



NASCSP UPDATE: WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Region 8 RPIC | June 25, 2020





NASCSPP provides research, analysis, training and technical assistance to [State CSBG and WAP grantees](#), Community Action Agencies, and State Associations in order to increase their capacity to prevent and reduce poverty and build economic and energy security.



<https://nascsp.org>

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Today's Agenda - NASCSP WAP Sessions

Session 1: NASCSP Update

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Legislative & Funding Update
- ▶ COVID-19 Updates
- ▶ Other National Issues
 - ▶ Deferrals
 - ▶ Workforce development
- ▶ Weatherization Day

Session 2: Best Practices and Innovation

- ▶ Pre-COVID Best Practices
 - ▶ LIHEAP transfers
 - ▶ Workforce development
- ▶ Post-COVID Best Practices
 - ▶ Health and Safety
 - ▶ Innovation
- ▶ COVID-19 Comeback & Discussion

Legislative Update

What is Reauthorization vs. Appropriations?

- ▶ Authorization = Underlying statute creating the program
 - ▶ Establishes Congressional intent
 - ▶ Authorizes Congress to appropriate funds to the program for a certain number of years
 - ▶ Needs a “reauthorization” after specified time has passed
 - ▶ Provides an opportunity to revisit program purpose, past and future
 - ▶ Reauthorization could be standalone bill or part of larger package
- ▶ Distinct from the yearly Appropriations process that determines funding level

Appropriations

- ▶ Yearly, regular process of funding government agencies and programs
 - ▶ 12 Appropriations bills fund different areas of the government
 - ▶ Energy and Water Appropriations Bill
 - ▶ Funds WAP, rest of DOE, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, etc.
 - ▶ Labor- Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill
 - ▶ LIHEAP, CSBG, Headstart, Dept. of Education, Dept of Labor
- ▶ If bills not passed by start of fiscal year, appropriation is made through a continuing resolution
- ▶ Special packages e.g. CARES Act authorize & appropriate

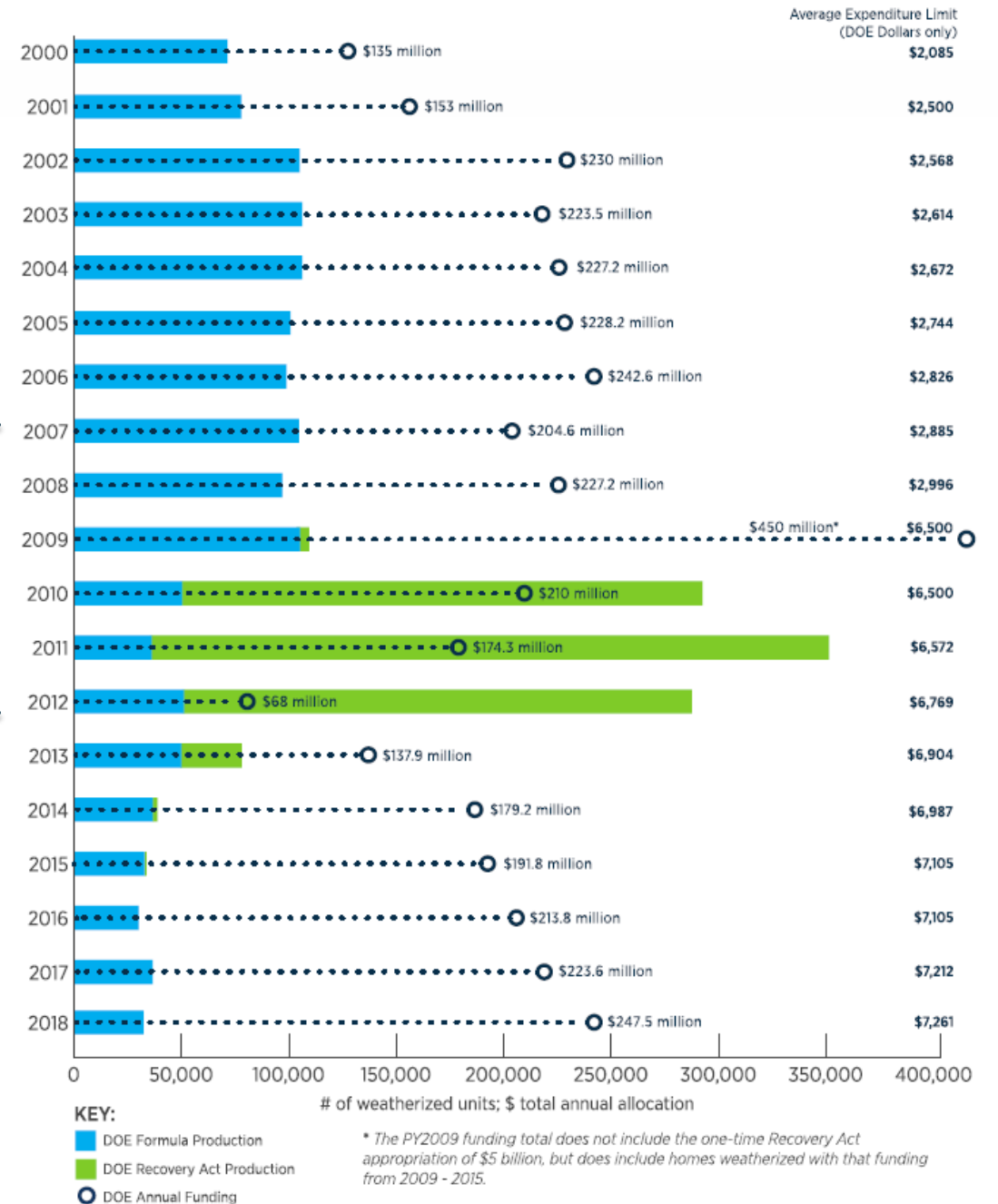
WAP Legislative & Funding History

Last Reauthorization in 2007

Past Attempts:

- S.1213 | 113th Congress (2013)
- S. 2052 & HR 4345 | 113th Congress (2014)
- S. 703 & HR 3420 | 114th Congress (2015)
- S. 2012 | 114th Congress (2016)
- S. 1460 | 115th Congress (2017)

The U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program
Funding and Production of Weatherized Homes (2000 - 2018)



WAP Reauthorization History

- ▶ Most recently HR 2041 and S 983 introduced in April 2019
- ▶ Major provisions include:
 - ❑ Admin- Maximum admin would increase to 15%
 - ❑ Re-weatherization- Change to a 15 year rolling date
 - ❑ Contractors- Clarifies that TTA can be used for contractors, and that DOE should encourage use of contractors where appropriate
 - ❑ Underrepresented groups- Reflects the amendment from Rep. Rush (D-IL), which encourages hiring of minorities and other underrepresented groups in weatherization.
 - ❑ Health benefits- Allows DOE to include health benefits in the SIR, but does not require them to do so.
 - ❑ Competitive program for innovation grants

