
**Weatherization Plan
State Of Alaska-2024
FINAL APPROVED PLAN 2024**

**Department Of Energy Low Income Weatherization
Program**

Public Hearing January 23, 2024
AHFC Board Room
4300 Boniface Parkway, Anchorage, Alaska 99504
10-11:00 AM

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction ProgramsOMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

1. Program/Project Identification No. EE0009886		2. Program/Project Title Weatherization Assistance Program	
3. Name and Address Alaska Housing Finance Corp P.O. Box 101020 Anchorage, AK 995101020		4. Program/Project Start Date 04/01/2024	5. Completion Date 03/31/2025

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Federal Catalog No. (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. PY 2022 APPLICATION BUDGET	81.042	\$ 0.00		\$ 2,518,790.00		\$ 2,518,790.00
2. STATE			\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
3.						
4.						
5. TOTAL		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,518,790.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,518,790.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	Grant Program, Function or Activity				Total (5)
	(1) GRANTEE ADMINISTRATI ON	(2) SUBGRANTEE ADMINISTRATI ON	(3) GRANTEE T&TA	(4) SUBGRANTEE T&TA	
a. Personnel	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 46,000.00
b. Fringe Benefits	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 34,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 34,500.00
c. Travel	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,400.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,400.00
d. Equipment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
e. Supplies	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
f. Contract	\$ 0.00	\$ 377,818.00	\$ 52,497.00	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 2,420,890.00
g. Construction	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
h. Other Direct Costs	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,000.00
i. Total Direct Charges	\$ 0.00	\$ 377,818.00	\$ 150,397.00	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 2,518,790.00
j. Indirect Costs	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
k. Totals	\$ 0.00	\$ 377,818.00	\$ 150,397.00	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 2,518,790.00
7. Program Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

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SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY						
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		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. TOTAL		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,518,790.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,518,790.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES					
6. Object Class Categories	Grant Program, Function or Activity				Total (5)
	(1) HEALTH AND SAFETY	(2) PROGRAM OPERATIONS	(3) Weatherization Readiness	(4)	
a. Personnel	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 46,000.00
b. Fringe Benefits	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 34,500.00
c. Travel	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 12,400.00
d. Equipment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00
e. Supplies	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00
f. Contract	\$ 293,418.00	\$ 1,173,671.00	\$ 253,486.00		\$ 2,420,890.00
g. Construction	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00
h. Other Direct Costs	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,000.00
i. Total Direct Charges	\$ 293,418.00	\$ 1,173,671.00	\$ 253,486.00		\$ 2,518,790.00
j. Indirect Costs	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00
k. Totals	\$ 293,418.00	\$ 1,173,671.00	\$ 253,486.00		\$ 2,518,790.00
7. Program Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00

DOE F 540.2
(08/05)OMB Control No: 1910-5127
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

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IV.1 Subgrantees

Subgrantee (City)	Planned Funds/Units
Alaska Community Development Corp (Palmer)	\$789,465.00 47
Interior Weatherization (Fairbanks)	\$789,464.00 47
Rural Community Action Program (Anchorage)	\$789,464.00 47
Total:	\$2,368,393.00 141

IV.2 WAP Production Schedule

Weatherization Plans		Units
Total Units (excluding reweatherized)		101
Reweatherized Units		40
Average Unit Costs, Units subject to DOE Project Rules		
VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT AVERAGE COST PER DWELLING UNIT (DOE RULES)		
A	Total Vehicles & Equipment (\$5,000 or more) Budget	\$0.00
B	Total Units Weatherized	101
C	Total Units Reweatherized	40
D	Total Dwelling Units to be Weatherized and Reweatherized (B + C)	141
E	Average Vehicles & Equipment Acquisition Cost per Unit (A divided by D)	\$0.00
AVERAGE COST PER DWELLING UNIT (DOE RULES)		
F	Total Funds for Program Operations	\$1,173,671.00
G	Total Dwelling Units to be Weatherized and Reweatherized (from line D)	141
H	Average Program Operations Costs per Unit (F divided by G)	\$8,323.91
I	Average Vehicles & Equipment Acquisition Cost per Unit (from line E)	\$0.00
J	Total Average Cost per Dwelling (H plus I)	\$8,323.91

IV.3 Energy Savings

Method used to calculate savings: ☒ WAP algorithm ☐ Other (describe below)				
	Units	Savings Calculator (MBtus)	Energy Savings	
This Year Estimate	141	29.3	4131	
Prior Year Estimate	144	29.3	4219	
Prior Year Actual	2	29.3	59	
Method used to calculate savings description:				

IV.4 DOE-Funded Leveraging Activities

N/A

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IV.5 Policy Advisory Council Members☐ Check if an existing state council or commission serves in this category and add name below

Anesha Wallace	Type of organization: Other Contact Name: Anesha Wallace Phone: 9077297262 Email: aneshawallace@gmail.com
Marquam George	Type of organization: Other Contact Name: Trainer and Consultant-retired UAS.. Phone: 9072094444 Email: marquam.george@gmail.com
Mr. Todd Hoener	Type of organization: Other Contact Name: Consultant on Home Performance and Baseload Phone: 9073889960 Email: tmhoener@gmail.com
Phil Kaluza	Type of organization: Other Contact Name: Energy Professionals and At Large Phone: 9073606337 Email: pkaluza@g-mail.com
Richard Green	Type of organization: Other Contact Name: Building Supplier Rep and Homebuilders Association Phone: 9074525050 Email: rgreen@sbsalaska.com
Susan Marshall	Type of organization: Unit of State Government Contact Name: Susan Marshall Phone: 9075892171 Email: susan.marshall@alaska.gov
Toy Owen	Type of organization: Other Contact Name: WX network rep. Phone: 9076944413 Email: toyjr@gci.net

IV.6 State Plan Hearings (Note: attach notes and transcripts to the SF-424)

Date Held	Newspapers that publicized the hearings and the dates the notice ran
01/23/2024	The Public hearing was advertised in compliance with procedure. Changes to the Plan were read into the record which was professionally transcribed. Testimony was recorded by the transcriber. Subgrantee agency representatives attended the Public Hearing by teleconference. The plan was approved in a vote taken following the public hearing. The plan was advertised in the statewide Anchorage Daily News January 8-23, 2024 and was available on the on the AHFC website for the same period of time.

IV.7 Miscellaneous

2024 BUDGET: DOE has also identified funds for innovative or pilot projects separately from the 2024 allocation. AHFC has chosen to apply for a project to add solar arrays to weatherization homes in Fairbanks, AK as a pilot project and will be working directly with Interior Weatherization. No further public hearing will be needed for these projects. If a vote of the PAC is required it will be conducted electronically through email.

The current budget is the 2023 budget which is what we have been asked to use until a formal budget is passed in Congress for 2024. Currently we will be awarded based on this budget. Also, when the actual formula funds are awarded the budget will be adjusted with no need for another public hearing. If any other funds become available that can be administered in conjunction with the DOE weatherization program, they will be made available to the existing subgrantee agencies.

ALASKA SPECIFIC NOTE regarding budget limitations: Currently under the 2024 formula grant Alaska provides \$10,000 AC/U for road connected communities and \$20000 for remote rural communities. We make up the difference with state funds. The AHFC Research and Rural Development Department (R2D2) is doing all that it can to try to procure adequate state funds to be able to ensure the higher AC/U. Because of the extreme inflation of costs associated with construction this year, these amounts are barely enough to be able to do a basic weatherization job. The \$8497 AC/U that comes with the 2024 money is barely sufficient to work in Anchorage let alone in other areas of the state. I am only including this statement so that it is understood the challenges that we face with providing services with this amount of money when we combine with the BIL money also.

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR DOE WEATHERIZATION:

1.Davis Bacon-Work on large multifamily buildings (5 plex and above) will comply with the Davis Bacon pay ranges, reporting and monitoring requirements.

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2. Buy America-if working on publicly owned buildings such as Public Housing, Buy America provisions apply and must be documented in procurement processes.
- 3 The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)requirements must be followed when weatherizing units. Most weatherization falls under categorically exempt activities but we are keeping informed and participating in national meetings regarding all of these initiatives.
4. Historic preservation-we have an agreement with the state SHPO office and are in compliance. The WOM outlines the process.
5. We are prioritizing workforce development at AHFC as well as helping our agencies. This is a challenging task in the current economy and we continue to work on it for all of our programs. We will be working closely with our national partners, training centers, DOE, NASCSP and EOW to maximize the outcomes as we work to expand our workforce.
6. Equity and Justice- we are keeping informed about how Justice 40 data may be collected. A large part of our state is severely disadvantaged especially our remote rural and road connected rural areas. In Anchorage we have large areas of very low income populations. We feel that our focus on the lowest income households ensures that we are meeting the goals of this initiative, but we will be following the lead of DOE as it works on developing a reporting protocol.
7. Fuel switching-we have a DOE approved protocol for fuel switching . The fuel switch plan will be attached to the SF424.
8. WPN 22-10 CARBON AND WATER: Alaska has incorporated carbon reduction into its modeling program. Water reduction cannot be measured as everyone pays a base rate and residential use is not metered. The state provides low flow aerators and shower heads to the agencies to distribute to the clients when appropriate.
- REVIEW OF PLAN:** Compliance with network and PAC review of the state plan. Prior to writing the plan, the Program Manager discusses specifics with each of the agency directors to collect their concerns and suggestions. On December 4th we held a teleconference call with the three subgrantee agencies to discuss the plan and to ask for input. the agenda and notes from this meeting are attached to the SF424. Discussions were held with each of the agency directors individually about suggestions or concerns. Once a draft is written, it is distributed to the PAC and the network by early January for their review. The State plan is then made public at least 10 working days prior to the Public Hearing. In this case the plan was released on January 8,2024. The Public Hearing was held on January 23, 2024. The final plan is submitted to DOE and distributed to both the PAC and the network by early February.
- The Alaska Weatherization Operations Manual (WOM) can be accessed at www.ahfc.us.
- Go to search
- Go to manuals
- Go to the Weatherization Operations Manual
- CHANGES TO THE PLAN:** If further directives are issued from DOE regarding new requirements, final budgets, added WPN's that must be included to receive a grant from DOE, and unless the change is so substantive that implementation would really differ from the what is proposed, then these changes will be adopted without further public hearing or PAC approval. AHFC is also in progress on many compliance and technical issues within the Standards and the WOM and final outcomes will be ready at the time of the release of grants on April 1, 2024. No further public hearings shall be convened to approve any of these changes, unless there is a major change that significantly impacts the program, all documents will be finalized prior to the start of the program year.
- If funding changes prior to or during the course of the PY, adjustments to the budget distribution will be made without further public hearing. Due to the relatively small number of units estimated, units have been distributed more or less evenly to the subgrantees in this plan. In reality the DOE units may be distributed to areas where the need is greater or the presence of qualifying families is larger. AHFC reserves the right to distribute DOE funds as is most effective for the operation of the program. Funding to all areas follows the historical distribution based on a number of factors including climate data, household need, population, etc.
- Notable Changes for 2024:
1. Updated WOM 2024 to be provided on website by April 1, 2024.
 2. Priority List- A priority list based on the Climate area 3 list provided by DOE has been sent to DOE for review. If approved we will decide where and when it will be used.
 3. The Health and Safety Plan has been entered into the current H&S Template for compliance with the most recent WPN's regarding H&S. All H&S forms will be attached to the SF424.
 4. The QCI form is being reviewed and will have some additions prior to April 1st.
- KEY PERSONNEL:**
Recipient Business Officer-Jimmy Ord, Director Research and Rural Development Division, AHFC. 907-330-8446 jord@ahfc.us
Recipient Principal Investigator-Mimi Burbage, Program Manager Wx, AHFC. 907-330-8192. mburbage@ahfc.us
- DEFINITIONS:**
1. SWS- Standard Work Specifications-Standard created by NREL (National Renewable Energy Laboratory) to guide all measures undertaken with federal weatherization dollars.
2. QCI- Quality Control Inspectors-The Certification required of all inspectors who inspect DOE completed units, both from the agencies and from the state.

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3. WOM- Weatherization Operations Manual from the State of Alaska.
4. EOW- Energy OutWest. EOW western region peer exchange network. EOW operates independently as a non-profit and is focused on training and technical issues in the delivery of weatherization services.
5. HPC- Home Performance Coalition, now known as BPA
6. Building Performance Association
7. BPC- Building Performance Center Bellingham
8. COVID- referencing pandemic virus needing protocols specifically to protect workers and clients

ATTACHMENTS TO SF424: The WOM is available in entirety on the AHFC website but there have been some minor changes made to these three chapters for the current update that might be relevant to DOE. Section 1 is overall operations using both state and DOE funds, Chapter 5 are our technical standards, and Chapter 9 is the DOE rules and regulations. On April 1, 2024 the WOM 2024 will be available on the AHFC website.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: We have changed the H&S Plan to the more current template provided by DOE. This is a work in progress since the changeover happened very quickly. The network will be using the Plan and providing me with feedback that we can use for any future updates or corrections. The H&S Plan is attached in the SF 424. We are requesting 25% for H&S. See Section 7.25 Allowable Fuel Switch to the Health and Safety Plan and also water heaters.

A significant update is with the **Alaska Pollution Source Client Survey Form** which will be used to interview the client and to obtain a client signoff at the outset of the process. The **H&S Notification** which stayed the same is used on the job site by the assessor, crew chief, crew or inspector to notify the client of any condition found that will not be corrected by the weatherization program.

