous 12-month period (September 2020 – September 2021) was 5.4%. Therefore, the adjusted average expenditure limit for at the time of the IIJA grants is \$8,009. This average includes units computed in a multifamily building of 5 units or greater.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 440.18(b) and (c), the expenditure of financial assistance provided under WAP for labor, weatherization materials, and related matters for a renewable energy system, shall not exceed an average of \$3,000 per dwelling unit, as adjusted. The percentage increase in the CPI for the previous 12-month period (September 2019 – September 2020) was 5.4%. Therefore, the PY 2022 adjusted average expenditure limit at the time of the grants is \$3,929 for renewable energy system measures with a Savings to Investment Ratio (SIR) greater than 1.

The allowable expenditure for the entirety of the IIJA grant for the average expenditure limit will be \$8,009, and the average for renewable energy measures will be \$3,929.

**Note:** The adjusted average for renewable energy measures is not a separate average, but part of the overall adjusted average expenditure limit of \$8,009. Currently 10 CFR 440, Appendix A allows for use of solar (thermal) water heating systems. Some Grantees have been granted approval for installation of solar photovoltaics when they have submitted it as part of their Grantee Plan, received approval from the DOE Contracting Officer (CO), and amended their 5-year DOE-approved energy audit process.

*UPDATE:* Please see <u>WPN IIJA-5</u>: IIJA Average Cost Per Unit and Allowable Use of Funds and <u>WPN IIJA-7</u>: IIJA WAP Extension and Obligating Remaining 50% of Funding for most current directive.

## 3.1.2 LIMITATIONS ON CERTAIN BUDGET CATEGORIES

Certain budget categories have limitations set by law, regulation, or Program policy and identify the percentage of grant funding that can be used for specific purposes other than Program Operations. Please review Section III. Budget of the Application Instructions for additional information.

## 3.2 LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

<u>LIHEAP</u> was first established in 1981 and is funded annually through federal appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The mission of LIHEAP is to minimize the energy burden on low-income families. As such, if the Grantee elects, a percentage of the LIHEAP assistance funds received by the state from HHS may be transferred to the WAP and used for the purpose of weatherizing homes. Grantees have the option of administering the LIHEAP funds separately from the DOE award or including these resources in the DOE budget. The budget section of the grant application instructions provides a chart outlining some considerations for the Grantee in making this decision. Further questions or points of clarification should be directed to your DOE PO.

See Section III.1 SF424 Budget Preparations in Annual File in the IIJA Application Instructions.

#### 3.3 LEVERAGED RESOURCES

Leveraged funds included in the budget of the DOE award must meet all WAP rules, regulations, and guidelines. Grantees should carefully consider the advantages and challenges related to including leveraged funds in the DOE award. Landlord contributions are not considered leveraged resources. Grantees who require further clarification or direction on leveraged resources should contact their DOE PO.

See Section III.1 SF424-A Budget Preparation in the IIJA Application Instructions.

## 3.4 PETROLEUM VIOLATION ESCROW (PVE) FUNDS

WAP can be funded by several of sources, including PVE funds. PVE funds can be divided into two general categories based on the source of the funds. The first category of PVE funds is comprised of those funds appropriated by Congress or treated as if appropriated (generically referred to as Exxon funds, and includes funds provided under the Warner Act). The second category of PVE funds is comprised of those funds that were not appropriated (generically referred to as Stripper Well Settlement funds and includes Diamond Shamrock funds).

- PVE funds are subject to applicable requirements of the funding source.
- PVE funds included in a Grantee Plan are subject to the same Grantee Plan approval,
  Program oversight, and reporting requirements as the annually appropriated funds; and
  are subject to the same statutory and regulatory constraints as annually appropriated
  funds.
- Generally, if Exxon funds are used for weatherization projects, they must be included in the Grantee Plan. Exxon funds cannot be used for administrative expenses.
- A Grantee may elect to use Stripper Well funds for projects either separate from or
  included within the WAP. Stripper Well Settlement funds are not subject to WAP rules,
  oversight, or reporting requirements if used for activities separate from WAP. However,
  DOE urges Grantees to include Stripper Well funds in the Grantee Plan for informational
  purposes only.
- There is no requirement that Exxon or Stripper Well Settlement funds be expended during a particular period. A Grantee is permitted to reallocate these funds from one eligible program to another provided that their Plan has been amended and is reviewed by DOE. If PVE funds designated for expenditure in the prior program year are not

- expended, the amount of funding that may be used for administrative expenses in the following program year must be adjusted accordingly.
- No more than 5 percent of the combined total of Exxon and Stripper Well Settlement funds budgeted in a Grantee Plan may be used for T&TA. Up to an additional 5 percent of these funds may be used for evaluation of a Grantee's WAP and for innovative efforts to leverage program funds, provided these activities are approved by the DOE PO.