Infrastructure Bills & Comprehensive Energy Bill

- ▶ HR 2041 and S 983 had hearings and passed committees in House and Senate
- ▶ WAP Reauthorization generally needs to be picked up by a larger package
 - ❑ CLEAN Future Act (House, Jan. 2020)
 - ❑ American Energy Innovation Act (Senate, Feb. 2020)
 - ❑ Moving Forward Act (House, Jun. 2020)

WAP Appropriations

FY 2021 Regular Appropriations

- ▶ NASCSP and other partners asking for \$310 million for WAP in FY2021
 - 2 year budget agreement, not a lot of new funding available
 - Increase of \$1.5 million over FY2020, increase to DOE HQ Training and technical assistance
 - House letter signed by 135 members, Senate letter 45 signatures
 - NASCSP submitted written testimony
 - Delays due to COVID

COVID Legislative Updates

1. H.R.6074 Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Supplemental Appropriations (March 6th)

- ▶ Supplemental appropriations for health system, etc.

2. H.R. 6201-Families First Coronavirus Response Act (March 18th)

- ▶ \$500 million WIC, \$400 million TEFAP, \$250 million Senior Nutrition Program.
- ▶ New emergency sick leave & expansion of existing FMLA

3. H.R. 748 - CARES Act (March 27th)

- ▶ \$1200 direct cash assistance to many Americans, enhanced unemployment insurance
- ▶ Supplemental appropriations:
 - \$900 million LIHEAP, \$1 Billion CSBG, \$750 million HeadStart, \$5 billion CDBG

WAP Legislative Updates

NASCSP working with WAP Congressional champions on:

Primary Priority

- ▶ Increase the average cost per unit (ACPU) for the current grant cycle (including 2020). Provide authority for the Secretary to adjust or waive the ACPU in times of emergency, disaster, pandemic, economic crisis or other event impacting weatherization.

Secondary

- ▶ Increase allowable administrative costs percentage from 10% to 15%.
- ▶ Change re-weatherization date to 15 year rolling to allow WAP staff to begin reviewing previously weatherized lists, doing intake with potential clients, and building wait lists while production is stopped.
- ▶ Double the cost cap for solar to incentivize solar training and building organizational capacity for future solar installs while production is shut down.

Future COVID Package Remains Elusive

- ▶ As of this week, it appears that a future COVID relief package will not be taken up by the Senate until mid-July, after the scheduled July 4th recess.
- ▶ House passed the HEROES Act several weeks ago (May), the Senate has been reluctant to take up any more COVID relief legislation.
 - ▶ HEROES Act did not contain any weatherization related items
- ▶ House HEROES Act would provide about \$3 trillion in aid.
 - ▶ Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has indicated that he won't allow a package to come to the floor that is more than \$1 trillion.
 - ▶ The Trump administration has indicated that it would be amenable to a \$2 trillion package.

WAP Legislative Updates

Potential WAP Stimulus?

NASCSP has fielded questions/inquiries from members of Congress about supplemental WAP funding

- ▶ Sharing what worked well and what did not work well with ARRA
 - ARRA focus was “shovel ready jobs” - a new stimulus needs to be about workforce development & sustainably growing the program
- ▶ Communicating principles:
 - Need sufficient time to ramp up and spend out
 - Robust resources for training and workforce development
 - No new/cumbersome requirements

HOPE for HOMES Act introduced June 24

- ▶ Proposes \$500 million to support online training for contractors

LIHEAP Supplemental

Coordination- NASCSP encourages State WAP Managers to reach out to their LIHEAP counterpart to begin planning for the \$900 million in supplemental LIHEAP funding provided under the CARES Act and released on May 8, 2020.

Plans- The supplemental funding will run through states' existing 2020 LIHEAP State Plans. States are free to make amendments to their LIHEAP Plans and do not need prior approval from HHS to do so. States will still need HHS approval to exceed a 15% transfer to weatherization. A state may choose not to transfer any of the additional funding to weatherization. More info from [NEADA](#) here.

Formula- The CARES Act distributes the additional \$900 million dollars via a mix of the "old" and "new" formula. The bulk of the funding is directed via the "new" formula. More information about the LIHEAP formula can be found [here](#). The language in the CARES Act can be found [here](#).

LIHEAP Clearinghouse: <https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/navigator>

NASCSP Air Conditioning Survey

25 state WAP grantees responded:

- ▶ 16 states running programs for AC Units (Funded by LIHEAP and/or DOE and/or Utility)

Central AC Only (5)	Window/Room AC Only (5)	Both (6)
AZ, NM, OK, SC, UT	DE, HI, NC, ND, RI	KS, MO, NH, OH, TN, TX

- ▶ Three states reported some type of bulk/group purchasing, but this was NOT done at the state level. The majority of the states indicated that AC units were purchased by individual local agencies or their HVAC contractors.
- ▶ NASCSP Webinar: <https://nascsp.org/wap/waptac/wap-resources/wap-webinars/>

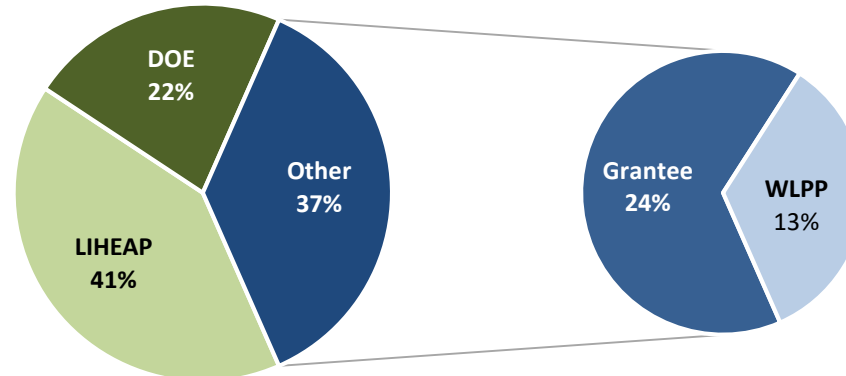
Funding Update

The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in various shades of green and blue, primarily concentrated on the right side of the slide. The shapes include triangles and polygons, creating a modern, layered effect. The colors range from light, airy greens to deep, dark blues and forest greens.