COMPETITIVE BID EVALUATION PROCESS FOR SUBGRANTEES: In the summer of 2020 we issued a Solicitation of Qualification (SOQ) that was used to identify qualified agencies that will be eligible to receive funding in the 2021 Program Year though the 2026 Program Year. This SOQ will be written in 2025 and used for selecting qualified agencies to receive all funds that are dedicated to weatherization and residential rehabilitation for funding from 2026-2030

ENERGY AUDITOR/QCI -Every three years we will provide training to to grantee and agency staff, to ensure that assessors and inspectors will be in line with QCI expectations and to provide backup in the event of turnover. This will focus on Energy Auditor and QCI inspector classes and certification. Training for CEU's will continue in state or with BPC Bellingham, Minnesota, CHP or other sanctioned training center or for existing QCI inspectors. QCI inspectors will be utilized for large multifamily inspections and as training programs become available for QCI multifamily inspections we will incorporate them into our continuing training for QCI inspectors. We will be recertifying in the spring of 2024.

ALASKA FIELD GUIDE-We have an approved Alaska Field Guide for actual use in the field and with the crews. The guide continues to be a work in progress as we streamline formatting and will continue to make improvements to the individual specification pages, updating photos, and adding new ones when needed. Training is ongoing for the agencies in the specifics and the use of the field guide. All agencies have participated in review of the Field Guide during development so there is a collaboration of effort that will ensure adoption and application in the field. The Field Guide was approved in 2021 and is aligned with the AkWarm approval.

WEATHERIZATION OPERATIONS MANUAL (WOM): The WOM could not be attached due to its size. It failed to load on the SF-424. The WOM is updated annual and reviewed by all agencies and released on April 1st each year. No changes will be issued during the course of the Program Year which coincides with the DOE Program Year. To access the WOM please go to the following"
www.ahfc.us
Search "manuals"
Go down the list for the WOM-(2024 version April 1, 2024)

SUBGRANTEE RESPONSIBILITY: All DOE subgrantees shall comply with the requirements outlined within this plan as well as all Federal rules, regulations and guidance governing the DOE Weatherization Program. The technical requirements, including the Alaska Standards and the Alaska SWS document, will be included in any grants to the sub-grantee agencies. There are representatives from each of the agencies on the Alaska team that will be continuing to work on the Field Guide and SWS. The acceptance of the grant by the Subgrantee will indicate acceptance of all requirements, including the one to pass the technical standards onto the subcontractors.

Subgrantee agencies and vendors must comply and pass through to other contractors the approved energy audit procedures, the 10CFR 440 Appendix A, the Alaska Field Guide and WOM Standards in all the work that they do utilizing DOE funds.

AVERAGE COST PER UNIT: The average cost per unit is \$8497 according to DOE guidance. If the average cost per unit is changed during the course of the period of performance or at the start of the program year, Subgrantee funding may be recalculated to allow for a different average cost per unit and the number of completions required modified if necessary. No further public hearing will be required to change the average cost per unit. Subgrantees will be notified in writing of any change.

RENEWABLES: The renewable adjusted average (\$4169) is part of the total allowable average cost per unit. AHFC will allow expenditures on renewable within the guidelines established by DOE. Renewables are not a part of the current Alaska plan. Permission from the State Program Manager must be in place before proceeding with any projects involving renewables. No further public hearing will be required to change the average cost per unit for renewables. Subgrantees will be notified in writing of any change.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: the Public Hearing for weatherization is always held in January, allowing to be plan to be finalized and submitted in February. Everyone participating including the PAC members and the Executive Management by all Subgrantee agencies were notified that the plan depended on funding distribution to begin April 1, 2024. All members agreed that the Plan was approved without further need for public hearing. If a major problem is found by DOE in the final state plan submitted, it will be changed or adjusted by the AHFC Program Manager and if needed reviewed by the PAC either through e-mail or teleconference for final approval. If suggestions are made to the method of implementation, allocation, training, the budget, and/or logistics by DOE that are necessary to comply with Federal regulation,

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these changes will be instituted by the program manager without further public hearing. If for some reason, a second public hearing was absolutely necessary for final approval of the plan, the PAC would be contacted by teleconference or electronically for the final approval, if meeting in person as a group proved difficult. Many of our PAC members and agency directors have to travel significantly to attend meetings in Anchorage.

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The PAC sometimes will meet twice a year, once in January to approve the state plan and possibly once in spring (February to May) in Juneau to focus on planning, collaboration, education and funding for the continuation of the program. The January meeting is mandatory for approval of the state plan and members will be allowed to travel to the meeting or participate by Webinar. The PAC includes:

1. Susan Marshall (LIHEAP) is the manager of the LIHEAP program. She has been invaluable in coordinating LIHEAP funds with weatherization. She works with fuel assistance program and tribal heating assistance programs as well. Susan works through the LIHEAP program to serve tribes, and prioritizes homes with young children, seniors and disabled.
2. Marquam George (TRAINING) is recently retired from the University but has provided training and educational consultation with Southeast agencies. He has designed and implemented successful programs under the weatherization umbrella for crew training and apprenticeships in our Southeast Native villages. Marquam has kept ties with the university network statewide which is very important for us.
3. Richard Green (LOGISTICS) represents materials providers and logistics coordination, an important skill while working in both urban and rural Alaska. He also represents Seniors especially in the Fairbanks area. He is instrumental in helping to bring in the most current new products and to assist the agencies in improving technical application.
4. Todd Hoener (UTILITIES). He is a widely known trainer in lighting and baseload applications and has worked continuously for the last thirty years on projects in our Native Communities and on the remote road connected systems. He brings an expertise in the renewable industry while having a hands on knowledge of weatherization (former manager of the weatherization program for Tanana Chiefs Conference). He continues to work in the energy efficiency in residential housing field. He works with Senior programs in his area.
5. Phil Kaluza (RENEWABLES AND HEALTHY HOMES). He has worked with many native villages and Housing Authorities to improve ventilation options where the use of ventilation system is a challenge due to high electrical costs (up to \$.90/kwh real cost) and where the need for innovative client education is needed. Phil continues research on heat pumps and also has helped to design monitoring systems to assist us in measuring the effectiveness of our work in the homes.
6. Anesha Wallace (HEALTH CORPORATION). She has worked for Southcentral Foundation which is the primary health organization that oversees public health concerns in all the remote communities as well as the cities, including the Alaska Native Medical Center (Anchorage hospital). Anesha grew up in Tanana, AK. and worked with the weatherization program at AHFC in the past so she is very familiar with the program. Anesha is Alaska native and works with children and elders in her Native arts programs.
7. Toy Owen (Retired State Program Manager/Agency Program Director). Toy spent many years involved in the establishment and implementation of the weatherization program. He has spent most of his life in Alaska and understands the unique conditions that are presented in working towards exemplary outcomes in weatherization and rehab.

All of our board members have spent lifetimes working with the disadvantaged in the state. They work to improve the lives of children, the disabled, and the elderly.

RESOURCES: DOE rules and guidance are found on line at [energy.gov](http://energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-program-guidance) and are part of the compliance with any grant that AHFC issues containing DOE funds. DOE funds are subject to compliance with all applicable DOE and Federal rules. DOE is maintaining the website for all guidance and updates at <http://energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-program-guidance>

SHPO: The SHPO agreement was renewed by amendment until 2030. We have two agreements currently. One is for DOE funds and the other is for State funds. There is very little difference but we will negotiate both once the approved agreement is issued by DOE.

TECHNICAL DIAGNOSTIC TESTING REQUIREMENTS: For all DOE homes, we will be running the required diagnostic testing as defined by the Quality Control Inspection (QCI) process) with the exception of the duct pressurization testing. This test will not be required by the state of Alaska but is allowed if an agency wants to conduct one. For the most part the duct systems are either inside the building envelope or will be brought in side during the weatherization work. Duct sealing is considered a priority where needed and pressure pan testing remains a requirement.

All diagnostic testing, assessments, and inspections will be covered by DOE funds. For a full review of diagnostic testing, protocols will be found in the WOM- Section 5. If there is a need to add or exempt certain tests to stay in compliance or to make the program more effective, we reserve the right to make changes to the plan, through the Alaska Standards-Chapter 5.

ACSI (American Consumer Satisfaction Index)-Alaska ranked very well in almost every category of the ACSI the study. AHFC distributed the study to all Subgrantee agencies as soon as it was released. AHFC will be meeting with the Subgrantee agencies for a half day following the Public Hearing and a discussion of ACSI will be included in that meeting. All Subgrantee agencies will be questioned as to how further improvements can be made. We regularly conclude all of our Subgrantee meetings in all critical discussions regarding the development of technical documents and policies, distribution of funds, guidance and program changes, administrative updates and changes, etc. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in the fall to continue this.

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INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS: Below is a copy of the attachment to the grants that specifies insurance. We do not choose to track insurance and audit costs separately. This is reviewed annually by Risk Management and updated as needed and attached to the grant agreements.

ARTICLE 7. INSURANCE The apparently successful Grantee must provide the required insurance certificates as described below within ten (10) working days of Notice of Intent to Award. AHFC will not sign a grant agreement or contract, issue a notice to proceed, or make any payment absent the required insurance certificates. Without limiting Grantee's indemnification, it is agreed that Grantee will purchase at its own expense and maintain in force at all times during the performance of services under this Grant, the following policies of insurance.

AHFC Risk Management reserves the right, but not the obligation, to review and revise any of the following insurance requirements, based on insurance market conditions which may affect the availability or affordability of coverage; or based on changes in the scope of work or specifications that apply to this Grant. In addition, AHFC Risk Management reserves the right, but not the obligation, to review and reject any insurance policies failing to either meet the necessary criteria or that have been provided by an insurer in poor financial condition or legal status.

The requirements contained herein, as well as AHFC Risk Management review or acceptance of insurance maintained by Grantee is not intended to, and shall not in any manner, limit or qualify the liabilities or obligations assumed by Grantee under this Grant.

Insurance policies required to be maintained by Grantee will name AHFC as additional insured for all coverage except Workers' Compensation and Professional Liability/E&O insurance.

The Grantee and its subcontractors/subgrantees agree to obtain a waiver, where applicable, of all subrogation rights against AHFC, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers for losses arising from work performed by the Grantee and its subcontractors/subgrantees for AHFC. However, this waiver shall be inoperative if its effect is to invalidate in any way the insurance coverage of either party.

Where specific limits are shown, it is understood that they will be the minimum acceptable limits. If the Grantee's policy contains higher limits, AHFC will be entitled to coverage to the extent of such higher limits. The coverages and/or limits required are intended to protect the primary interests of AHFC, and the Grantee agrees that in no way will the required coverages and/or limits be relied upon as a reflection of the appropriate types and limits of coverage to protect Grantee against any loss exposure whether a result of this Grant or otherwise.

Failure to furnish satisfactory evidence of insurance or lapse of any required insurance policy is a material breach and grounds for termination of the Grant.

A. Workers' Compensation Insurance: The Grantee will provide and maintain, for all employees of the Grantee engaged in work under the Grant, Workers' Compensation Insurance as required by AS 23.30.045. The Grantee shall be responsible for ensuring that any subcontractor/Subgrantee that directly or indirectly provides services under this Grant has Workers' Compensation Insurance for its employees. This coverage must include statutory coverage for all States in which employees are engaging in work and employer's liability protection for not less than \$100,000 per occurrence. Where applicable, coverage for all federal acts (i.e., USL & H and Jones Acts) must also be included.

B. Commercial General Liability Insurance: The Grantee will provide and maintain Commercial General Liability Insurance with not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence limit, and will include premises-operation, products/completed operation, broad form property damage, blanket contractual and personal injury coverage. Coverage shall not contain any endorsement(s) excluding or limiting contractual liability nor providing for cross liability.

C. Automobile Liability Insurance: The Grantee will provide and maintain Automobile Liability Insurance covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles with coverage limits not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence bodily injury and property damages. In the event Grantee does not own automobiles, Grantee agrees to maintain coverage for hired and non-owned liability which may be satisfied by endorsement to the CGL policy or by separate Business Auto Liability policy.

D. Umbrella or Excess Liability: Grantee may satisfy the minimum liability limits required above for CGL and Business Auto under an umbrella or excess Liability policy. There is no minimum per occurrence limit under the umbrella or excess policy; however, the annual aggregate limit shall not be less than the highest per occurrence limit stated above. Grantee agrees to endorse AHFC as an additional insured on the umbrella or excess policy unless the certificate of insurance states that the umbrella or excess policy provides coverage on a pure "true follow form" basis above the CGL and Business Auto policy.

E. Professional Liability Insurance: The Grantee will provide and maintain Professional Liability Insurance covering all errors, omissions or negligent acts of the Grantee, its subcontractors/sub grantees, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them, made in the performance of this Grant which results in financial loss to the State. Limits required are \$1,000,000.

F. Contractors' Pollution Legal Liability (or equivalent) Insurance: The Grantee will provide and maintain Contractors' Pollution Legal Liability Insurance covering all errors, omissions or negligent acts of the Grantee, its contractors, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them, made in the performance of this Agreement. Limits required are not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

G. Certificates of Insurance: Grantee agrees to provide AHFC with certificates of insurance evidencing that all coverages, limits and endorsements as described above are in full force and effect and will remain in full force and effect as required by this Grant. Certificates shall include a minimum thirty (30) day notice to AHFC of cancellation or non-renewal.

H. Information for Insurance Agents/Brokers. The Grantee is strongly encouraged to provide its insurance agent/broker with a copy of the insurance provisions of this Grant in order that the Grantee may timely obtain and maintain the required insurance and/or bonding.

