

Public Notice: Public Comment Sought for Weatherization Waiver

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is seeking public comment on the proposed Low Income Home 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% to 25% for the current state fiscal year.

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

The waiver may be reviewed March 18-22, 2024, at the following locations:

- Any of the 100 county departments of social services in person or online. The waiver will be posted to the county website.
- Online on the Division of Social Services website: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/public-notices>.

A virtual public hearing will be held on Monday, March 25, 10–10:45 a.m., via GoTo webinar. There is no cost to participate. Individuals may register in advance and set a calendar reminder by going to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/606685665241676119>. For additional assistance registering for the webinar, reach out to ncfasttraining@dhhs.nc.gov.

Written comments will be accepted no later than March 26, 2024, by 5pm and can be submitted at any agency where the plan was displayed. Comments can also be emailed as an attachment to Jasmyne Simmons, Energy Program Consultant, at Jasmyne.Simmons@dhhs.nc.gov.

Comments can also be mailed to the following address, postmarked no later than Tuesday, March 26, 2024:

RE: LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver Comments
Carla West, Division Director of Human Services
DHHS Division of Social Services
2420 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2420

To review the waiver on the NCDHHS website, visit <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/public-notices>.



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 HARRP - 756

FFY2024 (estimated)	
LIHEAP Grant Award	\$23,918,994
Households Served	WAP - 1,102 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.

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 above.