2018 Funding Report



Federal Funds		Non-Federal Funds		Total
DOE	LIHEAP	Grantee Reported	WLPP Reported	
\$ 247,136,545	\$ 453,108,685	\$ 267,815,078	\$ 139,912,690	\$ 1,107,972,998



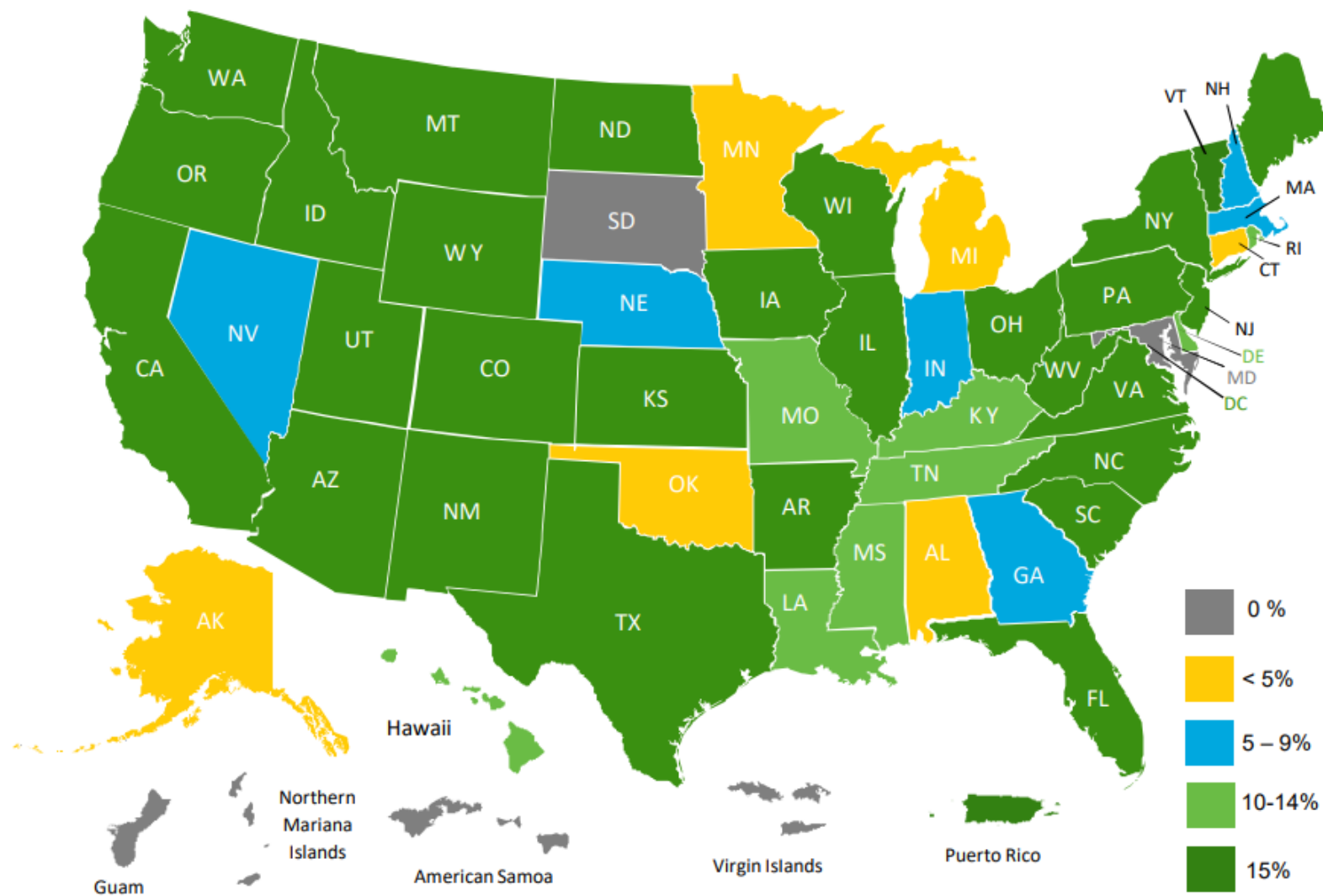
2018 WAP Funding Report on NASCS website: <https://nascsp.org/wap/weatherization-publications/wap-annual-funding-surveys/>
 CAP Weatherization Leveraged Partnerships Project: <https://communityactionpartnership.com/energy-partnerships/>

2019 LIHEAP Transfers

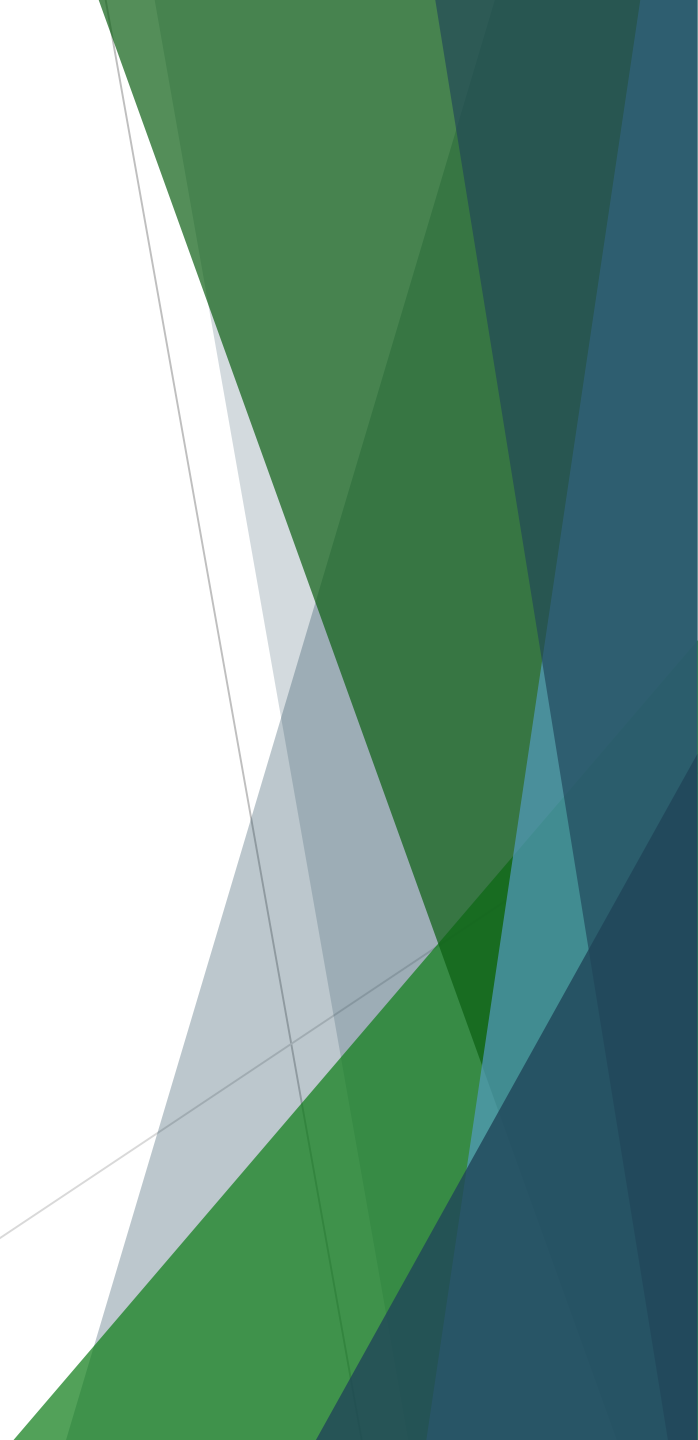
- 2019 LIHEAP State Plans
- Average Transfer: 11.7%