THE STATE OF ALASKA WEATHERIZATION READINESS PLAN: Weatherization Readiness Funds (WRF) are designated for use by Grantees in addressing structural and health and safety issues. This funding is anticipated to reduce the frequency of deferred homes that require other services, outside the scope of weatherization, before the weatherization measures can be installed. In conversation with the subgrantees over the last two days, we have agreed upon the following

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plan for expending Weatherization Readiness funds.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS: Alaska allocation will be divided between the subgrantee agencies for use in both urban and rural Alaska aligned with the other DOE funding. Generally, it will be divided equally between agencies but considerations of wait lists and need can influence the distribution. Households will follow the prioritization schedule that is described in the general weatherization plan, but to date the number of homes needing Readiness has been manageable and homes are served in order that they apply.

AVERAGE COST PER UNIT: The average cost per unit for Readiness will be \$16000.

MONITORING OF UNITS: Agencies will conduct 100% inspections on Readiness units and the state will conduct 5% minimum but will try to inspect more units. We will monitor these units as we do the regular weatherization units at 5 percent minimum field monitoring. We will add a section to the QCI checklist regarding whether readiness funds were used on this home or not.

REPORTING: Currently the subgrantees keep a list of deferred clients on spreadsheets that we view at the time of Program Monitoring. Those spread sheets can be expanded to include tracking the work performed under Readiness and the overall costs, and submitted quarterly to our office. AHFC could compile a list of all the units completed under Readiness and the total materials and labor costs for measures. We will also see if we can add that to our Wx. Online Reporting system as a new category.

REPORTING CATEGORIES:

These clients will be qualified through the regular system so any separate reporting of readiness funds will include Readiness specific data only until it can be incorporated into our regular tracking:

Client #

Year Built

Date of Application

Deferral problems

Date of Remediation

Cost of Remediation

Other funds used

Formula or BIL

ELIGIBLE MEASURES: NATURE OF REPAIRS NEEDED WHICH PROHIBIT WEATHERIZATION. Where applicable, identify multiple repairs or remediation reasons for a single building. These are some of the eligible categories. If a repair is needed that is not on the list, please contact the State Program Manager with details and a request to proceed.

MAJOR ROOF REPAIR

WALL REPAIR

CEILING REPAIR

FLOOR REPAIR

FOUNDATION OR SUBSPACE REPAIR

EXTERIOR DRAINAGE REPAIRS (GUTTER/LANDSCAPING)

PLUMBING REPAIRS

ELECTRICAL REPAIRS

CLEANUP AND OR REMEDIATION BEYOND WAP

LEAD PAINT/ASBESTOS/MOLD AND MOISTURE/BIOLOGICA/PESTS/ETC.

FUEL TANK REMOVAL, REPAIR, OR INSTALLATION

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MAJOR REPAIR TO UNSAFE CHIMNEY AND STACKS

WATER SOURCE REPAIR (WELLS/FILTRATION SYSTEM, SEPTIC, ETC.)

WINDOWS AND DOORS BEYOND SCOPE OF WX. H&S

OTHER MEASURES APPROVED BY THE AHFC PROGRAM MANAGER

PROCESS: Weatherization Readiness Funds can only be used on homes that will receive weatherization services following the deficit correction:

1. If the subgrantee has a wait list of deferred homes in a service area, these homes should be considered immediately for Weatherization Readiness funds to get them in the cue for weatherization services. Client should be contacted and scheduled for assessment. Households will follow the prioritization schedule that is described in the general weatherization plan, but to date the number of homes needing Readiness has been manageable and homes are served in order that they apply.
2. Normally, deferrals are identified at the time of the assessment when someone goes to the home. For a new client that is being assessed for wx. services, if there are serious issues identified that are beyond the scope of eligible conservation and H&S recommendations utilizing the funds available, this home would be categorized as Deferred until the deficiency is corrected. These clients have been identified following the normal prioritization and wait list process so this should continue to be followed.
3. In either case the subgrantee would create a scope, contract for services or engage with a crew to do the work so that the building would then be eligible for weatherization work. Readiness work needs to be identified by measure in the client file.
4. Once the Readiness work is complete, the client needs to sign off on a detailed list of the measures installed and then should be scheduled as soon as possible for weatherization services. (If this occurs during a transition between program years, that is fine just keep the information from the Readiness work in the client file moving forward.) Readiness jobs that must be completed with two program year cycles at the maximum and cannot carryover at the end of a DOE grant cycle. The subgrantee will report required data points regarding the WRF jobs to the Grantee using the reporting spreadsheet at the end of each program year.
5. The subgrantee agency will then report to AHFC on a spreadsheet quarterly until we can create a category in our on line data base systems. Client files for each job are expected to contain the intake, measure, cost, and inspection information for Readiness

BRAIDING FUNDS: With the exception of DOE WAP-BIL grant funds, Alaska will try to utilize funds from other sources to augment these funds.

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This worksheet should be completed as specified in Section III of the Weatherization Assistance Program Application Package.

V.1 Eligibility

V.1.1 Approach to Determining Client Eligibility

Provide a description of the definition of income used to determine eligibility

AHFC can determine each program year whether to base household eligibility on median income as determined by the Low Income Heating Assistance Program or the Department of Energy Percent of Poverty or other DOE approved methodology. This Program Year, AHFC will base income on 200% of Poverty unless a new methodology or percent of poverty is released allowing higher income clients. We find that many high priority clients are somewhat over-income and cannot qualify, but, they also cannot afford to implement energy savings and health and safety measures on their homes. This category will include a large percentage of the working poor who have been negatively affected by Covid 19 and are in need of assistance. We will chose whatever method allows us to include the largest number of clients.

Eligibility is determined by subgrantees when a client applies to the program. Clients are assisted in the application process. Calculating income and considering proof of income for DOE eligible clients meets 10 CFR 440 requirements and is detailed further in the Alaska WOM. DOE eligibility process are noted in Chapter 9. The system of priorities that is required by DOE comprises the first three levels of the state program so those that are the highest priority with the lowest of income are served first. AHFC through the Alaska Weatherization Operations Manual (WOM) includes a detailed set of instructions and many template forms for determining income and eligibility, for verifying ownership and income, and, for verifying number of household residents.

The Alaska Program also works with the Department of Health and Social Services to obtain the list of eligible LIHEAP clients to help identify those that are automatically eligible, to streamline their application process, but to also verify that they are recipients of either of those programs.

WPN 22-5 extended categorical income eligibility to HUD means-tested programs. WAP Grantees and Subgrantees may certify that applicants have met the income requirements of HUD means-tested programs through mechanisms including, but not limited to, applicant documentation, interagency lists of recipients, shared system databases, etc. Method of verification of eligibility must be included in the client file.

Describe what household eligibility basis will be used in the Program

Income determination methods are documented thoroughly in the Alaska WOM (Sec. 1)
Alaska uses the DOE definitions and priorities for its top tier clients.

1. The household includes a resident who is elderly, disabled, or a child under 6 years old, and the total household unit income is less than or equal to the income limits published by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that are current as of April 1st of the program year.
2. The household includes a child who is 6-18 years old, and the total household unit income is less than or equal to the income limits published by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that are current as of April 1st of the program year.
3. Other households with total household unit income that is less than or equal to the income limits published by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that are current as of April 1st of the program year.

High energy user and high energy burden. Although these categories have become a priority for some programs from DOE, we decline to include them at this time. First of all, it is very difficult to get confirmed household usage records from many of the utilities. In most of the bush this information is not tracked and families often buy fuel one 5-20 gallon container at a time. Even delivered fuels are not really tracked to the homes. Also, those clients that have tried to implement energy savings practices before we even get to the home would be penalized under such a system. Those clients are the ones that are most likely to value and maintain the weatherization work that goes into the home. Because of the lack of good hard utility data, we do not track this in our systems right now. My personal feeling is that due to the high prices of fuel throughout Alaska, everyone faces a high energy burden. Our current priorities really serve the most disadvantaged first as it is so I feel that we are achieving the same goal.

The eligibility process follows the DOE regulations and is outlined in great detail in the WOM (Sec. 1)

Describe the process for ensuring qualified aliens are eligible for weatherization benefits

Grantees are directed to review guidance provided by Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

V.1.2 Approach to Determining Building Eligibility

Procedures to determine that units weatherized have eligibility documentation

Currently, a dwelling unit is eligible for DOE funds if it has never been weatherized, or, if it the previous weatherization date was more than 15 years ago. Households with elderly,

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handicapped, and children under six years will be given priority. Funding for reweatherization shall not exceed the allowed number of units of the total grant allocation noted in the Annual File. Subgrantees have the option of adopting a policy for further priority ranking, subject to approval, in writing, by AHFC. WOM Section 1.

Eligible buildings must comply with 10 CFR 440. Must be a residential unit (owned or rented) that is currently lived in; and, the household must comply by income or be automatically eligible with LIHEAP or SSL. Multifamily buildings of any size must follow the requirements for owner authorization and contributions (if any). May be a shelter and comply with 10 CFR 440.

If a building incorporates mixed use (i.e. commercial and residential), no DOE funds will be used to address issues in common areas or commercial areas. To consider a mixed use building for eligibility under state weatherization, the building must comply as described in the WOM Section 1-page 33.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION: The Programmatic Agreement (PA) between DOE, AHFC and SHPO specifies exempt activities and structures from having to meet the requirements of the Historic Preservation office prior to commencing work. The SHPO PA will be attached to the WOM. All homes outside of those exempted must meet SHPO requirements. WOM Section 4.

Describe Reweatherization compliance

No unit can receive DOE weatherization funding if it was previously weatherized less than fifteen years ago. Annually a (not to exceed) percentage of units are selected that could be completed as re-weatherized units. AHFC allocates a percentage of the budget to re-weatherization due to the fact that the severe climate and the condition of the housing stock for low income high priority clients often needs to be reconsidered if work was done over 15 years ago. These are some of the oldest housing stock and have experienced severe deterioration as well as are in great need of current advanced energy savings retrofit measures. Often the poorest clients reside in these units. The technology utilized in the assessment, installation and inspection processes has dramatically changed over the past two decades which really helps to target high priority areas of heat loss and health and safety.

Dwelling units weatherized (including dwelling units partially weatherized) under this part, or under other Federal programs (in this paragraph referred to as 'previous weatherization'), may not receive further financial assistance for weatherization under this part until the date that is 15 years after the date such previous weatherization was completed. This paragraph does not preclude dwelling units that have received previous weatherization from receiving assistance and services (including the provision of information and education to assist with energy management and evaluation of the effectiveness of installed weatherization materials) other than weatherization under this part or under other Federal programs, or from receiving non-Federal assistance for weatherization. The inclusion of "other Federal programs" includes all Federal funds including LIHEAP, HUD, or USDA "weatherization" activities.

The Weatherization Program by definition is a highly complex and detailed technical approach to identifying measures designed to save energy and eliminate H&S problems in the home. It begins with a comprehensive assessment of the home that includes building diagnostics, energy modeling, in depth client interviews and assessments of behavior, HVAC diagnostics, a visual inspection of all insulated areas that can be accessed, foundation and other structural inspections, ventilation compliance with ASHRAE, etc. All possible eligible measures are entered into a computer model which will list each one in order of cost effectiveness. Only those meeting a SIR of one or above are allowed to be considered for installation. Weatherization is not an emergency program or a home repair program. The primary measures completed under weatherization include air leakage reduction, insulation, ventilation, HVAC repair and replacement, duct sealing, Ground Vapor Barriers, CO detectors and smoke detectors. No other program in Alaska has this focus or has the diagnostics to effectively and safely complete the measures recommended. Other programs often focus on accessibility measures for handicap compliance, structural measures, water and septic, among other things. No one requires the diagnostics that we do for weatherization.

The AHFC database and data collection system for weatherization and our Energy Rebate Program contains information back to over 30 years ago in terms of homes completed. We also have the energy modeling system called AkWarm collected for most of those units. The information on the homes that were completed long ago is minimal and in some cases non-existent but we do know what homes and when they were done. The information collected in the last fifteen years is much more thorough. Despite the retention period for DOE funds being three years, we have kept this data base to give us good information about the homes that have been worked on and also knowing that it would help in tracking re-weatherization. Most all Federal agencies follow the same retention period of three years and for legal reasons most agencies do destroy files after that period of time. Currently there is no statewide data base of all homes that have been worked on for any reason by any Federal agency. I think it would be next to impossible to compile such a data base given all the interagency confidentiality rules, lack of information over three years old, etc.

The Subgrantee must examine all submitted paperwork by the clients to determine if they have received weatherization services in the past and they must cross check the Wx.Online database. A question must be added to the application that asks the client if they have received weatherization work in the past 15 years by any agency. If so, the Subgrantee can determine if the work falls under the definition of weatherization or not. If the client did receive weatherization services during that time frame, then they must be denied and told to reapply after the fifteen year waiting period from the time they received services. Otherwise they will be allowed to continue through the application process.

Describe what structures are eligible for weatherization

The WOM and the 10 CFR 440 detail eligible dwelling units but they include single family rentals and owner occupied, mobile homes, large and small multifamily buildings, and shelters. WOM Section1.

Describe how Rental Units/Multifamily Buildings will be addressed

The extensive policy on Rental Units in the WOM is covered in Section 1. AHFC has detailed Landlord Tenant Agreements that can be found in Section 2 Administrative and Eligibility Forms. Any changes to DOE compliance with rental policies will be incorporated without further public hearing.

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Describe the deferral Process

If a unit is declared to be unsafe for work, it will be deferred for a specific period of time until the appropriate improvements to health and safety hazards can be completed by the owner or other funding. Once that is done, the unit can then be reconsidered for work. WOM Section 1. If improvements take longer than the client will have to reapply and update their information prior to being served. If possible the unit will be considered for Weatherization Readiness Funds to correct the deficiencies and then moved on for regular weatherization services.

