

North Carolina Weatherization Waiver FFY2019

Households Served and Energy Assistance provided

FFY 2018 (Grantee Survey and Household report)	
LIHEAP Grant Award	\$95,607,094
Households Served	192,163

FFY 2019 (estimated)	
LIHEAP Grant Award	\$95,681,557
Households Served	204,120

Request Narrative

North Carolina General Assembly breaks down the weatherization program into two parts Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Heating Air Repair and Replacement Program (HARRP). The total obligated percentages for weatherization includes 10.25% for weatherization and 5.47% for HARRP totaling 15.71%. North Carolina requests the increase of the weatherization funds from 15% to 15.71%, which includes both WAP and HARRP. This is an increase of 0.71% above the 15%. North Carolina will take these funds from the Crisis component.

Weatherization Assistance

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

Eligibility

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

Costs-Per-Unit Averages:

	2019	2020
Weatherization	7100	7400
HARRP	6500	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 and Social Security 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. Low Income assistance organizations work together to perform outreach to targeted groups in need of all low-income services. This includes presentations, flyers, handouts and email communication to the counties. Further outreach efforts have been made to contact Spanish speaking, deaf and hard of hearing, and other communities not previously sought.

Public Review and Comment

A public announcement went out on April 1, 2019, via a press release from the Office of Communications, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The waiver request was published on the DHHS website and available at the DHHS office at 820 S Boylan Ave, Raleigh, NC 27630 and all 100 Department of Social Services (DSS) offices from April 8-12, 2019. A public hearing was held April 12, 2019, 12pm - 1pm for the public to have an opportunity to comment on the proposed increased fund allocation for weatherization up to 25%. There were no attendees at the public hearing, no request to view the waiver or comments received via mail to Assistant Secretary, Susan Osborne.

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%.