"The Rules"

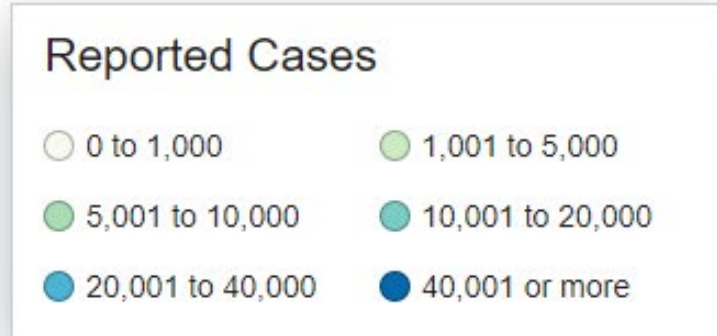
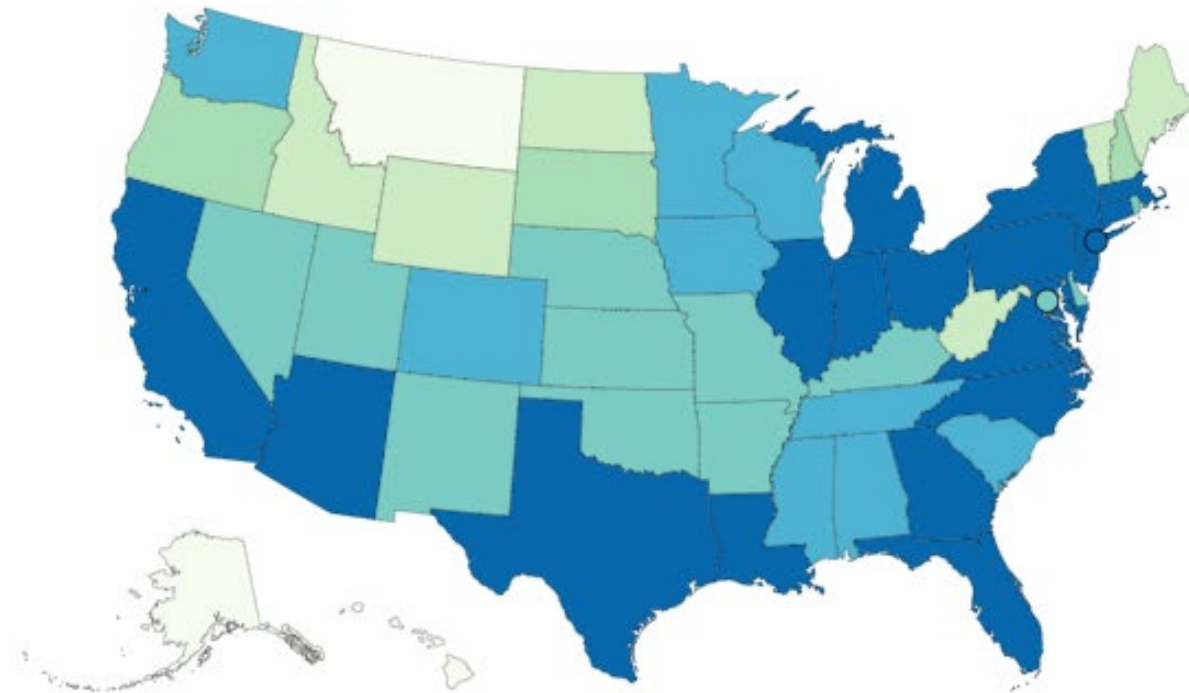
- Entirely LIHEAP – 4
- Mostly LIHEAP – 10
- Entirely DOE – 3
- Mostly DOE – 36



COVID-19 Update



COVID-19 Reported Cases



AS GU MH FM MP PW PR VI



Reported cases as of June 23, 2020:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

DOE Guidance on COVID-19: Memo 60

- March 25th DOE Issued [Memorandum 060- Weatherization Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19](#)
 - While production is stopped, WAP agencies can still charge labor costs, including salary and fringe benefits as long as they comply with the uniform federal guidance on leave ([2 CFR § 200.431\(b\)](#))
 - Encouraged administrative and T&TA activities such as updating and developing policies and procedures, online trainings, virtual conferences, inventory reconciliation, etc.
 - Flexibility for states in planning for PY2020 and beyond
 - Quality assurance monitoring paused

DOE Guidance on COVID-19: Memo 62

May 26th DOE issued [Memo 62 WAP's Response to Guidelines for Opening Up America Again – Phase One and FAQs](#)

ALL PHASES

- ✓ Social distancing
- ✓ Good hygiene
- ✓ Protective equipment
- ✓ Temperature checks
- ✓ Sanitation
- ✓ Disinfection
- ✓ Monitor workforce for symptoms
- ✓ Develop and implement policies for workforce contact tracing

PHASE ONE

- ✓ Encourage telework
- ✓ Minimize non-essential travel
- ✓ Vulnerable individuals should shelter in place
- ✓ Avoid groups of more than 10 people

What this means for weatherization:

- Follow CDC, EPA, OSHA guidance
- Update your Health and Safety Plan to include Infections Disease Preparedness and Response
- Encourage working from home
- Participate in virtual trainings
- Continue to conduct client outreach and process applications
- Develop safety protocols
- Limit or stop field work
- Pause monitoring until Phase 3

DOE Guidance on COVID-19: Memo 62

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Our state did not combine program years and we now have concerns about our ACPU in PY 2020. Can we extend the 2020 grant period?

A: DOE will handle these requests on a case-by-case basis.

As of June 16, twenty-one Grantees planned to combine 2019-2020 Budget Periods. This action does NOT require an additional public hearing but Grantees are encouraged to communicate any revisions to their Subgrantees.

DOE Guidance on COVID-19: Memo 62

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can DOE clarify the types of PPE required for WAP work?

A: Follow applicable [OSHA standards](#), the guidance in [WPN 17-7](#), and see [FEMA guidance](#) for addressing PPE needs in non-healthcare settings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a minimum DOE suggests all work trucks include respirators, N95 face masks, gloves, protective clothing/suits, booties, paper towels, hand sanitizer, cleaners, client education materials, client face masks.