Referral: Although we are very aware of all the other funding sources that might be used on a home and our agencies do their best to interface with RD-USDA funds, HUD funds, etc. we are often the program of last resort. Our agencies also work with churches and other non profits such as Access Alaska, Native Corporations, Tribal Groups etc. to find funds to deal with situations that might cause a deferral. AHFC and the subgrantees will do our best to refer clients to other services.

All deferrals will be tracked separately this program year using the DOE tracker or the AHFC spreadsheet. The Weatherization Operations Manual details out the deferral process.

<https://www.ahfc.us/application/files/2616/8246/3710/wom2023s1.pdf>

Deferrals addressed on page 1-35.

V.1.3 Definition of Children

Definition of children (below age): 6

V.1.4 Approach to Tribal Organizations

☐ Recommend tribal organization(s) be treated as local applicant?

If YES, Recommendation. If NO, Statement that assistance to low-income tribe members and other low-income persons is equal.

Historically the State of Alaska has exceeded service to Native Americans on a population basis

The State of Alaska selects service grantees based on a competitive process and to date no tribes have applied. This current year DOE funds equal less than 20% percent of overall funds allocated to weatherization services. Other funds (with more flexibility) are distributed to the DOE grantees and to other agencies most of which are Native Regional Housing Authorities serving in their designated areas. Other funds are issued to agencies on April 1st at the start of the construction season and most of the rural projects are winding down by fall.

The situation is very different in Alaska from the reservation status that most tribes have in the rest of the states. The Native population in rural Alaska is concentrated in 200+ very small remote communities and then a large share of the Native population has migrated to the urban centers, particularly Anchorage, where they are served equally by the appropriate agencies.

All low income people in Alaska are equally eligible for weatherization services. Four of the regions served comprise all of the area not connected by road and are primarily populated by Native American people. Remote communities are served one or two at a time per region to provide cost effective services in those areas. The weatherization services will be made available to all residents of a targeted community and priority clients will be served first. All eligible residents of a targeted community, who apply and are qualified at the time of the initial intake, must be served before moving on to another community.

Under the state program, some regional native housing authorities receive weatherization grants to work in their areas. They are required to serve all eligible applicants in their areas regardless of race or tribal affiliation by date of application and priority status. If a client is not a high priority, he/she may eventually be served but only after other higher priority clients.

Subgrantee agencies differ slightly with their individual policies but all follow the overall State and Federal guidelines. Grantees with DOE funds must follow Section 9 of the WOM which is DOE only rules. If a client is not a high priority, he/she may eventually be served but only after other higher priority clients. Subgrantee agencies differ slightly with their individual policies but all follow the overall State and Federal guidelines. Grantees with DOE funds must follow Section 9 of the WOM which is DOE only rules. All were vetted through a competitive five-year process, the weatherization SOQ process. The SOQ is issued every five years to solicit responses from entities that have the qualifications to work in the weatherization program. We are going into year four and next summer the SOQ will be issued for 2026-2031. All DOE and the state funded only agencies respond under the same SOQ.

V.2 Selection of Areas to Be Served

SERVICE AREAS: Three agencies with long histories of service to the DOE weatherization program will be allocated funds to serve in those areas where they are working with AHFC state funds. This includes some if not all of the road connected areas of the state including Fairbanks, Anchorage, Matanuska Valley, Richardson

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Highway, Cordova, Valdez, rotating communities in Southeast Alaska, and possible units in Northern, Western, and Bristol Bay where logistics have those grantees serving at this time. Funds will be allocated to areas where they can best be expended within the allowable time frame and with the best use of the funds in mind. All units must meet the standards of the Alaska Field Guide and the WOM Standards.

REGIONS TO BE SERVED a) The WAP (Alaska uses this to reference the road connected program) which serves five designated regions which compose 88 percent of the population and 90 percent of the dwelling units in the state. The Enhanced Weatherization program serves four other regions comprising 12 percent of the population and 10 percent of the dwelling units, in an area over 400,000 square miles in size. The regions are:

ROAD CONNECTED REGIONS WAP:

Fairbanks North Star Borough and adjoining road system;
Southcentral Alaska
Municipality of Anchorage
Southeast Alaska
Juneau

ENHANCED WEATHERIZATION (EWX) PROGRAM REGIONS (This is the rural remote program)

Northern
Western
Interior
Bristol Bay/Aleutians)

The state uses an allocation formula that establishes the basic funding per region based on a variety of factors and updated with census information renewal. The State reserves the right to reallocate the funds in this plan or any new funds or reductions in funds based on the following criteria:

1. demonstrated need in a planned service area,
2. ability of the subgrantee to perform under the terms of the grant; or
3. other extenuating circumstances (i.e. natural disaster or other delaying work in an area)

With written approval of the Program Manager, a given area of the state maybe served on a one time basis (for a specific number of units) by an AHFC DOE weatherization subgrantee, working outside of their service district area without further public process:

V.3 Priorities

Priority one clients include elderly, disabled, and families with children under six. Priority 2 clients should include families with children from the age of six and not exceeding eighteen years of age. Priority 3 are all other eligible by income clients. WOM Section 1. This process is reviewed at the time of Annual Program Monitoring.

AHFC and weatherization subgrantees and contractors do not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, clients, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, and clients.

V.4 Climatic Conditions

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN ALASKA:The state of Alaska is so huge geographically that there exist many microclimates each with its own set of challenges for weatherization.

The primary driving forces are temperature, Heating Degree Days (HDD), precipitation and wind. In the regions served by the WAP, the average annual heating degree days range from 7,000 to 15,381. The temperatures by communities range from +104 to -80 degrees Fahrenheit. Cooling degree days are not a consideration in the WAP. In the regions to be served by the Enhanced Weatherization EWX (remote rural), the average annual heating degree days range up to 20,297 and the lowest recorded temperature is -72 degrees Fahrenheit. Some areas in the state experience hurricane strength winds regularly (including parts of Anchorage.)

Rain and Snow. The Gulf of Alaska has heavy rains with some areas having over 100 inches a year. Snow accumulation can be ten feet or more in colder parts of the Gulf. Most of coastal Alaska has heavy winds and blowing snow in the winter. Interior and western Alaska have from 10 to 20 inches of rain per year. They may have

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up to 10 or more feet of snowfall per year.

Delivering weatherization services to rural Alaska remote villages is on a timing cycle that starts the year prior. Assessments must be done in the winter, materials consolidated and ordered by early spring, shipment by barge from Seattle to the remote villages begins in late spring and goes until August. Once the materials are in place, the work starts in a very intense and concentrated manner in an effort to complete the village over several months before the hardest weather conditions set in.

Urban/road connected areas are served over a longer period but there are areas which cannot be worked in from about November until April because of the climate conditions. These areas include the Richardson and Parks Highway, road connected areas out of Fairbanks, and parts of the Kenai Peninsula will be inaccessible due to snow and ice. The Anchorage and outlying area is served almost year around, but Fairbanks itself shut down for close to six weeks last year due to bitterly cold temperatures.

Determination of Heating Degree Days: FROM OUR TECH CONTRACTOR THAT UPDATES CLIMATE AND FUEL COSTS FOR AKWARM:

There are 52 weather stations statewide where we have detailed long-term averages from 1981 to 2010. Each 'Reference City' is linked to one of those weather stations, but we then make adjustments to the temperatures based on typical differences in each month. Anchorage has just one 'Reference City', but Fairbanks has a separate one for Chena Ridge where the temperatures are pretty different.

The Heating Degree Day value is calculated based on monthly average temperatures and the standard deviation of temperatures within the month. The formulas used are based on "Solar Engineering of Thermal Processes", 1991, page 417-419 and the ASHRAE Journal, June 1983, "Estimation of Degree-Days and Ambient Temperature Bin Data from Monthly-Average Temperatures", pages 60-65.

Primary Reference: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/normals/1981-2010/>

Here's the list of the 52 NOAA weather sites currently used by AkWarm:

station_name
ALYESKA AK US
ANCHORAGE TED STEVENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AK US
ANNETTE WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE AIRPORT AK US
AUKE BAY AK US
BARROW W POST W ROGERS AIRPORT AK US
BETHEL AIRPORT AK US
BETTLES AIRPORT AK US
BIG DELTA AIRPORT AK US
BIG RIVER LAKES AK US
CANNERY CREEK AK US
COLD BAY AIRPORT AK US
COLLEGE 5 NW AK US
COLLEGE OBSERVATORY AK US
COOPER LANDING 5 W AK US
CORDOVA M K SMITH AIRPORT AK US
DUTCH HARBOR AK US
EAGLE AIRPORT AK US
EIELSON FIELD AK US
FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AK US
GLEN ALPS AK US
GULKANA AIRPORT AK US
HOMER 8 NW AK US
HOMER AIRPORT AK US
ILIAMNA AIRPORT AK US
JUNEAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AK US
KENAI MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AK US
KING SALMON AIRPORT AK US
KITOI BAY AK US
KODIAK AIRPORT AK US
KOTZEBUE RALPH WEIN MEMORIAL AIRPORT AK
KUPARUK AK US
LITTLE PORT WALTER AK US
MAIN BAY AK US
MATANUSKA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AK US
MCGRATH AIRPORT AK US
NABESNA AK US

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NOME MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AK US
NORTH POLE AK US
NORTHWAY AIRPORT AK US
PORT ALSWORTH AK US
SEWARD AIRPORT AK US
SITKA AIRPORT AK US
ST PAUL ISLAND AIRPORT AK US
SUTTON 1 W AK US
TALKEETNA AIRPORT AK US
TANANA CALHOUN MEMORIAL AIRPORT AK US
TOK AK US
UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENT STATION AK US
VALDEZ WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE AK US
WHITES CROSSING AK US
WRANGELL AIRPORT AK US
YAKUTAT AIRPORT AK US

V.5 Type of Weatherization Work to Be Done

V.5.1 Technical Guides and Materials

STANDARDS OF WORK SPECIFICATIONS (SWS): The Field Guide and the Alaska SWS are a work in progress and we will be updating according to requirement. The Field Guide is approved until May 3, 2026.

Chapter 5 of the Weatherization Operations Manual (WOM) is a detailed set of standards governing all measures to be implemented regardless of the funding used. All DOE work will first reference the Alaska Field Guide that illustrates the appropriate SWS. We are now working on a cross walk between the SWS, Field Guide and Chapter 5 for consistency to provide further consistency.

The Weatherization Operations Manual 2022 (WOM) will be available at the AHFC website for subgrantee agencies April 1, 2022. The current Alaska Field Guide is also available on the AHFC website as well.

To access both the WOM and the Alaska field Guide go to www.ahfc.us.
Search "Manuals"
Scroll down to see the current WOM and the Field Guide, for 2022.

We will continue to provide any helpful publications, forms and charts to the QCI inspectors and either offer specific training for credit under contract or allow travel and registration to eligible training in Bellingham at the BPC or other accredited training center.

DOE APPROVED MEASURES: DOE funds must be expended on energy conservation measures that meet or exceed an SIR of one or above as determined by AkWarm and adhered to Appendix A. At least one ECM (Energy Conservation Measure) must be installed prior to expending on H&S items when using DOE funds. We continue to work with providing technical assistance manuals and training in the technical side of measure determination, AkWarm use, and the use of audit and inspection tools. The WAP uses an Alaska specific home energy assessment (AkWarm) as the audit tool. AkWarm determines those measures which will be implemented to specifically save energy. AKWarm is required to be used on all dwellings weatherized. Section 5 of the Ak. WOM details the state standards for implementation of measures. The Ak Field Guide is the reference needed for the implementation of measures using DOE funds in the field. Each DOE job must have at least one Energy conservation measure with an SIR of one or above.

APPENDIX A MATERIALS: Appendix A is a part of the DOE requirements. It lists all of the approved materials that are allowed to be implemented under DOE weatherization. Appendix A is included in the Alaska WOM that all subgrantees use as guidance in implementation of the program.

APPROVED WEATHERIZATION MATERIALS NOT LISTED IN APPENDIX A (WPN 16-7):

* Eligible for other funds. ** Eligible for other H&S funds.

* LED Lamps and Fixtures (first approved for OR 5/14/2014)

Portable Electric Luminaires UL 153, Edition 13 (3/3/2014)

Light Emitting Diode (LED) Equipment for Use in Lighting Products

UL 8750, Edition 1 (R3/3/2014)

Lamp holders UL 496, Edition 13 (R 11/25/2013)

Currently allowed in AkWarm

DOE F 540.2
(08/05)

OMB Control No: 1910-5127
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

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Refrigerators

Refrigerator/freezers (does not include freezer-only units) AHAM HRF-1-2008; UL 250-993(R2013).

Replaced units must be disposed of properly per Section 8, Clean Air Act 1990, as amended.

**** Replacement Electric Water Heaters** (approved 10/6/2000, WPN 00-5)

Electric (resistance) storage tank water heaters UL 174, 11th Edition (2004)(R2015)

Requesting waiver for use of DOE funds

Replacement Water Heaters (approved 4-11-2001, WPN 01-11)

Heat pump water heaters 10 CFR 430, Appendix E to Subpart B;

UL 1995, Edition 4 (2014).

Gas fueled water heaters:

Rated = 75 kBtu/hr ANSI Z21.10.1-2014/CSA 4.1-2014;

10 CFR 430, Appendix E to Subpart B.

Rated > 75 kBtu/hr ANSI Z21.10.1-2014/CSA 4.3-2014;

10 CFR 430, Appendix E to Subpart B.

Oil fueled water heaters UL 732, Edition 5 (1995) (R2013)

Have added to the H&S plan 2022 and are requesting as an ECM with calculation procedures.