See Section III.1 SF424-A Budget Preparation in the IIJA Act Application Instructions.

#### 3.5 PROGRAM INCOME

Program income is defined in <u>2 CFR 200.1</u> and subject to the specific requirements provided in <u>2 CFR 200.307</u>. DOE considers program income as funds earned by Grantees and/or Subgrantees from non-Federal sources when performing DOE WAP activities. The income from these activities must be used for additional weatherization activities during the period of performance or allowable closeout costs. It must be treated as an addition to program funds and is subject to the same rules as appropriated funds. Property owner (i.e., landlord). Landlord contributions and leveraged resources (i.e., or Grantee funds) are NOT considered to be "program income" for the purposes of the WAP. Grantees requiring further clarification on program income, as it applies to their specific program, should contact their DOE PO.

See Section III.1 SF424-A Budget Preparation in the IIJA Application Instructions.

## 3.6 ALLOWABLE COSTS

As a reminder, Grantees should outline information in their allocated funds among the Budget Categories consistently, in alignment with Weatherization Program Notices and application instructions, and particularly as concerns regarding the costs allowable for weatherizing each dwelling. In addition, Grantees should consider their ability to use their T&TA funds in combination with those of other Grantees, where possible, to enable economies of scale on those activities that may be of similar value/approach among a region or a group of Grantees with similar needs

**3.6.1 ACPU:** Field audits of Subgrantee fiscal operations identified inconsistencies in the way ACPU calculations are performed. It is imperative Grantees define what costs are allowable in each Budget Category and how the Subgrantee needs to account for these costs when determining the ACPU. Consistent application of allowable cost by category ensures greater reliability in the ACPU calculation.

Details for this calculation and cost categories are contained within **Section III.2 Budget Categories** – **Section B** of the Application Package Instructions. DOE requests Grantees closely monitor the way Subgrantees define costs within a Budget Category and ensure consistency in defining allowable costs within Budget Categories. This is necessary to better understand how Subgrantees are managing their WAP grants and controlling expenditures.

*UPDATE:* Please see <u>WPN IIJA-5</u>: IIJA Average Cost Per Unit and Allowable Use of Funds and <u>WPN 24-7</u>: Optional Budget Flexibilities for the Average Cost Per Unit for most recent directives.

**3.6.2 T&TA:** Congress limits the amount of T&TA funds available to DOE which limits the number of projects that can be funded. DOE encourages Grantees to collaborate with their peers to pool their T&TA funds to perform projects or activities which were historically funded through the DOE T&TA set-aside.

See Section III.2 Budget Categories – Section B in the IIJA Application Instructions.

# 3.7 UNALLOWABLE COSTS

Program funds may not be used to support or oppose union organizing, whether directly or as an offset for other funds.

# 4.0 <u>APPLICATIONS FOR WAP IIJA GRANTS</u>

To ensure public involvement and obtain timely suggestions, DOE requires a formal public hearing on the completed final draft Grantee Plan Application. In addition, DOE urges Grantees to hold a meeting at the beginning of the planning process with their Subgrantee Network and their Policy Advisory Council (PAC). In addition, DOE recommends Grantees regularly consult with their Subgrantees and engage community-based organizations, unions and community colleges committed to workforce development throughout the period of performance to improve the Weatherization Program and the IIJA Plan.

See Section IV.1 Annual File in the IIJA Application Instructions.

## 4.1 5-YEAR GRANTS

When new grants are issued (i.e., new grant is issued, new grant number/instrument), they cannot include carryover funding from any previous project period. Funds remaining from previous project periods will be de-obligated and reapportioned by the Office of Management and Budget. They will then be re-obligated using the formula to all Grantees.

See Section III. Budget in the IIJA Application Instructions.

*UPDATE:* See <u>WPN IIJA-7</u>: IIJA WAP Extension and Obligating Remaining 50% of Funding for most recent directive.

