

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 6, 2018

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave S.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Secretary Perry,

We write concerning the Department of Energy's (DOE) delay in issuing guidance documents for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to aid grantees in the preliminary stages of development and submission of state plans for Program Year (PY) 2019. We appreciate the commitment you made on April 11, 2018, before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development to fund WAP consistent with Congressional intent and urge you to release these final guidance documents without delay.

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act (PL 115-244), Congress provided a \$6 million increase in funding for WAP and directed the Department to fully execute the funds appropriated in a timely manner. Furthermore, the Senate report for the FY 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations Act directs that WAP awards shall be obligated to grantees no later than 60 days after the funds are appropriated by Congress. Last week, Mr. Menezes testified favorably before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy on the Investing in State Energy Act (S. 1713), which would codify this timeline and prevent undue delays in distributing WAP grants to state agencies and local partners that implement energy efficiency initiatives.


The first step in the WAP funding process is the Department's release of grant guidance and management information to assist grantees in developing state plans for the upcoming program year. In the enclosed memorandum dated September 25, 2018, DOE announced that this guidance was to be released on November 30, 2018. As of the date of this letter, DOE has failed to release these guidance documents or state allocations for FY 2019. We urge DOE to release the FY 2019 WAP guidance and state allocations no later than December 7, 2018, in order to avoid unnecessary delays in services to low-income families and seniors who rely on the energy savings from this program.

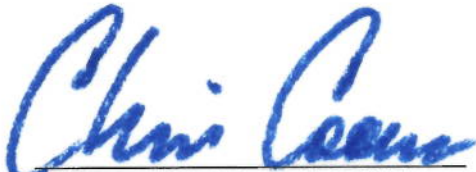
We have long supported this key energy efficiency program and urge the Department to uphold Congress' direction to adhere to a timely process for distribution of both funds and guidance. We

look forward to continuing to work with you and thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


  
JEANNE SHAHEEN  
United States Senator

  
JACK REED  
United States Senator

  
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS  
United States Senator

  
SUSAN M. COLLINS  
United States Senator

  
LISA MURKOWSKI  
United States Senator

  
MARIA CANTWELL  
United States Senator

CC: Mark W. Menezes, Under Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy  
Cathy Tripodi, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Enclosure

# Memorandum

DATE: September 25, 2018

WAP Memorandum 043

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: *elb*  
Erica Burrin, Weatherization Assistance Program, Program Manager  
Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program Office

SUBJECT: PY 2019 Weatherization Assistance Program Draft Grant Guidance

TO: Weatherization Assistance Program Grantees

In anticipation of the FY19 budget, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is providing *draft* grant guidance documents to WAP Grantees to aid in the preliminary stages of development and submission of PY 2019 State Plans. This draft is being made available to give Grantees the opportunity to begin the planning process while DOE undertakes internal actions and reviews necessary for the final Grant Guidance release.

In making this draft available so early in the process, DOE aims to ensure there is ample time for Grantees to engage subgrantees in the development of the 2019 plan. Grantees should note, while WAP is slated to receive \$6M increase over FY18 funding levels, for general planning purposes, Grantees may use DOE 2018 Appropriated Funds outlined in WPN 18-2.

For planning purposes, the following is the anticipated timeline for the final release:

- September 25 – The WPN 19-1, PY 19 Application Package, ALRD (collectively grant guidance) is released in draft form via this WAP Memorandum.
- November 30 (tentative release) – Final version of WPN 19-1, PY 19 Application Package, ALRD (collectively grant guidance), and WPN 19-2 Grantee Allocations
- February 1 – State Plans submitted to DOE from April 1 Grantees.
- February – DOE Project Officers review plans, coordinate changes with Grantees, deliver State Plan to FAO.
- March – FAO reviews, Contract Officer approves the contract prior to April 1.

If you have questions regarding the information in this Memorandum, please contact your DOE Project Officer.