Acronyms:

AHAM – Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

ANSI – American National Standards Institute

ASTM – ASTM International (formerly American Society for Testing and Materials)

IEEE – Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

NFPA – National Fire Protection Association

SRCC – Solar Rating and Certification Corporation

UL – UL (formerly Underwriters Laboratories)

The following is the status of our current efforts for baseload analysis in AkWarm:

Current Lighting Analysis: AkWarm has the capacity to allow users to identify electrical components for replacement assessment; currently, if users choose to calculate miscellaneous baseload measures they must itemize all electrical loads in the dwelling to calculate an accurate energy reduction level, savings to investment ratio, and breakeven costs. As a result of decreased purchase cost for LED bulbs, replacement of existing incandescent bulbs has been determined cost effective in nearly all scenarios; historically, lighting upgrades have been focused on primary use fixtures and areas identified as potential hazards due to poor lighting, from both a dwelling and occupant perspective. LED replacement lights for both incandescent and end of life CFL are allowed without calculating SIR.

Current Refrigerator Analysis: AkWarm has the capacity to allow users to identify electrical components for replacement assessment; currently, users must itemize all electrical loads in the dwelling to calculate an accurate energy reduction level, savings to investment ratio, and breakeven costs. As this practice can be labor intensive, an external analysis tool has been used to determine replacement eligibility outside of the AkWarm Home Energy Rating calculation; the tool is available at <http://www.energytools.com>.

Analysis of Electrical Loads: AHFC's contractor for the AkWarm software completed an enhancement project to allow the software to accept partial electrical load itemization. Based on these entered loads and basic information concerning proportion, overall usage level, and occupancy load, the software will be upgraded to allow a user to enter only the loads that are to be included in the energy reduction analysis. Data from concerning average usage in varying communities is intended to be incorporated to account for geographic disparities. This allows for calculation of electrical retrofits to align with the current methodology for shell and mechanical system retrofit; loads identified for retrofit will be included in the Improvement Options Report, showing all data currently included for other proposed improvements. This feature is especially important for commercial audits and may be used for residential as well.

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Acronyms:

AHAM – Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
ANSI – American National Standards Institute
ASTM – ASTM International (formerly American Society for Testing and Materials)
IEEE – Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
NFPA – National Fire Protection Association
SRCC – Solar Rating and Certification Corporation
UL – UL (formerly Underwriters Laboratories)

DOE REQUIREMENTS AND PASS THROUGH: For specific measures see the State of Alaska Weatherization Operations Manual at www.ahfc.us and the Alaska Field Guide. Common measures include air sealing, attic insulation, floor insulation, heating system clean and tunes and replacements, moisture control and ventilation, and energy efficient lighting. There are literally hundreds of details in the WOM Section 5 and the Field Guide about these measures and others. The actual grants that are signed by the agencies have all required materials for DOE compliance referenced or attached. Agencies must pass these onto their subcontractors and maintain verification that each subcontractor has received and is implementing the Standards and the Field Guide. All subgrantee agreements and vendor contracts will contain language which clearly documents the SWS specifications for work quality. Field and file monitoring by AHFC will check to see that the language is included in subcontractor agreements and that they are being used. The weatherization grants list these documents and their location in the attachments for access by the subgrantees which are signed by the authorized signatories for each agency.

All subgrantees are required to use blower doors, heating system analyzers during the analysis of each home, whenever applicable; and are encouraged to use infrared cameras, monoxers, Duct Blasters and other testing equipment where applicable, while performing home energy assessments. The QCI protocols must be followed for interim and final inspections. Heating system diagnostic test procedures and improvements are performed as outlined in the WOM Sec. 5.

The average cost per dwelling unit for materials and program support expenditures will not exceed the prescribed average cost per home when utilizing Department of Energy weatherization program funds. Subgrantees will determine the amount of money spent per unit using AHFC resources (remaining within the average established by AHFC), after determining a cost effective weatherization plan for each home. (This average cost is determined statewide. The number of required units for each subgrantee is determined by the Program Manager based on the average cost per unit.)

All homes declared as complete under the DOE WAP program need to receive a minimum investment of at least one major measure (with an SIR of 1 or more). Justification must be provided in the file if this is not achieved. The AHFC Program Manager determines if justification is allowable and how it needs to be documented.

Costs of providing manuals and reference materials for all of the following (plus other related skill and certification programs and licensing will be allowed under the DOE weatherization program.

CERTIFICATION: The following requires certification:

QCI-(Quality Control Inspectors)-for final inspection of all DOE funded units

Energy Auditor for QCI inspectors compliance at renewal

RRP (Renovation Repair and Painting)-All workers on site or at least one supervisor where part time crews are hired. Checked on site inspections and at annual file review.

Lead Firm-Required for all subgrantees. Checked at time of Annual Program Monitoring and on-site monitoring.

OSHA 10 and 30-for appropriate crew and field supervisors.

Asbestos informational

Mold informational

INFORMATIONAL AND AWARENESS: (AHFC is constantly updating access to informational materials concerning the following (not limited to):

ASHRAE 62.2 2016

Mold and Asbestos Awareness: All workers within 6 months of hire. On-line or taught in house.

Radon-A Citizens Guide to Radon

Healthy Homes

OSHA 10-for all permanent crew.-recommended

OSHA HCP-all requirements on SDS

OSHA Hazardous Communication Standard-required

OSHA Confined Space

OSHA Lockout Tagout

Other relevant OSHA

CERTIFICATION OF USE OF AK WOM AND THE AK FIELD GUIDE. The signed grant with the subgrantee agencies is certification that they will utilize these references and other pertinent DOE and state documents and that they will be passed to the subcontractors as well. The WOM and the field guide are distributed by email and accessible on line to be downloaded by the subgrantees. During the annual Program Monitoring, we check to see that the current WOM is in the office and that the agencies are utilizing the current rules and regulations in the operations of their programs. We also check to see that the subgrantee contracts have included the pass through language concerning the use of the AK Field Guide and the WOM. In the field we check to see that the Field Guide is being referenced. We bring the Field Guide with us for reference during the inspections as well.

PASSTHROUGH LANGUAGE CURRENTLY IN GRANTS:

Attachment A Article 7: Each party to this grant Agreement is subject to the standard provisions governing third party relationships as described in 15AAC 154.745. Grantees using weatherization funding may contract for services without prior AHFC approval. All State of Alaska technical and program requirements must be accepted and agreed upon by third party contractors.

Attachment D-details the State Plan, the AK Field Guide, DOE rule and all the overriding CFR.

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Attachment D-Article 2 Certifying Statement: The agency_____has copies of and has read the above referenced materials and will conduct the Weatherization Assistance Program in accordance with all applicable rules, regulations and laws pertained therein. _____(Signature)_____(Date)

Field guide types approval dates

Single-Family: 5/3/2021
Manufactured Housing: 5/3/2021
Multi-Family: 5/3/2021

V.5.2 Energy Audit Procedures

Audit Procedures and Dates Most Recently Approved by DOE

Audit Procedure: Single-Family
Audit Name: AKWarm (Alaska)
Approval Date: 8/20/2020

Audit Procedure: Manufactured Housing
Audit Name: AKWarm (Alaska)
Approval Date: 8/20/2020

Audit Procedure: Multi-Family
Audit Name: AKWarm (Alaska)
Approval Date: 8/20/2020

Comments

Computerized Energy Audit Software (AKWarm)

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation has developed a combination Weatherization/Home Energy Rating Software known as AKWarm. The software has been reviewed by the Department of Energy in accordance with 10 CFR 440.21(g). All energy conservation measures will have a savings-to-investment ratio of one or greater, proving cost effectiveness as measured by AKWarm.

Airsealing measures could include the addition of weatherstrip and door sweep, caulks and foams used specifically, drywall applied to seal a wall or ceiling to establish a pressure boundary or encapsulate insulation, and other measures designed to reduce air leakage.

The WAP uses AkWarm as its computerized analysis tool for all residential assessments. AkWarm determines those measures which will be implemented to specifically save energy. All homes must receive an AkWarm pre and post energy analysis. All DOE units will be inspected as proscribed by DOE Rule.

AHFC developed the ARIS data base and to date there are a total of 85000 unique identifiers (housing units) in the data base. Since 2008 we have completed through energy rebates and weatherization approximately 45,000 units that we have a pre and post rating for in this data base. We also have another several thousand new units that were given a rebate if they met the 5 star plus rating.

AkWarm itself has been continually improved as a tool for housing analysis and currently is being considered for use as a marketing tool for an energy efficiency determination for homes that are being sold.

Currently every DOE job must have at least one energy conservation measure of an SIR of one or above. All energy conservation measures installed using DOE funds must meet the SIR of one or above. Eligible funds may be used to buy down the cost of the measures. See WOM, Sec 9.

DOE guidance regarding non energy benefits and H&S measures will be considered in the implementation of the Alaska weatherization program.

FUEL SWITCH USING DOE FUNDS: (WPN 19-4 Attachment 5)

Alaska DOE approval to allow fuel switching using the process noted:

Submission must include:

1. A short description of the proposed fuel switch and the reason for doing so.

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2. Justification for the switch as a H&S measure

3. Or follow the process for justification as an ECM.

Supporting documentation must include the initial site assessment, additional ancillary equipment necessary for the fuel switch (gas lines, electrical and the energy audit's Input Report and Recommended Measures Report. The entire cost of the installation must be included in the cost of the ECM evaluation.

V.5.3 Final Inspection

STANDARD MONITORING PROCEDURES:

All homes completed with DOE funds must receive a QCI inspection from the agency inspector. Each client file must include a form that certifies that the unit had a final inspection and that all work met the required standards. This form must be signed by the QCI inspector. The final QCI will include an assessment of the original audit and confirm that the measures called for on the work order were appropriate and in accordance with the AKWarm audit procedures and protocols approved by DOE. Missed opportunities or deviations from the original audit shall be documented in the final QCI report.

The final inspector from the agency on the job must be someone other than the job supervisor and or the assessor. The final inspector must also be QCI certified (unless extenuating circumstances allow a waiver in writing by the AHFC Program Manager). If the supervisor/crew chief and the final inspector are one and the same, a separate request must be filed with the AHFC Program Manager to allow this and increase the number of units inspected by the state to a minimum of ten percent. This may be the issue in remote and rural areas of Alaska where travel costs prohibit multiple people going into an area to do a separate inspections.

AHFC has provided training and certification to inspectors from each agency. AHFC will continue to monitor the credentials of QCI inspectors and track the continuing education for all the QCI inspectors. AHFC will provide the appropriate continuing education QCI classes and or authorize agencies to utilize T&TA funds to complete this task through attendance at qualified conferences and/or training.

AHFC will provide follow-up inspections and review and/or verification of diagnostic testing and submitted data on a minimum of five percent (5%) of DOE units that are inspected by a QCI agency inspector. If anomalies or problems are found, AHFC will meet with the subgrantee agency to determine a solution. Since each agency has had multiple QCI inspectors trained, there will be other options for the agencies if one inspector is found to be doing non-compliant inspections. If the QCI inspector does not meet the requirements of the SWS and QCI, AHFC will not accept any inspections from that inspector and will discuss a course of action with the subgrantee agency to ensure compliance on all inspections. If this is a repeated infraction, the non-compliant QCI inspector will be required to go to QCI training for a refresher on compliance, be required to conduct a minimum of ten inspections with a QCI inspector who will mentor him/her, and AHFC will inspect a minimum of ten percent of the agencies DOE jobs that include that inspector, until all issues are resolved with the quality of the inspections.

The QCI form used for final inspection will be revised to address the following:

- **Confirm appropriateness of the Energy Audit process.**
- **Document analysis of field site data collection**
- **Document the audit tool data entry and measure selection**
- **Document fiscal verification**

In some cases, the agency assessor may need to perform the final QCI inspection. If that scenario happens, the agency must contact AHFC to let them know that the assessor and the QCI inspector are the same person in specific service district areas of the state due to logistics, costs or other extenuating circumstances. Once approved by AHFC, the state will conduct a total of ten percent (10%) of QCI follow up inspections in this area.

Upon the final inspection, any deficiencies are reported to the subgrantee and must be addressed by the agency. If an agency continues to demonstrate problems, more site visits will be scheduled increasing the overall percentage of units inspected to a minimum of 10%. The final inspection by the subgrantee also must include client education instruction on the long term maintenance of any given installed measure if it appears that the client needs further education.

Continued training may be provided. BPC in Bellingham Washington may be providing that training and certification. They are the closest IREC certified training entity. Continued QCI certification will be provided by them as well.

No dwelling unit is reported to DOE as completed until all feasible, affordable and practical weatherization measures have been installed and the Subgrantee or any authorized representative has performed a final inspection (s) including any mechanical work performed and certified that the work has been completed in a workmanlike manner and in accordance with the priority determined by the audit procedures required by 10 CFR 440.21.

MONITORING UNDER COVID 19 CONDITIONS: If in fact COVID or other infectious virus resurges we have policies in place and use them when needed: Currently we are monitoring under our standard procedures to complete the required QCI percentage of 5% units inspected. All Covid protocols per the State of Alaska, local municipality and the subgrantee agencies are being implemented when necessary. That basically means that appropriate PPE will be worn by inspectors and interactions with clients will be socially distanced. If travel is involved by plane there are many local restrictions including testing and quarantine that will be taken into consideration. DOE jobs will be submitted as complete if the agency is able to provide a final inspection. State inspections may be deferred or at times conducted at the same time as the agency inspection. AHFC is preparing to field monitor remotely for the duration of the pandemic

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if QCI is not able to be completed in the field. If approved this method will be implemented without further public hearing.

