

## North Carolina Weatherization Waiver Request FFY2024

### Households Served and Energy Assistance Provided

| FFY2023 Grantee Survey and Household Report |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| LIHEAP Grant Award                          | \$16,099,560             |
| Households Served                           | WAP - 615<br>HARRP - 756 |

| FFY2024 (estimated) |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| LIHEAP Grant Award  | \$23,918,994               |
| Households Served   | WAP - 1,102<br>HARRP - 897 |

### Request Narrative

The North Carolina General Assembly divides the state's weatherization program into two parts: Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Heating Air Repair and Replacement Program (HARRP). The total obligated percentages of weatherization include 60% for WAP and 40% for HARRP, totaling 100%. North Carolina is requesting an increase of the weatherization program funds of 15% to 25%, to include both WAP and HARRP.

### Weatherization Assistance

North Carolina's weatherization programs provide 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 in homes of low-income families, particularly older adults, people with disabilities and children, to reduce monthly utility costs by making homes more energy efficient and providing a healthier living environment. The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) uses a priority list or computerized household modeling to determine the appropriate 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 eligibility guidelines for both the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program specify households with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

**Cost-Per-Unit Averages:**

|       | 2022     | 2023     |
|-------|----------|----------|
| WAP   | \$11,000 | \$11,000 |
| HARRP | \$8,000  | \$8,000  |

|       | 2024     |
|-------|----------|
| WAP   | \$12,000 |
| HARRP | \$9,000  |

**Annual Opening and Closing Dates**

**SFY2023:** Applications are taken year-round from 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2023.

**SFY2024:** Applications are taken year-round from 07/01/2023 to 06/30/2024.

**Outreach Efforts**

Weatherization program posters and flyers are placed in local social services offices, local and area agencies on 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 Spanish-speaking, deaf and hard of hearing and other communities.

**Public Review and Comment**

The review and public comment period for the North Carolina Weatherization Waiver Request FFY2024 is March 18-25, 2024. The waiver will be made available for review in person and online at local county department of social services and on the NCDHHS website at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/public-notice>. Comments will be accepted through March 26, 2024.

**Waiver Request**

North Carolina requests approval of a waiver to increase to 25% the amount of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds available to use for weatherization and other allowed energy-related home repair and improvements.