



VA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Information Notice 07-2011

TO: ALL WEATHERIZATION SUBGRANTEES
FROM: NANCY PALMER, HOUSING PROGRAMS MANAGER
DATE: 05/11/2011
SUBJECT: Expanded Prioritization for LIHEAP

Effective Immediately

The U.S. Department of Human Services has approved an amendment to the Virginia Department of Social Services' annual plan for the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). As a recipient of LIHEAP funds, the amendment allows the Virginia Weatherization Program to add two additional priorities in providing assistance to weatherization clients with LIHEAP funds.

New Priorities

Because the LIHEAP Program adheres to the same requirements as the Weatherization Program with limited exceptions, the three priorities for LIHEAP funds were the same as Weatherization. They include households with 1) person(s) 60 years of age or older; 2) person(s) with disabilities; and 3) child(ren) under the age of six. **The two new priorities APPLY ONLY TO LIHEAP and include: 1) households with no heat and 2) cases that are time sensitive and leverage other funds.**

Regular DOE and ARRA funds cannot be combined with LIHEAP on these jobs as these two additional prioritizations do not apply to DOE funds.

Prioritization for lack of a permanent, safe and operable heat source will allow DHCD to provide other weatherization measures concurrently with crisis services to eligible Department of Social Services Crisis clients. It will also allow DHCD to prioritize clients that are in immediate need that otherwise do not qualify for Crisis benefits.

Allowing for prioritization for time sensitive projects that are leveraging funds will give DHCD subgrantees the ability to partner with other funding sources to provide expanded services to clients. This will allow agencies to perform energy conserving weatherization measures in conjunction with other services, thereby preventing overlap of work, removal of installed weatherization measures to complete other work or time lapses between services.

Adherence to Weatherization Audit and Installation Standards

Weatherization measures completed with LIHEAP resources must adhere to the Virginia Weatherization Installation Standards and the energy audit requirements of the Weatherization Program. Weatherization work must be inspected by the Weatherization subgrantee.

For subgrantees who also administer rehabilitation programs, this can be easily done and is a matter of timing the weatherization work and the rehabilitation to ensure that neither is compromised by the other. In areas where there is a partnership with another agency, there must be close coordination of work.

Client Data and Reporting

Clients whose homes are weatherized under these priorities must be reported to DHCD in the same manner as all other LIHEAP clients. The mandatory information in a client file does not change, including but not limited to a signed weatherization application, proof of property ownership and income documentation.