V.6 Weatherization Analysis of Effectiveness

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT PROJECTS

The active subgrantees are Interior Weatherization, Alaska Community Development Corporation, and Rural CAP. Long term AHFC monitoring of each of these subgrantees shows that the weatherization work has been of high quality and has met program requirements. Alaska uses client satisfaction forms to evaluate quality of work. Client feedback is examined and used for program improvement.

Effectiveness of subgrantee: Site monitoring includes at least five but usually ten percent (or more) of completed homes and include a thorough client interview to determine outcomes, crew behavior, energy use reduction, overall impressions.

Energy savings vs. productivity: The range of climate and logistic situations in Alaska make comparisons between agencies impossible. Each agency is dealing with a set of unique circumstances. For example, the climate in Southeast is moderate marine with high outdoor humidity much of the year. The far north is extreme cold and hot (-60 degrees to plus 90 degrees) and extremely dry. Field inspectors do review to see the number and cost of measures with the inspector able to make some on site comparisons with other agencies under similar circumstances. AHFC is working also with ARIS database development to collect and compare pre and post projected savings on all homes as well as to sample with actual savings. Subgrantees may use T&TA funds to monitor energy savings, air quality, etc. on weatherization projects..

TTA activities: A majority of training that is provided by AHFC develops from identification of problems and issues in the field and in interviews with the crew and supervisors. Also, at an annual meeting for all the weatherization providers- training needs are discussed and a plan for the year produced from input of grantee and subgrantees.

Grantee Continuous Improvement: AHFC continues to be the major provider of all weatherization training in collaboration with other entities including: Alaska Works, Building Performance Center, Alaska Building Science Network, The Building Science Corporation, etc. AHFC is widely known for its successful implementation of energy efficiency programs that include the weatherization program serving very low income to 100% of area median to the Energy Rating Program for builders and homeowners. DOE funds constitutes a portion of the money expended over the past five years but provides a good foundation for all the programs. We are constantly exploring ways to make the program more accountable and to adopt systems that improve service delivery.

Grantee tracking of subgrantee: Subgrantees are subject to one Fiscal and one Program Monitoring where findings and concerns must be addressed in writing with plans of action back to AHFC. Site reviews are scheduled throughout the year so that we can monitor quality over the long term. Each agency is given a specific time period (usually 60 days) for responses to concerns found in the field and if the problem is more significant, a follow up site visit will be done. None of the current subgrantees have had any uncorrected concerns or findings over the years.

Costing measures accurately. The projected costs of fuel in the AKWarm program is updated contractually twice a year for all regions keeping it very current.

Further data evaluation: AHFC is continuing to add to data collection activities for evaluation purposes in an effort to continually provide relevant information back to the grantees and to others about the real benefit of the program.

COVID 19 UPDATES: Although most areas of Alaska are no longer in any kind of shutdown, the effects of COVID on our ability to procure certain materials in a timely manner is still a problem. There are delays in purchasing and shipping of materials. I am concerned about the following on the AC/U and the SIR of measures: rising cost of materials and labor, added cost of Covid 19/RSV PPE, delays in qualifying and setting up clients and then a need to defer if positive testing occurs, the time associated with testing of staff and crews when exposure is suspected, the delays in travel into more remote areas (some are still in lockdown), and other things. So far we have been able to complete all units and work around supply problems but with increased funding we will have to find ways to procure supplies.

Long Term Analysis: In 2019 Cold Climate Housing Research Center was commissioned to review our weatherization activities and come up with some estimations of impact and effectiveness. Some of the findings included that between 2008-2018 homes increased a full star rating from 2 stars to three stars. A 29% overall savings was realized. 1.4 billion pounds of CO₂ were reduced among other things. Our program continues to stress the use of a modeling audit that ensures energy efficiency measures, a check on H&S items allowed and eligible, the encouragement of cost savings and the use of training to keep all contractors and staff performing at the highest technical levels. The overall workforce has been in the industry for many years and have mastered the art of ensuring effective weatherization work. When we are able to bring on new workforce, the training entities and our own training protocols are very successful. We will replicate this study sometime in the next couple of years when all of our resources for doing so are available.

V.7 Health and Safety

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We have changed the H&S Plan to the more current template provided by DOE. This is a work in progress since the changeover happened very quickly. The network will be using the Plan and providing me with feedback that we can use for any future updates or corrections. The H&S Plan is attached in the SF 424. We are requesting 25% for H&S. See Section 7.25 Allowable Fuel Switch to the Health and Safety Plan and also water heaters.

Because of the condition of many of the homes that are lived in by DOE eligible clients, Health and Safety improvements crucial to the implementation of energy efficiency work often exceeds 25% of the average cost per unit. The Health and Safety Plan details the eligible costs for DOE H&S expenditures. Those costs that exceed the allowable H&S amount will be covered by other funds.

A significant update is with the **Alaska Pollution Source Client Survey Form** which will be used to interview the client and to obtain a client signoff at the outset of the process. **The H&S Notification** which stayed the same is used on the job site by the assessor, crew chief, crew or inspector to notify the client of any condition found that will not be corrected by the weatherization program.

All subgrantees receiving DOE funds must adhere to all DOE requirements. See attached H&S Plan. If a job is shut down for health and safety reasons, it cannot be reported or receive DOE dollars until the deficiency is corrected. WOM Chapter 5 Standards also addresses some H&S issues. All measures completed with DOE funds will show an SIR of 1 or above and be considered eligible conservation (ECM) measures. Health and Safety items will be charged to the H&S category (see eligible H&S measures listed in the H&S plan). If an item qualifies as ECM and H&S, it must first be charged to the ECM category.

ASHRAE 62.2-2016 is required for determining ventilation. Continued training on ASHRAE 62.2 2016 are always considered an eligible expense. When innovative products or measures surface regarding ventilation or ventilation related client education or H&S, AHFC will often organize an in-state training for subgrantees. All owner manuals will be provided and explained to the client for all H&S equipment installed.

TTA: Training in all aspects of Health and Safety from crews to clients is always an ongoing part of annual AHFC training. The H&S plan references specific H&S training. We allow agencies to conduct their own annual trainings in all things related to crew and client safety with local providers. Training costs can be charged to TTA funds.

COVID/INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE: In case of a resurgence of COVID or other widespread virus, we retain our COVID policies if they are needed. There are still communities with some restrictions on travel into and out of the area, and preventive measures in place to keep infectious disease contained. Alaska Housing Finance Corporation continues to work with subgrantee agencies and the weatherization national partnership through Energy Outwest and other organizations to develop protocols and educational materials to assist with a return to work in the homes while dealing with Covid 19. This type of activity will always be a part of the overall H & S strategies proposed to protect workers and clients to all potential threats. We are aggressively working through peer exchange to create and adopt the materials we will need to continue work with the highest safety standards possible.

V.8 Program Management

V.8.1 Overview and Organization

INTRODUCTION

a) The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) has administered the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) since July, 1992. The State of Alaska administered the program from 1977 to 1992. Alaska Housing Finance Corporation is a quasi state entity that generates revenue for the State of Alaska and serves as the key entity in the state responsible for all housing issues that residents face including but not limited to: homelessness prevention programs, public housing, Section 8 Vouchers, teacher housing, Low income Housing Tax Credits, HOME rehab program, Supplemental to Native Housing Authorities, and the primary mission to underwrite mortgages. AHFC has many innovative loan programs to assist all elements of the general population, including low income assistance programs, education for first time home buyers, non conforming structure loans, etc. The agency is also in charge of the Low Income Weatherization and the Energy Rebate Programs.

b) This State Plan provides the information required by the federal regulation 10 CFR 440, Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons.

c) This Plan will continue to be administered with the use of the Weatherization Operations Manual for the WAP. This manual is updated on an as-needed basis and changes posted annually. The Alaska Field Guide has been created by AHFC and is the guide for DOE compliant implantation of measures under the weatherization program and is the implementation document for the SWS.

Find the WOM at <https://www.ahfc.us/efficiency/research-information-center/manuals-forms-and-workbooks/weatherization-operations-manual>

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d) The Alaska Energy Authority administers the State Energy Program (SEP) and the Department of Health and Social Services administers the LIHEAP Program. Both agencies work in tandem with AHFC in the administration of these programs.

V.8.2 Administrative Expenditure Limits

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Pub.L.116-260) amended 10 CFR 440.18(e) to require that "Not more than 15 percent of any grant made to a State may be used by the Grantee and Subgrantees for administrative purposes in carrying out duties under this part, except that not more than 7.5 percent may be used by the State for such purposes, and not less than 7.5 percent must be made available to Subgrantees by States. A State may provide in its annual plan for recipients of grants of less than \$350,000 to use up to an additional 5 percent of such grants for administration if the State has determined that such recipient requires such additional amount to implement effectively the administrative requirements established by DOE pursuant to this part."

V.8.3 Monitoring Activities

HISTORICAL APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY UNDER NORMAL TIMES:

MONITORING APPROACH: The most important function of the TTA funds is monitoring and direct training and technical assistance to the agencies regarding monitoring and compliance with DOE regulation. T&TA funds are used to provide travel money to monitor weatherization subgrantees. As the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation provides the majority of the total weatherization funding for Alaska, and the Enhanced Weatherization (Residential Rehabilitation) portion of the overall Weatherization Program provides weatherization coverage for the smallest communities scattered across the largest land mass and most sparsely populated areas of the state, T&TA funds may be used to cover monitoring expenses of these projects.

Out of our Grantee TTA budget approximately 20% is spent on direct travel costs associated with monitoring visits to the agencies. Some of our time is also allocated to this activity. State funds also pick up a portion of the monitoring travel because we are often monitoring not only DOE units but also state units. That said, many of our TA activities are devoted to Quality Control and Quality Assurance. When we have peer type training where we visit an agency and go test new diagnostic tests or a new measure in the field and we all meet on site. Some of our training in state is directly aimed at reducing callbacks on inspection. We also use some of our grantee contractual money to continue improvements on AkWarm and on Weatherization On-line where we are able to collect more and more data that allows us to look at results prior to going into the field. All of this adds to increasing the quality of our final product.

The Program Manager for AHFC charges 46% of her salary to the TTA budget. All admin funds go to the subgrantees and all other personnel costs are paid by AHFC with state funds. The Program Manager spends a great deal of time on rule and regulation review, virtual monitoring with subgrantees over the phone, onsite monitoring, field guide and akwarm development.

There are four types of monitoring visits that will occur throughout the year:

- 1. Agency Program Monitoring**, includes a thorough review of agency policies and practices by the Program Manager once towards the end of the program year. Areas examined include: adherence to WOM and grant attachments; personnel policies; outreach and intake; in house inspection process; rental policies and landlord contributions; walk away and deferral incidents; prioritization of clients; inventory and warehouse control; equipment and vehicles; training and technical assistance activities; certifications of people and the agency. The Program Monitoring will also verify that all requirements of the SWS and technical requirements are passed through to the subcontractors. This is scheduled between December and March to ensure that as many records as possible are available and that we have a number of completed files to review. Conducted by Mimi Burbage, Program Manager with 36 years of experience in the weatherization field. Trained in Uniform Administrative Codes and Requirements, Federal CFR, State Regulations, QCI certified, OSHA trained, RRP certified, and is a trainer as well as attends Programmatic and Management training sessions.
- 2. Client File Review.** At the program monitoring a minimum of five to ten percent of client files will be reviewed to verify that all required documentation is present, including: income verification; assessment; AkWarm files (including the Improvement Options Report); diagnostic testing; client signatures; scope of work; materials and labor costs; final inspection report; notes of anomalies on the job; required Lead certifications; Lead compliance documents, ASHRAE compliance documents and, SHPO documents, etc. As the review is conducted diagnostic numbers are evaluated and reviewed for compliance with technical standards. The goal of client file review is to ensure that all needed documentation is in the file.
- 3. Fiscal monitoring** that is conducted by the grant's administrators scheduled once each program year. That includes a review of financial audits; procurement practices; cost allocation; billings; eligible costs; and risk evaluation. This is performed annually by the Audit Department and Grant Management staff from AHFC Research and Rural Development Division (R2D2). This includes a review of financial audits, procurement practices, cost allocations, billings, eligible costs, and risk evaluation. Because this monitoring covers all programs administered by the agencies, it is scheduled to coincide with completions for all programs not just weatherization. For the three DOE subgrantees it is usually between January and March. At this time the fiscal monitoring is being assumed by the Internal Audit Department for all grants and contracts. Kristian Beckner is an Audit Officer at AHFC (CIA, CRMA). He has been working closely with our department for many years to assist our subgrantees in compliance. We are working closely with Kristian to make sure that the different monitoring activities cover all the elements that we need to examine. The "Audit Fiscal and Program Monitoring Guide" has been added to the SF424.

SINGLE AUDIT REQUIREMENT: All subgrantees receive a Single Audit annually if their revenue exceeds \$750000 in Federal funds or \$250000 in state funds. All three agencies have had a Single Audit every year in the past several years. Compliance with the requirement is checked at the time of the Fiscal/Program

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monitoring. Audits are reviewed for unresolved findings. DOE funds help cover part of the cost of an audit at times when appropriate.

