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MEMO

WX-2025-4

TO: Agency Directors, Weatherization Coordinators, and Fiscal Officers
FROM: Danielle Safford, Weatherization Program Coordinator
RE: USDOE State Plan updates
DATE: 7/1/2025

Greetings,

Please find below all changes that have currently been made to the Final Draft USDOE State Plan. Memo WX-2025-4 is being released to reflect these. Currently, without an approved State Plan in place with the Department of Energy, these changes are being made and in effect starting July 1st. The State Plan is a living document that continually evolves and OHCS will reserve the right to amend and make changes as needed to bridge any delay in federal funding.

A copy of the Final Draft U.S. Department of Energy State Plan 2025–26 will be available to view on Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Web Site. Included below is a list of changes for this year's plan. I hope this will help make the State Plan more manageable.

Changes to State Plan:

OHCS program contacts, Subgrantees updated, allocations updated ACPU updated to \$8547
DOE WAP operating under a short-term continuing resolution for FY 2025
Subgrantee Selection Process included/territory vacancy.

1.05.2 Peer Exchange (conciseness)

Peer exchange in the Oregon Weatherization network fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing among weatherization professionals. By participating in peer exchanges, technicians and program managers can share best practices, innovative solutions, and lessons learned from their experiences. This collaborative environment helps improve the quality and efficiency of the delivery of services and provides opportunities for professional development.

1.06.2 Availability of T&TA Funds (new-reprogramming T&TA funds)

OHCS may choose to reprogram T&TA funds to program operations. If more than 10% is considered to reprogram, a new production schedule and a new number of units that OR WAP will serve will be provided to DOE.

1.06.4 Contract Training (removed Energy Smart Academy as a WAP trainer)

OHCS contracts with the Oregon Training Institute (OTI) to provide a comprehensive weatherization training program that will increase the qualified workforce for the Oregon WAP while ensuring quality work is being done that will provide safe, healthy, and efficient housing for income qualified household across Oregon. OHCS may contract with the Oregon Training Institute (OTI) or other approved training organizations for some of the required weatherization certification trainings.

1.08.2 Housing Stability Council Membership List updated

2.01.1 Households at or under 200% of federal poverty level

The state of Oregon will use the current statewide manual established for LIHEAP, as established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget in determining eligibility for household that meet LIHEAP criteria. Households not eligible through LIHEAP or HUD or USDA categorical eligibility are subject to WAP specific thresholds: 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or 60% of State Median Income (SMI) whichever is higher. Current income guidelines can be reached on the [OHCS website](#).

2.01.3 Priorities-Other criteria may be used if it's SECONDARY to the five above that are listed in the enabling legislation for the DOE WAP Program.

2.01. Eligible Population-This section was re-written to explain LIHEAP and other categorical eligibility and when those do not qualify a household to use 200% federal poverty level.

2.05 Energy Audit Procedure-OHCS will continue to work with DOE as we seek out a new modeling tool to meet the needs of the WAP.

2.05.2 Weatherization Readiness Funds (WRF). DOE BIL has a different grant cycle, therefore, WRF activities must be completed and reported within the annual award grant cycle, but the project may be fully weatherized and counted as a DOE BIL completion within a reasonable time within the IIJA grant cycle. Oregon will define and incorporate a reasonable time as 120 days from the start of a project (as determined by the date of the approved WRF application) to a fully completed and weatherized unit (as determined by the completion date in OPUS). The WRF cost should be included in the 'other' category in OPUS. Final invoices for WRF work need to be submitted upon completion of this additional work.

2.12.4 Contract with Subgrantees-included funding application with Implementation Report

2.17.3 Income eligibility has been expanded to categorically include HUD and US Department of Agriculture (USDA), which are means-tested programs at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) to better facilitate referral services for low-income households, reducing the burden on both the intake agencies and households trying to obtain services. (Examples of HUD program but not limited to Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Lead Hazard Control & Healthy Homes Program (OLHCHH), Section 8, etc.) The effort explored the overlap in incomes of the different households served through the various programs. The overlap is sufficient to consider "categorical income eligibility", defined across programs as automatically granting program eligibility to applicants who have already met the eligibility requirements of another agency's identified program. Subgrantees may certify that applicants have met the income requirements of HUD means-tested programs through mechanisms including, but not limited to,

applicant documentation, interagency lists of recipients, shared system databases, etc. The method of verification of eligibility must be included in the client file. **OHCS must approve the method of verification prior to proceeding with the project.**

Subgrantees may certify that applicants have met the income requirements of USDA means-tested programs and are eligible for weatherization services through programs including but not limited to:

- Section 521 Rental assistance
- Section 502 Direct Home Purchase Program
- Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant Program
- Section 504 Home Repair Program

The USDA identifies and updates current buildings monthly and can be referenced on the [USDA website](#). Additionally, categorical eligibility applies when one or more persons living in the dwelling unit has received cash assistance payments under Title IV (TANF) or XVI of the Social Security Act (SSI), or applicable state or local law at any time during the 12 months preceding the determination of eligibility for weatherization assistance; or one or more persons in the unit is eligible under the Low

Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, provided that such basis is at least 200 percent of the poverty level.

2.18.3 Operation of the Program- Best practice contractor procurement-recommended to include solicitation to COBID for good faith efforts to encourage disadvantaged business enterprises. Appendix C-Training & Technical Assistance Plan-Removed Energy Smart Academy (ESA) as a provider

OHCS staff are familiar with the opportunities for impropriety that exist in the different areas of responsibility in weatherization, and are alert for any indication of fraud, waste, or abuse as described in (Appendix F) Sample Radon waiver/removed link-no longer valid

Appendix F-Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Process

Appendix G-Material Review/Dispute Resolution Process

If you have any questions, please contact me at:

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