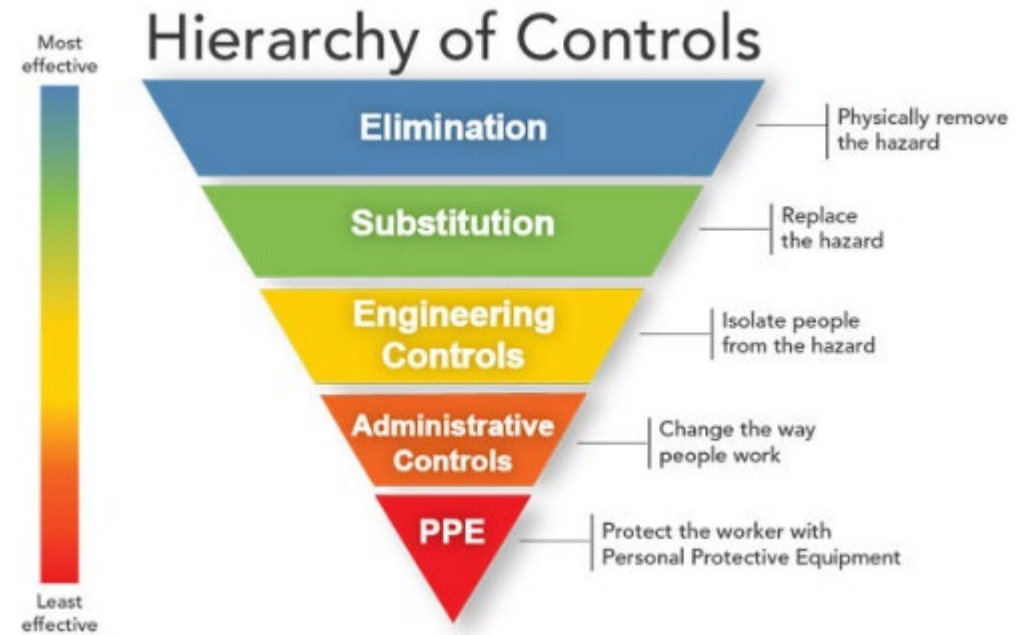
Federal Guidance (CDC, OSHA, FEMA)

Respirator Shortages

Implement [engineering and administration controls](#) where feasible

OSHA is allowing [extended use or reuse of N95 FFRs](#). Perform a seal check and train workers to understand when respirator is compromised and must be discarded. See also [CDC recommendations](#) for using FFRs beyond shelf life during shortages.

Most respirator [manufacturers produce multiple models](#) ...employers should consult the manufacturer to see if it recommends a different model that fits similarly to the N95 or other model used previously by employees.



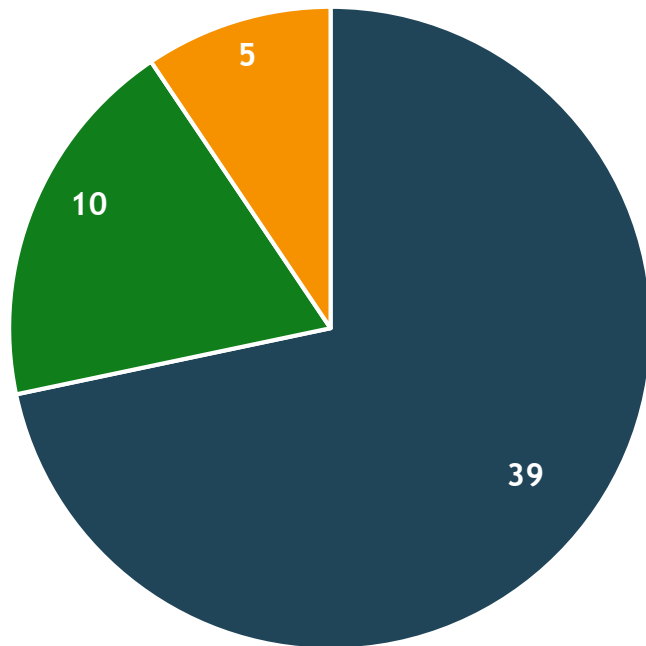
Source: [CDC Interim Guidance for Conserving and Extending Filtering Facepiece Respirator Supply in Non-Healthcare Sectors](#) (April 2020)

COVID-19 Production & Workforce Impacts

NASCSP Surveys conducted in April and May, 2020

Are WAP workers entering client homes in your state or territory?
April 19, 2020

■ No ■ Yes ■ Only Emergencies



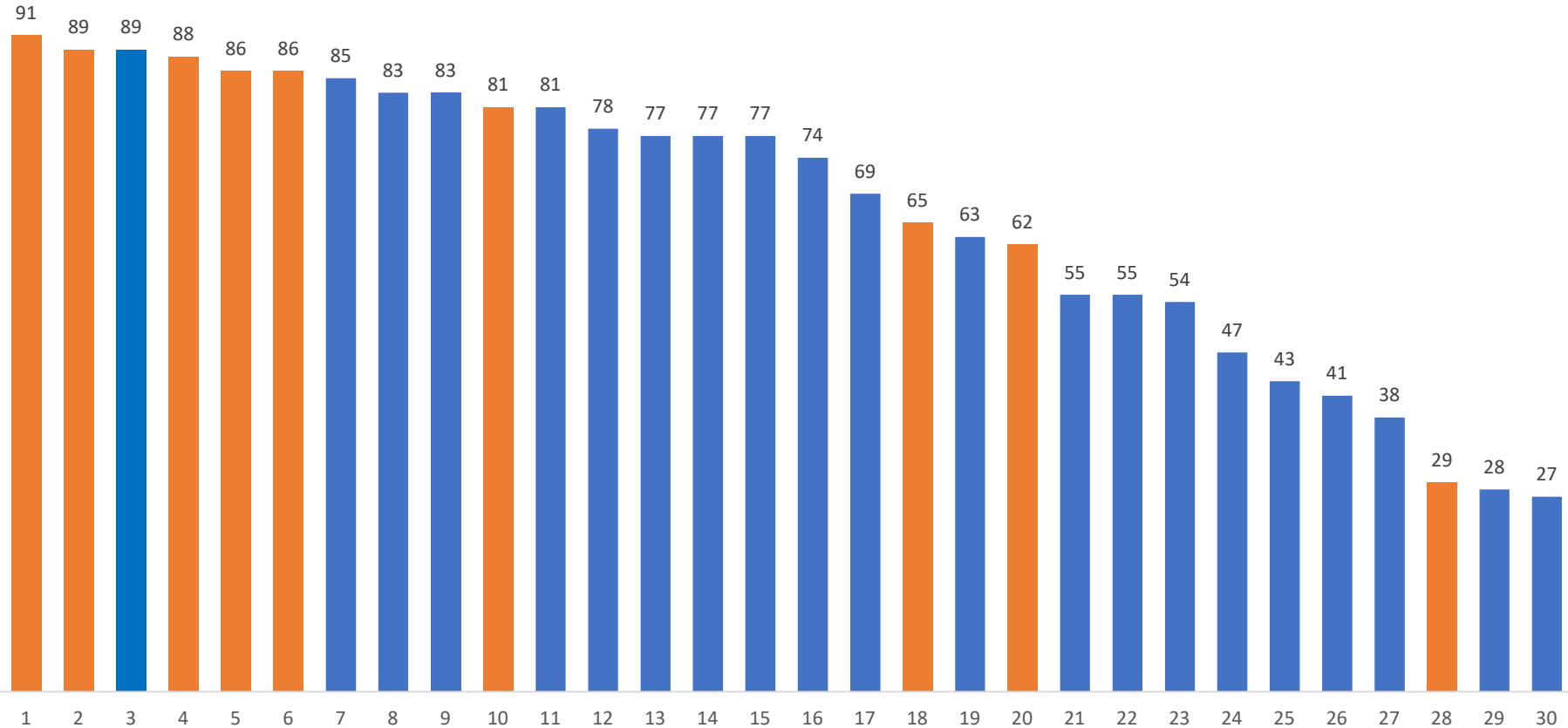
Who made the decision to stop production?