Corrective Action Plan: For the fiscal and procurement monitoring, the subgrantee should be notified in the Monitoring Review Report of Findings and Concerns within 30 days of the monitoring review. The subgrantee should be given a reasonable timeframe to respond in writing and to implement the corrective actions and recommendations. In the report AHFC recommends a Corrective Action Plan to the Finding or Concern, the subgrantee then responds with their CAP which includes the steps they perform and the timeline for completion. After the Grant Specialist receives the grantee's response letter, a determination should be made by either the Grant Specialist and/or Program Manager as to whether further action is needed. The Grant Specialist will notify the grantee in writing when all Findings and Concerns have been resolved.

4. Field Monitoring is scheduled one-to-multiple times throughout the year by the Program Manager to inspect a minimum number of homes completed. QCI inspections will be performed on at least five to ten percent of the homes completed. These inspections are often scheduled to coincide with completions. QCI interim inspections will also be performed on a minimum of one or two units per subgrantee agency per year. We work closely with the agencies to do our QCI and our general state field inspections throughout the year so we can catch any problems before a large number of completions. We also choose to conduct inspections in as many different communities that the agencies are working in as possible. The purpose is to observe and inspect the work of different crews and contractors. Mimi Burbage is QCI certified and continues to participate regularly in technical training through workshops in state and regional and national conferences. She has exceed the required BPI credits for maintaining certification and will continue to keep current with her certification.

The QCI inspection form will be used for the field inspections this year. QCI inspections will be conducted on single family, small multifamily units and mobile homes. At the end of each field monitoring visit with a subgrantee, AHFC will brief the subgrantee on the observations and findings from the visit. Within 30 days after each visit, AHFC will prepare a written report on its findings and send a copy to the subgrantee. Corrective action necessary must be taken by the subgrantee within a designated time frame and reported back to AHFC. Subgrantees with deficiencies will be more closely monitored. Subgrantees needing more time to respond must request a waiver with justification in writing.

Role: To ensure the continuance of quality work and adequate financial management, AHFC will monitor each subgrantee at least once during the program year for compliance with WAP requirements. Additional site visits will be made to monitor at least 5% of all homes weatherized, making two or more visits likely to each subgrantee. Additional monitoring will include energy savings evaluation on selected homes, and monitoring for durability and effectiveness of measures installed. By the close of each year, AHFC will have completed a comprehensive review of each subgrantee including its most current audit.

Visit: AHFC has standard forms that they will be using for each type of monitoring visit. In fact if an agency demonstrates problems in any area of the program (fiscal, management, and/or actual field work), AHFC will increase visits to the agency to provide TTA and appropriate oversight until problems are corrected. Much of the training that is orchestrated by AHFC is in response to observations made during monitoring visits.

Timelines for monitoring:

1. Program Monitoring-usually conducted between January and April so that the majority of invoices and PO's are processed and completed. Most of the field jobs are completed by Nov/Dec in rural Alaska and by Feb. in the road connected areas, the work is more year round but agencies try to complete by December. We want the maximum amount of invoicing in and projects closed so that we can track selected jobs from start to finish.

2. Fiscal Monitoring: usually the auditors try to conduct this monitoring visit between January and March for much the same reasons as stated above. They are looking at multiple programs so the time frames are adjusted to accommodate that as well.

3. Client File Review: conducted on site at the time of the Program Monitoring.

4. Field Monitoring: We work closely with the subgrantee agencies to schedule an area for inspection when a number of jobs have been completed. This is difficult to chart at the beginning of the year. All rural Alaska jobs are dependent on barge and airfreight schedules. Generally speaking we travel to these area in the late summer, fall and early winter to conduct field inspections. Urban area are more year round but often work does not start until mid summer depending on the client sign up, RRP SHPO, etc. processes. Scheduling QCI has become more challenging due to the intensity and duration of the inspection. We don't always get client cooperation in cold weather for conducting the final blower door tests, etc.

The following is a very rough estimate. There are many factors that enter in to timeframes. We are in constant communication with the subgrantees on their completions:

Interior Weatherization: 3-4 inspection trips for field throughout the year starting in June or July.
RCAP-Anchorage-one day per month in Anchorage and 1-2 trips to Juneau (July, September, January). We will try to get to one village in each region annually for inspections. Sometimes we need to rely on a virtual inspection process and work with the subgrantees to do this.
ACDC-One trip to the Bristol Bay region, 5-6 trips in Southcentral (4 -MatSu Valley, 2 Kenai) and 1-2 trips to Southeast communities.

V.8.4 Training and Technical Assistance Approach and Activities

PROPOSED TRAINING SCHEDULE (AHFC sponsored):

1. QUARTER 1-possible administrative training to cover CFR and overriding state and Federal rules and regs. \$12000- 15000 estimated.
2. QUARTER 3-Technical training collaboration with BPC Bellingham to review mobile home and SFH measures and methods of installation. Also updates to

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new products etc. \$15000-20000 estimated.

3. QUARTER 4-EE NOW-which is an energy efficiency training and networking opportunity for weatherization, raters, solar providers and others involved in the energy efficiency field to come together and share knowledge. Usually in March. Weatherization usually contributes \$10,000

APPROACH TO TRAINING FOR WEATHERIZATION AGENCIES:

The majority of the TTA funds are given to the Subgrantee agencies. The distances between regions and communities is significant so we rely on the agencies to provide the training that they need to their employees and contractors.

CLIENT EDUCATION UNDER TTA:

All of the notifications, instructions and manuals required to be provided to the client regarding H&S items are listed in the H&S plan. Each one needs to be acknowledged by the client in writing. Much of the client education is provided in one on one meetings with the client throughout the weatherization process. Some client education is provided prior to the work beginning in the classroom (see Interior Weatherization).

AHFC also provides coloring books, Tips booklets, and makes available the Field Guide to interested clients. These will continue to be provided.

STATE SPONSORED AND COORDINATED TRAINING:

EA/QCI-this is organized once every three years for anyone interested in retesting in the network and is our only required certification at this point. We have three agencies and all of them have 1-2 people qualified as QCI currently. AHFC recently trained Michael Spenser and recertified Michael Carlson. Eventually they may assist with the weatherization QCI inspections or be a backup for Mimi. I think that we need to explain why we have so very little centralized training. It is because we are so spread out in the areas that we serve. I give a large part of TTA funds to the Subgrantee agencies to apply to the training that they specifically need including safety OSHA, RRP, CPR, First Aid, etc. Most of them attend technical training as a group and learn together from new trainers and presentations. When we want to sponsor a training or a mini conference in Alaska, everyone is encouraged to come. We make costs eligible for reimbursement so that we get good participation. We only have statewide trainings once in a great while. This year we are having one in February that was not planned until recently and now includes a number of weatherization people.

RCAP: This agency works in Juneau, Anchorage and remote rural NW and Western villages. The work in the two urban centers is completed by staff crews or contractors depending on the measures. Training for these people usually occurs in Anchorage as they are part of the core workforce that serves these two communities. There is a contractor in Southeast that also is tapped for Juneau jobs. The remote villages rely on seasonal hires. Shelby will go out to the villages and train anyone interested in basic building science. Then the potential crew members are specifically trained hands on to be able to airseal, install insulation, work under the homes on the floors or the crawl walls. This training often takes place in the early summer just before the projects start. We will often recruit and train a larger group of potential workers and then by the time the job gets started we might have five to eight people or less that stay on for the work. If airport or road jobs come through these villages many will leave weatherization for these kinds of jobs. Working on the homes of others in the community brings a special kind of problem with it in that you then become the long term maintainer of the house and once RCAP is done, people are calling you for help on anything that they need help with. We cannot haul all these people into Anchorage or another urban community to train them, there is just too much turnover. The most effective training is in the village on the housing stock that will be worked on. Most of the times RCAP is working in two major villages or three at the same time and the process is repeated in each village. Occasionally we have a person who stays with RCAP and goes to another community. Mostly the people who live in these villages look for short term work and they combine it with their subsistence lifestyle. Some people work for a week and then we never see them again after the first check. You have to be flexible when working in Alaska on weatherization especially in the bush. RCAP has a Weatherization Director, one intake person, two energy auditors, 1 1/2 QCI, several crew leads, a materials coordinator and expeditor, a grants administrator and paperwork coordinator, and a mix of crews and contractors scattered throughout the state in the areas where they work.

AKCDC: This agency serves the largest road connected areas of the state including the area that runs from Delta south along the Richardson Highway down the Copper River to Valdez, Kodiak, the Parks Highway from Denali to Anchorage and then down the Seward Highway to Homer. They also work in one community in Southeast every year (Ketchikan, Wrangell, or any of the other Southeastern Communities when people apply from those areas. They also serve a small number of units in the Bristol Bay area annually. They have a Director, two administrators that apply for grants, keep up the WOM, and manage some of the other grants that they have with HHS or Medicaid. They have 1 1/2 QCI inspectors, the weatherization manager who also does assessments for the senior accessibility program that they have. They have one energy auditor on contract these days and two contractors. Contractors and the Energy Auditor train on the job as new crew members come on board. Contractors are encouraged to attend any state sponsored training and to attend technical training.

Interior Weatherization: This group serves the area of the state with both the coldest and the hottest temperatures. it is a far flung area that includes all of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. it extends to Denali national park on the Parks Highway, off to the Minto Flats in the other and through North Pole and to Delta on the Richardson Highway. It also includes Manley Hot Springs and Chena Hot Springs in different directions. It goes up the Dalton Highway and covers some more remote residents. Once again there is one QCI person, two energy auditors, one intake person, a budget person, and a core in house crew of four as well as specialty contractors. The same training model prevails.

Agencies are actively recruiting for new workers. We would like to expand on available crews and we would like to add to trained energy auditors and EA/QCI inspectors. We are looking into building a mentorship and internship possibly with the unions. As we work on that, we will build in safe guards that will keep untrained personnel from working alone or without supervision. Currently this is not an issue and assessors and inspectors meet in the field with AHFC staff to review AkWarm inputs and details of the work scope product to ensure accuracy and a high quality product.

Possible uses of TTA funds to comply with new requirements and to sustain best practice:

Training will be provided in best practice associated with any of the following, especially when a deficiency is noted. Sometimes, this can be agency specific or could be statewide for all agencies:

1. Energy Efficiency (EE): Attic airsealing; attic insulation; wall insulation; floor/crawl airsealing and insulation; heating system clean and tune, repairs and replacement for efficiency only; blower door directed airsealing; and, window and door replacements for efficiency only. All DOE efficiency work must meet an SIR of one or above and is not restricted to those items listed above. Training to ensure the successful implementation of efficiency measures is an eligible TTA expense. AkWarm Training is offered periodically to demonstrate updates and to train new users.

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2. Health and Safety items include the following: ground vapor barrier, crawl space ventilation, whole house ventilation to ASHRAE requirement (including both bath and kitchen exhaust), heating system clean and tune, repair or replacement for health and safety reasons; stacks and vents for heating systems; hot water heater replacements when a health and safety condition exists; CO and smoke detectors; and lead safe work practice. Training as needed in the installation and product evaluation will be provided for H&S items and measures.

3. Alaska Field Guide. We will continue to work on adding to our Field Guide as needed. We will provide training to our crews and leads. Most of the activity on the Field Guide is done in house with one of our Subgrantee agencies and AHFC staff. Appropriate time and other costs can be charged to TTA to continue that work.

4. **CERTIFICATIONS:** The only required mandatory certification is EA/QCI for anyone conducting DOE inspections. It is a three year cycle for training and recertification. Most of the Alaska EA/QCI inspectors recertify together in Alaska at a sanctioned training house in Fairbanks once every three years. Any other QCI inspectors: Alaska will continue to work with the BPC in Bellingham on the training and certification of new QCI inspectors. It is mandatory that this certification is held by anyone doing DOE inspections. Recertification will most likely be done in partnership with the Building Performance Center in Bellingham. Most of our QCI inspectors recertified in 2023/2024 and wont need to do this again until 2026 but some will be going to Bellingham to complete the recertification process. If we are able to hire some new people in the field we will be training them to eventually earn this certification if they are to work as an assessor or inspector.

It is required that all new hires that are supervisors, crew leads or permanent crews eventually get a certificate of completion in RRP, OSHA 10 or 30, mold and asbestos identification and containment, basic building science (on line, from a training center or Alaska trainer, or hands on in house at the agency. It is recommended that permanent crew be encouraged to take classes under BPI for appropriate certifications. Because there is a lot of seasonal turnover, training and certifications are tailored to the agency's needs. All people involved in the assessment receive AKWarm training which is offered regularly by AHFC.

Each agency currently has one or two QCI inspectors, multiple crews and supervisors with RRP and OSHA training, and one or two assessors. Alaska Housing has two QCI inspectors. All agencies and AHFC are actively working to have more people certified in EA/QCI. We estimate that each agency could have two more each to help cover needs when traveling to more remote areas by road or air and to offset the fact that more people are starting to retire.

In the event that new hires are tasked with assisting with energy audits, they will accompany someone from the Subgrantee agency initially until they learn the systems in place for conducting an energy audit. The agency will be responsible to ensure that the only people performing audits are sufficiently trained and knowledgeable to complete a thorough and accurate audit. All Energy Auditors will be encouraged to take auditor training offered once a year at AHFC and to work towards a BPI Building Analyst certification.

No one who is not certified is allowed to complete a QCI inspection sign off. If someone is mentoring a person in the QCI process, they must contact AHFC and we will perform some in progress inspections with both the mentor and the apprentice. Eventually for QCI the person being mentored will take the Training and Certification at a training center.