## 4.2 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

In the development, submission, and review of grant applications, the provisions of Executive Order 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) and the DOE Implementing Order (10 CFR 1005) remain unchanged.

See Section I.1 Introduction in the IIJA Application Instructions.

#### 4.3 APPLICATION PACKAGE

The application process is fully electronic, and applications must be submitted on the PAGE website at <a href="https://www.page.energy.gov/default.aspx">https://www.page.energy.gov/default.aspx</a>. The PAGE system contains all Federal forms required for the application. Please follow instructions in the ALRD, WPNs, and the Application Instructions attached to this Program Notice (Attachment 2).

## 4.4 APPLICATION REFINEMENTS THIS YEAR

DOE updated the Application Instructions for PY 2022 to provide a detailed overview of the monitoring plan requirements. Those updates are also reflected in the IIJA Application Instructions as well as several other updates.

In addition, the Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) in PAGE was updated to reflect the directive of H. Rept. 115-929 (September 2018) which requires DOE to track the occurrence of window replacements that support the reduction of lead-based paint hazards. The new QPR field to collect this data is located within Section II. Grant Production > B. DOE Units > 4. OTHER UNIT CATEGORIES > Window Replacements in Support of the Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards. This new reporting requirement went into effect with the start of the 2021 Program Year.

## 4.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The reporting requirements are set forth in the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, DOE F 4600.2, attached to the grant agreement. Any new reporting requirements will be communicated to Grantees in forthcoming program notices and memoranda. Training and technical assistance will be provided as needed.

In September 2018, Congress per H. Rept. 115-929 directed DOE to begin tracking the occurrence of window replacements, which supports the reduction of lead-based paint hazards. This requirement allows DOE to collect and disseminate information as directed. Window replacements which are cost justified as Energy Conservation Measures (ECM) are not considered as "supporting the reduction of lead-based paint hazards" and should not be reported as such. Grantees are reminded to follow requirements set forth in WPN 22-7 for information on how to treat and report windows as H&S measures. If you have questions regarding this metric, please contact your PO. This requirement started in PY 2021, and Grantees will submit this information on a quarterly basis through PAGE.

*UPDATE:* See <u>WAP Memo 128</u>: WAP New Data Collection Requirements Beginning Program Year 2024 for most recent directive.

## 5.0 WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICES (WPN):

All DOE-developed documents, <u>WPNs and other relevant policy documents</u>, <u>are available through the DOE website.</u>

Active WPNs applicable to formula grants in effect at the time of WPN IIJA-1 issuance address specific policy areas that must be adhered to by all Grantees and Subgrantees operating weatherization programs using DOE funds. Grantees are reminded additional WPNs may be issued that are "in effect as of the date stated in the WPN." DOE will continue to send notices

electronically and post them to DOE's website to ensure all Grantees have access.

The table further below is organized by date of WPN issuance with the major topic headings at the top to allow for easy reference.

In addition, the WAP memorandum process established a uniform communication mechanism to notify Grantees of upcoming events, clarify elements of existing WPNs, and provide opportunity for comment by the Network on administrative direction and impact of future policies. Active Memoranda are listed following the WPNs.

WPN	Title	Date Issued
11-3	Policy Regarding the Use of DOE Program Funds to Pay for Call-Back/Add-On Work After Reported to DOE as a Completed Unit	12/15/10
19-5	Incidental Repair Measure Guidance	09/06/19
21-4	Closeout Procedures for Grants Under the Weatherization Assistance Program - Revised	03/24/23
22-4	Quality Work Plan Requirement Update	12/13/21
22-5	Expansion of Categorical Eligibility	12/08/21
22-7	Weatherization Health and Safety	12/15/21
22-8	Streamlining the Energy Audit Process—Optional Regional Weatherization Priority Lists	07/01/22
22-9	Managing Multiple Funding Streams within the Weatherization Assistance Program	06/24/22
22-10 Revised	Including Non-Energy Impacts within the Weatherization Assistance Program	10/21/22
22-12	Multifamily Weatherization	09/14/22
22-13	Weatherization of Rental Units	09/14/22
23-6	Revised Energy Audit Approval Procedures, Related Audit and Material Approvals Including Fuel-Switching and Solar PV	03/03/23
23-9	Weatherization Assistance Program Enhancement & Innovation  Monitoring	09/20/23
24-1	Program Year 2024 Weatherization Grant Application	11/17/23
24-2	Weatherization Program Notice 24-2 Program Year (PY) 2024 Grantee Allocations	04/10/24
24-3	2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines and Definition of Income	01/25/24