30 States/Territories stopped all production

25 States/Territories allowed local agencies to decide

Grantee Production Pause

Total Days as of June 17



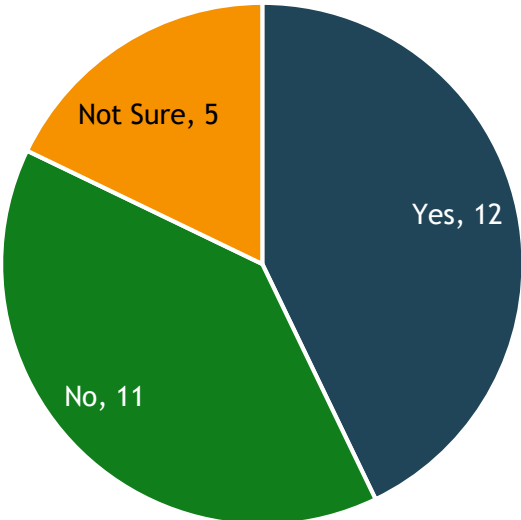
Each bar = one Grantee
Orange = still paused; Blue = resumed production

Workforce Impacts

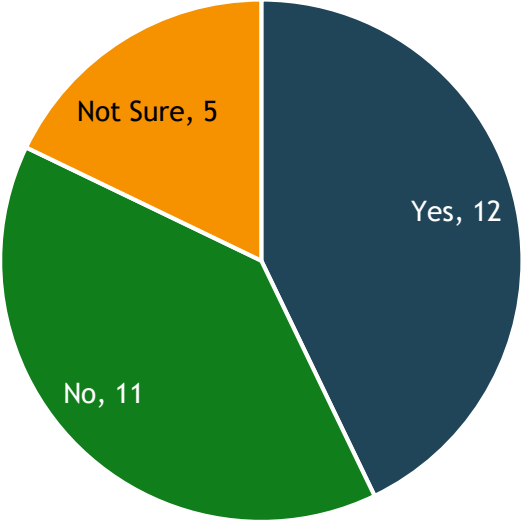
- ▶ Grantee & subgrantee staff working remotely
- ▶ Moving to virtual application intake and allowing for electronic signatures
- ▶ Some subgrantees are able to redirect their weatherization crews to assist with other duties, such as working on other federal programs
- ▶ Some subgrantees opting for layoffs and unemployment
 - We do not anticipate many lay-offs if the workforce can SAFELY enter homes soon
- ▶ Concern about loss of contractors and contractor staff
 - A prolonged stoppage will likely put some out of business
- ▶ Moving toward a new normal: planning for re-entry into client homes
 - Updating client education tools and safety protocols
 - None of our subgrantees want to put their workforce in danger
 - Concern about availability of Personal Protective Equipment

Back to Work - PPE Availability

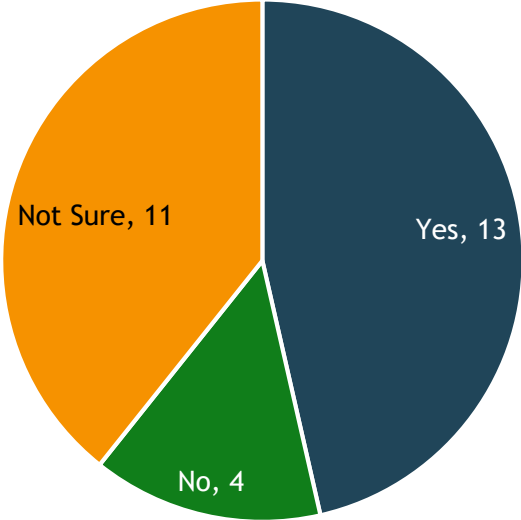
1. Are you experiencing shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in your state/territory?



2. In response to COVID-19 have you or your subgrantees adopted policies to extend the useful life of N95 respirators, use an equivalent respirator and/or use other face coverings?



3. In response to COVID-19 have you or your subgrantees experienced any issues with increased PPE costs?



Back to Work - PPE availability

Shortages - Types of PPE

- ▶ N95 masks (9)
- ▶ Tyvek suits (4)
- ▶ Nitrile gloves (3)
- ▶ Disinfecting wipes (3)
- ▶ KN95 masks
- ▶ P100 filters

“It goes back and forth as to what is available currently”

“We experienced shortages back in May...we now have enough PPE...to meet our anticipated needs...”

Modified H&S and Invoicing Policies

- ▶ Allowing H&S purchases for LIHEAP CARES Crisis work to cover the extra PPE needed for those jobs (2 states)
- ▶ State Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response H&S category will allow funding for additional costs such as PPE, cleaners, safety materials like plastic sheeting, etc. The allowable cost is similar in scope to lead safe weatherization.
- ▶ We conducted a survey among all of the subcontractors and asked what PPE was used for each job. We averaged the costs out to be a reasonable compensation for each job, placed a line on the state Price List, and allowed a flat fee to be charged per job.
- ▶ We allowed contractors to bill for additional quantities of PPE. Normally those costs are built into a task.
- ▶ We increased the allowable grant percentage for H&S costs

PPE Availability - Survey Comments

- ▶ CAP agencies are collaborating on bulk purchases of PPE
- ▶ Two states reported having a PPE source directory on their website that is available to CAPs
- ▶ State-hosted TTA calls that include open discussion where agencies share vendor resources
- ▶ Allow greater flexibility in purchasing PPE
- ▶ Use a separate H&S budget cost category

“The great increase in the amount of PPE required, plus the increased costs, are a good reason for DOE to increase the health and safety allowable percentage.”