RRP-Lead Renovator is required for crew leads or supervisors working on pre 1978 homes. This is offered in Alaska by two training entities and AHFC checks RRP credentials at the Program Monitoring. All crews are allowed and encouraged to take this class. All crews and supervisors can take either OSHA 10 or OSHA 30 and all of our agencies have done that. We discuss and update the details of safety training at the Program Monitoring. OSHA training is offered by Alaska Works and by the Labor Union. There are other trainings that are encouraged as well such as asbestos awareness, mold and other indoor pollutants, Healthy Homes training, etc.

AHFC does not require that agencies hold a Contractors License or a Residential Endorsement. If they do they need to be compliant with the state licensing board. We allow for any training that helps maintain the CEUs required for this as well.

AHFC pays for a block of online training offered by Saturn Resource (John Krigger) Management. If is available for free to anyone in the network and the CEU's can help to qualify technicians for some of the BPI credentials. Krigger's classes are excellent for all levels of understanding of Building Science and are stepping stones for building knowledge working in the energy efficiency in residential housing.

All of our agencies engage in on the job training with new employees. Because of the vast distances of this state from community to community it makes a lot more sense to do specific targeted training to seasonal employees. The majority of the people working in the program today have worked for about 30 years in the industry. Most of the training that we offer the existing network is composed of the following :

Administrative and software

Technical-mostly through conferences such as EOW and BPA

Targeted technical-specific trainers (this year John Tooley)

Certification-EA/QCI with BPA Bellingham and RRP with local environmental agencies.

5. Continue technical standards development, memberships, dues fees and sponsorships for Energy OutWest (EOW), National Association of Community Service Providers (NASCSPP), North West Energy Coalition (NWECC), Northern Shelter, and other groups that work to sustain and perfect weatherization technology and trade. This would also include local supportive groups and collaborative efforts such as Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) and the Rural Energy Conference.

6. Continued special training sessions for statewide participation (building science, quality control, ventilation, lead, etc.); training organized by Alaska Works Partnership, Wisdom and Associates, BPC and Opportunity Council and other training groups as approved by AHFC and for the purpose of compliance, certification and technical advancements; data collection system development; meeting coordination and logistics; and, continued WOM updated manual, pilot projects for tracking savings; and client education materials. This also includes an array of technical training for changing crews and staff, as well as costs for compliance with requirements of the grant including OSHA-HCP, etc. Costs could include salaries and stipends for participants if deemed necessary for participation in training or in state peer exchange. All Subgrantee agencies will be submitting a TTA Plan for preapproved activities in the advancement of meeting the quality control goals required by DOE.

7. Continue training operations, manual and standards updates, SHPO, new DOE directions, etc. Other things that may arise during the year falling under general admin or TTA categories that may be beneficial to the overall strength and efficiency of the AK. Weatherization Program.

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8. WOM updates and changes. Labor and other costs associates with the continued updates of the WOM to align with DOE and state regulation.

9. Continue support for Energy Efficiency meetings and conferences sponsored by AHFC when appropriate. These conferences and meetings can bring together energy efficiency folks from the commercial and residential arenas to plan strategy for Alaska's future in building efficiency. It includes weatherization providers, home builders, native housing authorities, architects, code inspectors, realtors in an intensive networking situation. It has been successful in communicating advances in each industry to a broad range of other experts. Also continue collaboration with other Northern states and circumpolar countries to exchange technical knowledge regarding cold climate building techniques and practices.

10. Client education materials, products and training costs for both classroom and individual consult. This could include newly introduced products that enhance the weatherization experience, including books, pamphlets, hygro-thermometers, led lights, refrigerator cleaning kits, timers for controlling electrical use on water heaters, block heaters, etc. and other products that will assist the client in long term energy savings. It could include the training provided at intake, or during the assessment or at the final inspection or for follow-up. It could also include the mandatory or informational pre-weatherization classes offered to individuals or to the community as a whole. Client education is a priority for DOE weatherization and all such activities are approved for use of TTA funds.

Interior Weatherization provides a class that is required for all participants (exceptions are made when needed). It trains the client in the benefits, and the processes of weatherization, and it helps them to understand what to expect when the assessor and then the crews arrive. All crew members are trained to interact in detail with the clients on all of the measures installed especially electronics, etc. that might need client intervention such as thermostats and CO detectors.

Rural CAP sometimes is able to hold a town hall meeting to introduce clients to the program but they focus on individual training. Much of the time the assessor spends a great deal of time explaining the program and recommendations to the homeowner. Follow up occurs the same with the final inspection.

ACDC also uses their assessors and inspectors to provide intensive on site education. Because the program is not condensed for them, individual training works best.

We also provides coloring books, crayons, Energy Tips. and other specific printed materials to clients. Those that want more information are introduced to web sites that support the products and measures that we use commonly.

11 Sustain and assist the activities of Energy OutWest the regional organization or weatherization providers. Participate in the organizational planning, peer exchange, conference planning sessions, regional or local training and the biannual conference. Provide support and sponsorship for core and peer exchange activities. All costs associated are eligible under TTA. EOW on site conference is in Denver in 2022.

12. Training and exchange in Quality Management Plan, the Core Competencies, and job task analysis. AHFC could contract for a trainer such as NASCSP, FSL in Phoenix, the Opportunity Council or BPC in Bellingham or other recognized agency to do the training associated with this.

13 AHFC annual training for administrators. All costs associated with this will be under TTA. This could include WOM updates, any OMB related training; other regulations as they apply to the weatherization program; implementation practices; intake; eligibility; client education; etc.

14 Personnel improvement classes for management and staff.

15 Annual technical training for all new updates and best practice policies and implementation.

16 Diagnostic supplies for compliance with QCI requirements.

17. All training for QCI inspectors and crew leads for Continuing Education Credits. Currently AHFC is submitting for credits with BPI for any training offered that covers the JTA for relevant weatherization positions and tasks. QCI inspectors and other trade certifications require approved and appropriate continuing education credits. AHFC is trying to help provide those in state as much as possible. All costs associated with this are eligible TTA expenses. Eligible conferences providing these credits could include but not limited to DOE, Building Performance Association (BPA), Energy OutWest (EOW), Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET), EEBA (Energy Efficient Building Association), the National Homebuilders Association, and other housing and technical conferences.

18. Healthy Homes Training and collaborative efforts. We will continue to work on the collaboration with other stakeholders and possibly sponsor more training in the future.

19. AkWarm and ARIS (data tracking system) will be continually updated to improve these systems for weatherization. Wx On line and the contractor RDI and/or CCHRC also will continue to be improved for use as a reporting and tracking tool. Training will be provided when needed.

20 AHFC could provide training with instate providers for some subject matters or with BPC for the Quality Control Inspectors, QCI multifamily inspection and general technical training: NY State Weatherization Directors Association ((NYSWDA) or BPC for some multifamily specific training; Community Housing Partners for advanced building sciences; the house of pressure, or supervisor in-field training; or SWBSTC in quality management training, critical details, and or job task analysis training. AHFC will review the upcoming requirements to provide training to other job categories in the future and determine a course of action. AHFC will continue to work to determine the most cost effective approach to delivering Tier I Training and Continuing Education Credits in specific job categories.

21. Tier I/II training as required and available for weatherization technicians. Because we are a remote state from the continental US as well as have large remote and rural districts within the state itself, and because we have no IREC certified training center, AHFC will continue to work on a plan to extend Tier I training past the Energy Auditor/QCI training offered every three years and at this point in time, it is not feasible to promise that Tier one training will be available to anyone in Alaska for the foreseeable future. Currently Alaska has provided top notch training using state as well as TTA funds to all weatherization providers in the technical sciences. We will continue to use utilize in-state trainers to keep technicians up to date on all technical and diagnostic procedures.

22. Training and meetings associated with DOE, NASCSP, NCAF HPC and NASEO.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

T&TA is split between Alaska Housing and the Subgrantees. The T&TA total for AHFC is broken down in large categories as follows:

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1. Personnel: Salaries of Program manager or Field inspector.
2. Travel (All Monitoring, Conferences, Training and Technical Assistance to agencies, etc.)
3. Special Contracts (In state training, publications, sponsorships, peer exchange, compliance document development, etc.)
4. Contractual: grants to Subgrantee agencies
5. Supplies including office, resources, training, meeting, diagnostic tools, etc.

The monitoring process for AHFC is specifically designed to identify any problems in a Subgrantee agency. By monitoring throughout the year with occasional on-site visits and overall looking at a minimum of 5% (10 or more percent when needed) of homes completed, actual implementation deficiencies will be observed early on. The client questionnaire, which goes to every house after the job is completed, are reviewed by AHFC and then forwarded to the Subgrantee agencies for review. These are most helpful in pinpointing weaknesses in communication with the clients and in the quality of installation work. The annual agency monitoring is a time when Subgrantee agency staff can discuss any of the bigger obstacles to successful delivery of the program to the client in the field with AHFC staff. The fact that the state has only three DOE Subgrantees (when fully funded) makes problem identification much easier and helps us to target greatest need areas.

Any feedback from DOE monitoring visits, internal state audits, Grantee monitoring of the Subgrantees,, IG reports, analysis of effectiveness and other input (such as changes to the SWS) will be considered and included in the planning for training and technical assistance either internally or to Subgrantees.

AHFC assesses each agency to determine their T&TA needs, which is reviewed and approved by the WAP Manager. This targets funding to what each agency needs for training purposes. Additionally, AHFC sponsors training sessions for individual agencies and for all weatherization providers each year. AHFC also contributes to the regional Energy OutWest Conference held every other year and a biannual building/weatherization conference held within the state. AHFC is a strong supporter of the Energy OutWest Peer Exchange group from which many trainers and training curriculum are developed and utilized within the region. AHFC provides training to keep agencies in compliance with mandatory requirements of DOE, EPA, OSHA etc. We check for RRP credentials.

One of the most effective training collaborations that we have had has been with the Bellingham Building Performance Center/Opportunity Council in particular with Chris Clay very hands on approach to assessor and installer training. We would continue this specific training when we see the need in specific areas of the state and utilizing Grantee or Subgrantee funding for this type of peer exchange training. BPC (or other certified training center) will provide all of the Energy Auditor and QCI associated training and certification that will take place when needed. The majority of EA/QCI inspectors in the state test out in Fairbanks in conjunction with Interior Weatherization and BPC. new QCI inspectors often travel to Bellingham to become certified.

All of our agencies are very current on advanced technical training and when new staff comes on, the first effort is to utilize peer mentoring to bring individuals through all of the basics. Once they are through the basics, they are enrolled in Building Science courses or some other specific technical training recognized by the State for weatherization technicians. Often they get additional advanced training at Energy OutWest. Alaska uses in state peer exchange as an effective training tool as well.

The individual agency budgets all include client education workshops, kits and individualized training. They also include training for crews and some administrative training on the grant tracking system for administrators. Each agency also requests travel dollars for peer exchange, participation in the regional Energy OutWest Conference, BPI certification and training, BPC hands-on training, QCI training and certification costs, in-state training, and national technical conferences (DOE, EOW, EEBA, and HPC, Thermal Envelope, etc.).

All training and implementation associated with QCI inspection and certification process and the application of the Alaska Field Guide are eligible expenses under TTA.

Other ongoing activities include regional and national peer to peer exchange, technical publications, memberships and sponsorships, etc. AHFC may approve training, special projects and/or sponsor technical conferences in conjunction with other financial supporters, such as Cold Climate Housing Research Center, Alaska Craftsman Home Program, Alaska Building Science Network, Wisdom and Associates, etc.

Travel costs for grantee and Subgrantee agencies are eligible under this category, including travel to conferences, peer exchange, specific training opportunities and conferences.

Proposed training for 2024 (not limited to):

Healthy Homes evaluator
Multi-family QCI training-BPC Bellingham or NYSWDA

Crew Lead Training-BPC Bellingham
Quality management plan-BPC or FSL or other

Technical compliance training for crews and supervisors on site

Environmental Review compliance

SHPO Training if needed for compliance

Asbestos basics and recognition-(including identification on site of asbestos containing products and appropriate work safe products.)

Radon informational training and client education approaches
Job task analysis-BPC or FSL or other
RRP lead based paint recertification-AK Works Partnership (AWP); Wisdom and Associates or other local provider
OSHA 10 and 30 plus OSHA specific training including hazardous materials/confined space- AWP or other
Certified training for shippers hazardous materials
Advanced diagnostics-continuing
AHFC target training and networking sessions:

DOE F 540.2
(08/05)

OMB Control No: 1910-5127
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

U.S. Department of Energy
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
STATE PLAN / MASTER FILE WORKSHEET
Grant Number: EE0009886, State: AK, Program Year: 2024
Recipient: Alaska Housing Finance Corp

Annual technical summit for Subgrantees
Annual administrative summit for Subgrantees
Annual directors planning meeting

Financial and CFR compliance training.

BPI 1200

ASHRAE 62.2 2016

Cold Climate Building

Northern Shelter

Participation in National Committees for BPI, NREL, SWS, Technical Applications, Field Guide and Variances.

QCI Training and Proctoring needed for a majority of QCI certified people

Percent of overall trainings

Comprehensive Trainings: 50.0

Specific Trainings: 50.0

Breakdown of T&TA training budget

Percent of budget allocated to Auditor/QCI trainings: 50.0

Percent of budget allocated to Crew/Installer trainings: 20.0

Percent of budget allocated to Management/Financial trainings: 30.0

V.9 Energy Crisis and Disaster Plan

DOE funds will not be used as disaster assistance. If a disaster occurs in an area where we are working, and it is not possible to work in that area, funds may be moved short term to another area to continue work within the program year.

In the event that a major disaster occurs in Alaska we will collaborate with DOE to be able to continue our work in conjunction with emergency response or separately as we normally do, in accordance with WPN 12-7.