



Energy & Housing Services Department Memorandum

To: Interested Parties
From: Daniel Drost, *Director of Energy and Housing Services*
Date: November 23, 2020
Subject: DOE PY 2021 Weatherization Assistance Program State Plan

2021 DOE State Plan

As part of the annual application process, Maine State Housing Authority (MaineHousing) must submit to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) a State Plan application detailing how MaineHousing, as the Grantee, will utilize the funds and conduct its Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) in accordance with DOE guidance.

Normally, DOE announces its WAP annually. Through formal notices, DOE informs states of funding levels and specific program guidance as to how Grantees will conduct their weatherization efforts. DOE's WAP is administered through a sub-grantee system and Maine utilizes the Community Action Agencies (CAAs) as the Sub-grantee network.

WAP is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. For planning purposes, until a final full year FY 2021 budget is passed and signed by the President, Grantees have been advised to develop their Grantee Plans using the same funding level as the DOE 2020 Appropriated Funds outlined in Weatherization Program Notice (WPN) 20-2.

There are several parts to the grant application:

- Budget Summary – details how the grant funds will be spent by the grantee (MaineHousing) and the sub-grantees (the Community Action Agencies – CAAs).
- Annual File – describes changes to the program from the previous year's application
- Master File – a detailed plan of Maine's WAP with descriptions of how Maine will meet the guidelines/requirements of the DOE. This includes, but is not limited to: MaineHousing and CAA weatherization staff responsibilities, client eligibility, monitoring activities; audit procedures and tools; MaineHousing policies; and how MaineHousing and CAAs will adhere to DOE Health and Safety requirements.

For program year 2021 (April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022), MaineHousing will continue to administer, partnering with Sub-grantees, a quality weatherization program designed to make energy improvements to Maine's aging housing stock. These improvements assist households in reducing the overall energy consumption and costs of heating their homes. Priority households are Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) eligible households with a high energy burden that include a household member who is elderly, a person with disabilities, or a child younger than 6 years of age.

There are no major program changes planned for 2021, however the minor updates are highlighted below:

1. Removed outdated language no longer requested by DOE.
2. Added clarifying language regarding desk reviews, unit inspection and on-site sub-grantee monitoring visits.
3. Minor technical edits, clarifications and clean-up.

Public Hearing and Comment Period:

A public hearing, allowing interested parties an opportunity to comment on the 2021 DOE State Plan will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 beginning at 9:30 a.m. To listen to or testify at the public hearing, please contact Gerrylynn Ricker no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020, at MaineHousing, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330-6046; (207) 626-4600 (voice); 1-800-452-4668 (voice in state only); or 711 (Maine Relay) or via e-mail: gricker@mainehousing.org.

Written comments will be accepted until close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, December 28, 2020. The hearing notice is attached. **A draft of the 2020 DOE State Plan is available on MaineHousing's website: www.mainehousing.org.**