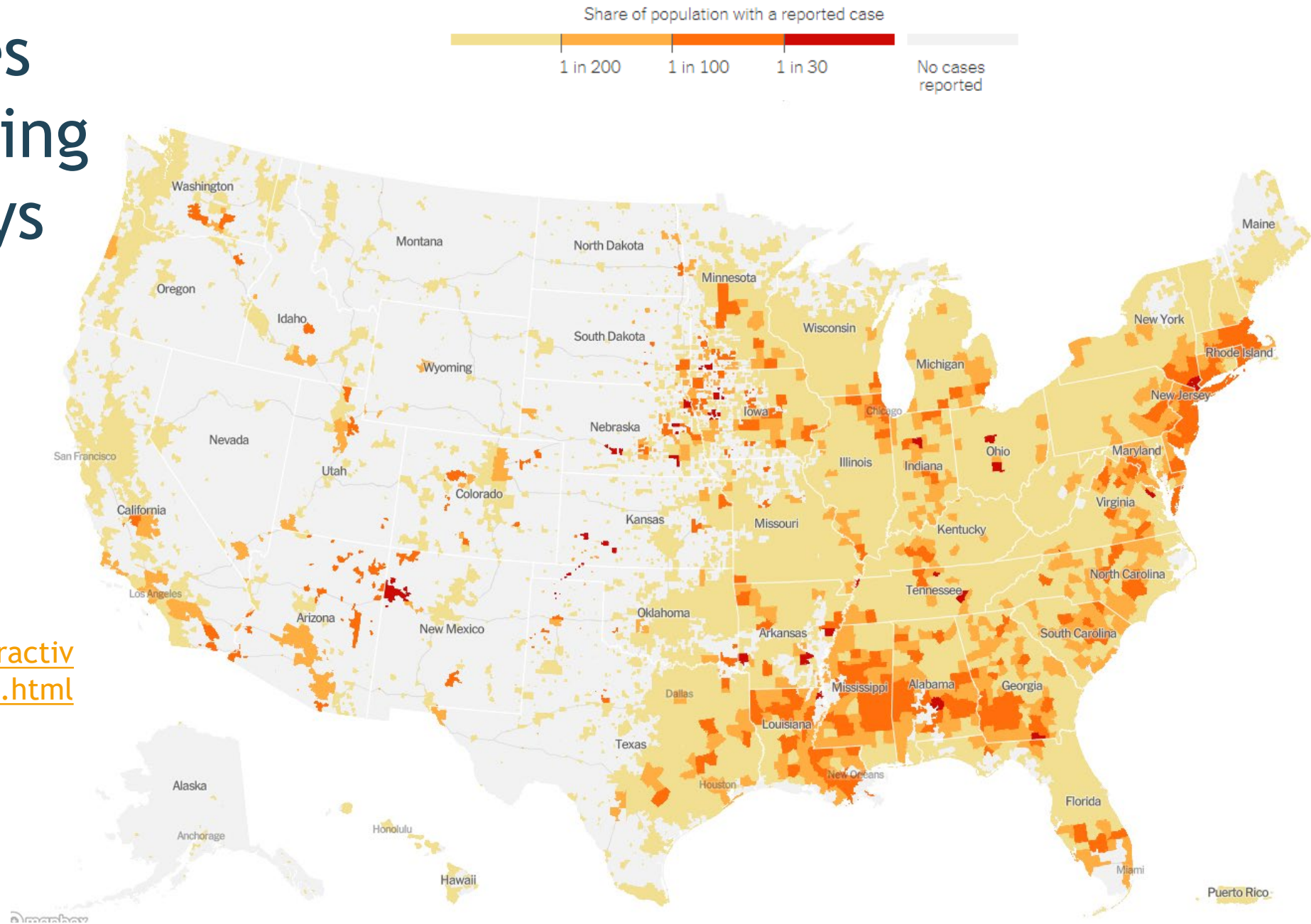
- ▶ **NASCSP CLARIFICATION** - DOE recommends up to 15%, but states can request **more**. If a state wants to exceed 15% a justification must be provided to DOE. See DOE [Application Instructions pages 19 - 20](#).

COVID-19 cases per capita during the last 14 days

As of June 23, 2020

Source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>



NASCSP COVID-19 Resources

<https://nascsp.org/coronavirus-resources/nascsp-resources-on-covid/>

Safety Considerations - *Disclaimer: The resources on this page are only samples and must be modified for the specific conditions and guidance in each state and local jurisdiction. NASCSP does not endorse or recommend going into homes until it is safe to do so.*

- [Considerations for WAP Field Work](#) (NASCSP)
- Webinar: “Managing WAP Safety” 4/23/20 - [Slides](#) | [Recording](#)
- [COVID-19: Workplace Safety Course](#) from the EnergySmart Academy
- State Samples from Wyoming and Utah
 - [WY WAP COVID-19 Field Checklist](#)
 - [WAP Emergency Preparedness, Disaster & Continuity of Operations Guidance](#)
 - [Wyoming Safety Newsletter](#)
- [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)

Blower Door Resources

- ▶ [NASCSP Blog](#) and [Considerations for Field Work](#)
- ▶ Building Performance Association [Position Statement](#)
- ▶ ASHRAE [Residences FAQ](#)
- ▶ Utility program protocols



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur discusses blower door operation during Capitol Hill event (July 2019)

Online Training Resources

- ▶ [Weatherization Online Training Opportunities](#) -Compiled by DOE and the WAP Trainers Consortium
- ▶ [Back to Work Resource Guide](#) - Building Performance Association
- ▶ [Weatherization Grantee Manager Training](#) - DOE
- ▶ [COVID19 Back to Work Safety Training](#) - Energy Smart Academy
 - ▶ Available at no cost to WAP Grantees and Subgrantees at this link: <https://wap.litmos.com/account/login/>

Other National Issues



Deferrals and Windows

2019 Congressional Report Requests

- ▶ DOE is directed to provide to the Committees on Appropriation of both Houses of Congress a briefing on the kinds of information that is collected from grantees and the potential for collecting additional information that discusses the kinds of structural deficiencies that make homes ineligible for the program.
- ▶ DOE is directed to make **\$500,000** available to current Weatherization Assistance Program grant recipients via the Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program to develop and implement strategies to treat harmful substances, including vermiculite.
- ▶ DOE is also directed to begin tracking the occurrence of window replacements, which supports the reduction of lead-based paint hazards in homes.