24-4	Weatherization Assistance Program Monitoring Procedures	05/10/24
24-5	Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Warranties	11/28/23
24-6	Vehicle and Equipment Purchases and Disposition Using Weatherization Assistance Program Funds	01/25/24
24-7	Optional Budget Flexibilities for the Average Cost Per Unit	05/10/24
24-8	E&I Policy and Reporting Revised	09/23/24
24-9	Weatherization Readiness Fund - Implementation	09/19/24
24-11	Weatherization Assistance Program Guidance for SERC Grants	09/25/24
25-1	Program Year 2025 Weatherization Grant Application	11/18/25

Memorandums	Title	Date Issued
008	Quality Management Plan Draft Grantee KSAs	09/17/14
099	Eligible Buildings - US Department of Agriculture Lists	11/09/22
104 Revised	Weatherization Assistance Program "Build America, Buy America" Requirement	02/23/24
109 Revised	Eligible Buildings - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Lists	12/15/24
113	Weatherization Assistant Suite of Tools and Transition Requirement Updates	08/29/23
114	Updates to WAP Optional Regional Priority Lists	09/08/23
115	Weatherization Procurement Resources	09/06/23
123	Discount Rate for Cost-Effectiveness Calculations	02/13/24
126	Home Energy Professional (HEP) Energy Auditor and Quality Control Inspector (QCI) Certification Scheme Update	03/22/24
128	Weatherization Assistance Program New Data Collection Requirements Starting Program Year 2024 - REVISED	08/05/24
133	EA and QCI Certification Body Update	06/28/24
134	WAP Enhancement & Innovation Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0003407) - REVISED	09/18/24
136	Quality Work Plan-Multifamily Training Requirements	09/09/24
137	Transfer of RED Calc Free and RED Calc Pro to Department of Energy	09/11/24

Weatherization Program Memoranda can be accessed via the following link <a href="https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-program-guidance">https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-program-guidance</a>.

# **6.0 WEBSITE INFORMATION**

To assist the WAP Network in obtaining the most up-to-date information related to governing documents, Program information, communication information, client eligibility, and technical and management resources, please visit DOE WAP's website:

https://www.energy.gov/eere/wap/weatherization-assistance-program.

Resources include, but are not limited to:

- About the Weatherization Program
  - o Whole House Weatherization Approach
  - o National Evaluation
  - o Weatherization Contacts
- How to Apply for Weatherization Assistance
- Weatherization Program Notices and Memoranda
- Weatherization Management Resources
  - o Weatherization Program Updates
  - o Weatherization Training Resources
    - Weatherization Grantee Manager's Training Toolkit
    - Weatherization Standardized Curricula
    - Weatherization Financial Training
    - Weatherization Administrative Training
  - Weatherization Energy Audits
  - o Weatherization Monitoring
  - o Weatherization Field Guides and Variance Requests

**CONCLUSION:** Since 1976 WAP has weatherized over 7.2 million households. As the nation's oldest and most comprehensive retrofit program, WAP is prepared to play a key role in expanding access to energy efficiency. The IIJA provides an historic investment in our nation's families, workers and American manufacturing, and with the \$3.5 billion WAP will ensure a more dependable energy future for the American people.

This is an extraordinary challenge put before an extraordinary network. At DOE, we pledge to work in partnership with all stakeholders including the Grantees, Subgrantees and their Associations, to ensure that these purposes are met. We ask that you keep the lines of communication open and that you continue to work collaboratively with each other and with DOE to achieve these objectives.

DOE recognizes the complexity of this challenge and there may be elements that will require still further clarification. DOE will continue to provide additional updates through DOE Project

Officers and, as needed, through Program Notices in an effort to keep the Weatherization network well informed.

It is a pleasure to work with you on this important challenge. I look forward to the growth of this Program and our continued partnership to ensure Weatherization Works!

DAVID GIPSON Digitally signed by DAVID GIPSON
Date: 2025.04.07
16:31:26 -04'00'

David Gipson WAP Deputy Director Office of State and Community Energy Programs

Attachment 1: Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD)

Attachment 2: Application Instructions (Originally issued March 2022. Updated April 2025)

Attachment 3: IIJA 22-2 IIJA Grantee Allocations