LIHEAP WEATHERIZATION WAIVER ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Comment Sought for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Waiver

RALEIGH — Public comment is being sought on North Carolina's proposed Low-Income Energy Assistance Program waiver, which will allow an increase in allotted funds available for the Weatherization Assistance Program and Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program from 15 up to 25 percent for the current state fiscal year.

The Weatherization Assistance Program and Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program work together to improve energy efficiency, reduce utility costs, and provide a healthier living environment in the homes of low-income families.

The waiver may be reviewed June 1- June 5, 2020 at the following locations:

- Any of the 100 county departments of social services. If the agency is closed to the public, the waiver will be posted to the county website
- Online on the Division of Social Services website

A public hearing will be held on June 5, 2020 from 12-1 p.m. online via a GoTo webinar. There is no cost to participate. Individuals may register in advance and set a calendar reminder by going to: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6891573263862601487. Individuals needing additional assistance with registering for the GoTo webinar may reach out to ncfasttraining@dhhs.nc.gov.

Written Comments will be accepted no later than Tuesday June 9, 2020 via:

- Any agency where the plan was displayed
- Mail, postmarked no later than Tuesday, June 9, 2020 to:
  RE: LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver Comments
  Susan Osborne
  DHHS Division of Social Services
  2420 Mail Service Center
  Raleigh, NC 27699-2420

Or email to Jasmyne.Simmons@dhhs.nc.gov

North Carolina Weatherization Waiver FFY2020

Households Served and Energy Assistance provided

FFY 2019 (Grantee Survey and Household report)	
LIHEAP Grant Award	$96,681,557
Households Served	183,680
FFY 2020 (estimated)	
LIHEAP Grant Award	$91,845,433
Household Served	188,921

Request Narrative

North Carolina General Assembly divides the weatherization program into two parts; Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Heating Air Repair and Replacement Program (HARRP). The total obligated percentages of weatherization include 9.62% for weatherization and 5.48% for HARRP totaling 15.10%. North Carolina requests the increase of the weatherization funds from 15% to 15.10%, which includes both WAP and HARRP. This is an increase of .10 above the 15%.

Weatherization Assistance

The Weatherization Program provides funds to units of local government, private non-profits and Councils of Government for the purchase and installation of materials such as attic, wall and floor insulation, community solar, caulking and weather stripping, water heater wraps, Energy Star refrigerators where applicable, mechanical ventilation fans and crawl space vapor barriers on homes of low-income families, particularly the elderly, handicapped, and children, to make homes more energy efficient, reduce monthly utility costs and provide a healthier living environment. The North Carolina Weatherization Assistance Program (NCWAP) uses a priority list or computerized household modeling to determine the measures to be installed. The measures must exceed a Savings-to-Investment Ratio (SIR) of 1, whereby energy savings are equal to or greater than the life cycle costs of the measures.

Eligibility

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) guidelines specify households with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program (HARRP) current guidelines specify households with Income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Cost-Per-Unit Averages:

	2019	2020
Weatherization	7100	7400
HARRP	6500	6500

	2021
Weatherization	7599
HARRP	6500

Opening and Closing Dates

Applications are taken year-round from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019.

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Outreach Efforts

Posters/Flyers are placed in local Social Services offices, Offices of Aging, Social Security offices, and other organizations throughout the fiscal year in each of the service areas. In addition, social media is used to obtain greater exposure for the program in areas that are remote or for individuals who may not have seen posters or flyers. Weatherization Day (October 30) is also used for various outreach activities (i.e. weatherization fairs, site demonstrations, etc.). Implementing partners organize local community outreach fairs and programs annually to raise awareness. Organizations work together to perform outreach to targeted groups in need of all low-income services. This includes presentations, flyers, handouts and email communications to the counties. Further outreach efforts have been made to contact Hispanic speaking, deaf and hard of hearing, and other communities.

Public Review and Comment

Waiver Request

North Carolina requests a waiver to increase the percentage of LIHEAP funds spent on Weatherization and other Energy Related Home Repair and Improvements up to 25 %

Public Review of LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver Attendance Sheet

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If you would like to leave a comment or suggestion, please fill out a feedback form.

Public Review of LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver Feedback Form

Date: _____

Your comments, suggestions, and feedback are important to us.
Please provide the following information:

What is the subject of your suggestion?

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Comments & Suggestions:

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The following information is optional:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____
_____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Return this form to the agency you received it from or your local Department of Social Services or by mail postmarked, no later than June 9, 2020 to:

Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations for Human Services
LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver Comments
DHHS N.C. Division of Social Services
2420 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2420