Deferrals - DOE Research

The purpose of this research was to determine how WAP Grantees and Subgrantees are tracking deferrals and referrals to remediate deferral issues, in order to understand how they:

- ▶ Manage the deferral process with their respective Subgrantees
- ▶ What data is collected regarding deferrals
- ▶ How and in what format(s) it is currently collected

WAP Deferral Resource Guide is in development and expected to be available soon:

- ▶ Issue Briefs on strategies for tracking and managing deferrals
- ▶ Tools for categorizing deferrals, a tracking template, intake questionnaire template

Workforce Development

- ▶ Workforce development is a key issue in all energy efficiency sectors
- ▶ Badges Toolkit was developed by DOE and is being used in several states for crew worker training
 - ▶ See [WAP Memo 50](#)
- ▶ NASCSP formed a working group of Grantees to provide a forum for discussion and explore opportunities to recruit and retain WAP workers

Energy Efficiency
employed
2.38 million
in 2019



Source: 2020 U.S. Energy and Employment Report, <https://www.usenergyjobs.org/>

Save the Date- Weatherization Day

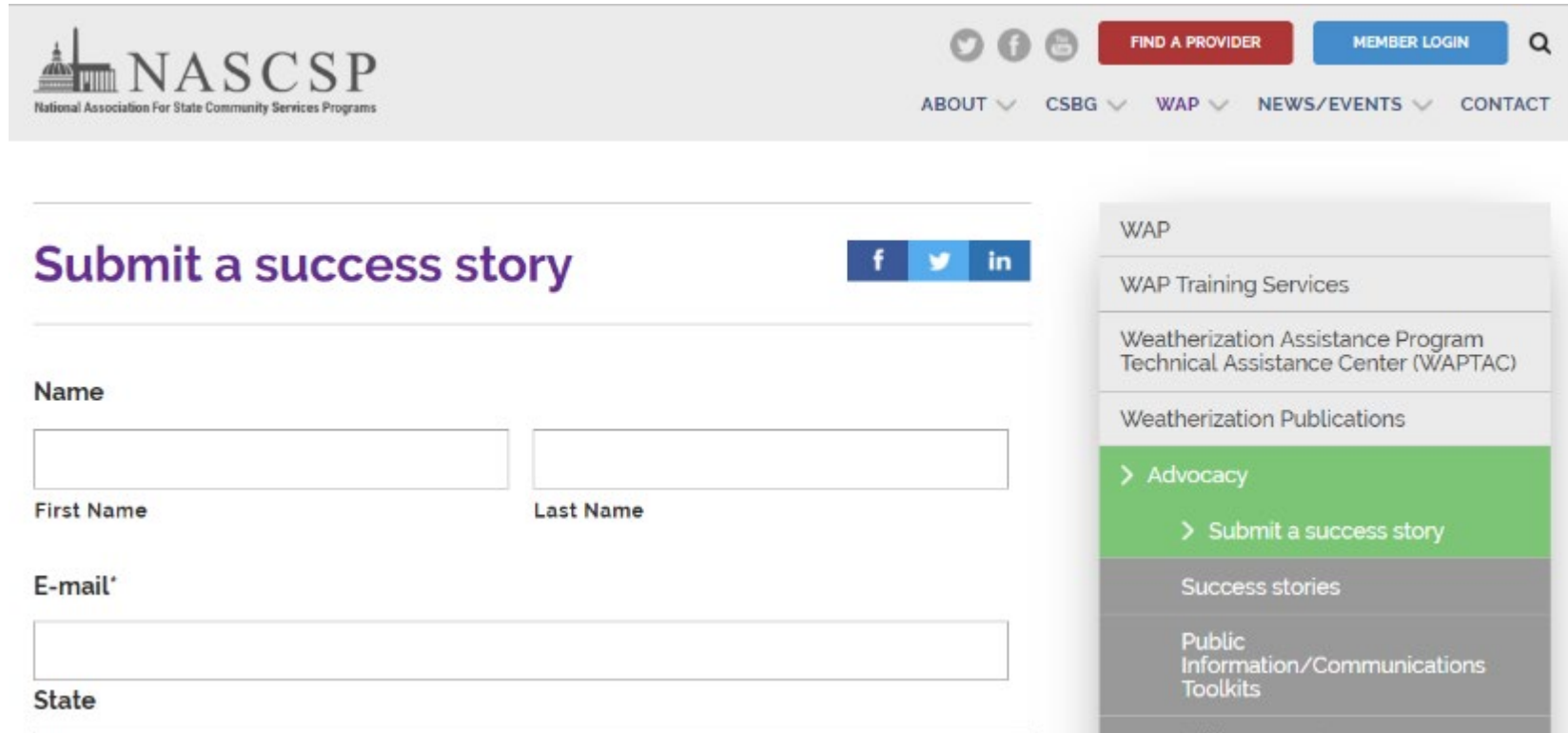
- Great way to tell the WAP Story
- Highlight the WAP and demonstrate impact
- Increase awareness of WAP for key audiences
- October 30th is an anchor date
 - Successful activities before & after
- NASCSP provides a yearly toolkit

**Mark Your Calendar for
Weatherization Day**



#WXDayOct30

Share Your Success Stories!



The image shows a screenshot of the NASCSP website. At the top left is the NASCSP logo with the text 'National Association For State Community Services Programs'. To the right of the logo are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, followed by a red 'FIND A PROVIDER' button and a blue 'MEMBER LOGIN' button. Below these are navigation links: ABOUT, CSBG, WAP, NEWS/EVENTS, and CONTACT. The main content area is titled 'Submit a success story' in purple text, with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to its right. Below the title are four input fields: 'Name' (split into 'First Name' and 'Last Name'), 'E-mail*', and 'State'. To the right of the form is a navigation menu with the following items: WAP, WAP Training Services, Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center (WAPTAC), Weatherization Publications, > Advocacy (highlighted in green), > Submit a success story (highlighted in green), Success stories, and Public Information/Communications Toolkits. A blue arrow points from the right towards the 'Submit a success story' link in the menu.

<https://nascsp.org/wap/advocacy/submit-a-success-story/>

Communication Resources

- Weatherization Day Toolkits & Activities
- Site Demo Toolkit
- WAP Story Telling Manual
- WAP and Social Media
- Fact Sheet Templates
- Sample Letters
- Multimedia Library

Public Information/Communications Toolkits

Weatherization Day 2018 Toolkit

This 2018 **Weatherization Day Toolkit** contains social media and other communications resources to help you plan your Weatherization Day activities. The toolkit was rolled out via a webinar in September 2018.

[Webinar Recording](#) | [Slides](#)

Weatherization Day Planning Toolkit

This toolkit will aide in planning Weatherization Day activities and your Public Information Campaign. Toolkit includes sample press releases, event ideas, social media examples, and press kits.



Weatherization Site Demonstration Toolkit

A step-by-step guide to planning a successful Weatherization Site Demonstration.



WAP

WAP Training Services

Weatherization Assistance Program
Technical Assistance Center (WAPTAC)

Weatherization Publications

> Advocacy

Submit a success story

Success stories

> Public
Information/Communications Toolkits

Telling your story

Advocacy tools

Multimedia Library

Weatherization Day

<https://nascsp.org/wap/advocacy/public-informationcommunications-toolkits/>



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