



Weatherization Enhancement, and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act

U.S. Senators Chris Coons (D-Del.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), and Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Section-by-Section

Section 1 – Short Title and Table of Contents

Section 2 -- Findings

- a) Describes the history, demonstrated performance and new opportunities of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and State Energy Program (SEP)

Title I -- Weatherization Assistance Program

Section 101 - Reauthorization of the WAP

- a) \$450 million is authorized for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 for a core energy efficiency program managed by the Department of Energy.

Section 102 – Competitive Innovation Grants for Low-Income Housing

- a) Purpose: To serve more low-income clients with energy efficiency retrofits by promoting innovation and new service delivery models that leverage significant resources and are self-sustaining.
- b) Definitions:
 - 1. A covered organization is defined as an organization that is a 501 (c) 3 and has performed construction, renovation, repair, or energy efficiency retrofits on at least 250 housing units.
 - 2. Low-income is defined as an income no more than 200% of the poverty level.
 - 3. The WAP is defined as a low-income energy efficiency retrofit program as defined in 10 CFR 440.
- c) Competitive Grant Program. The Secretary of Energy shall make grants to covered organizations through a national competitive process.
- d) Establishes Conditions for Awards
- e) Applications:
 - 1. Secretary shall request proposals no more than 180 days after enactment.
 - 2. Applicants must submit an application as the Secretary requires.
 - 3. Secretary will award grants no later than 90 days after the request for proposals.
- f) Establishes Uses for the Grants
- g) The maximum grant will be \$5 million.
- h) Guidelines:
 - 1. Secretary shall issue guidelines to implement the grant program not later than 90 days after the enactment of this section
 - 2. Administration:
 - i. The guidelines for the competitive program shall not apply to the base WAP program but may rely on applicable existing WAP provisions.

- i) Review and Evaluation: Secretary shall review and evaluate the performance of any grant recipient.
- j) Compliance with State and local law: This program and section do not supersede and State or local law that is more stringent than that required under the Act.
- k) Annual Reports: Secretary shall submit annual reports to Congress that detail findings, energy and cost savings, and recommendations.
- l) Funding is authorized to be appropriated at \$45 million for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Section 103 -- Standards Program

Section 415 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6865) is amended by adding at the end the following:

- a) Contractor Qualification: Effective beginning January 1, 2015, to be eligible to carry out weatherization, a contractor shall be selected via a competitive bidding process and be:
 - 1. Accredited by the Building Performance Institute;
 - 2. an Energy Smart Home Performance Team accredited under the Residential Energy Services Network; or
 - 3. Accredited by an equivalent accreditation or program accreditation-based State certification program approved by the Secretary.
- b) Grant for Energy Retrofit Model Programs:
 - 1. General: To be eligible, a covered organization shall use a crew chief who is certified as defined above and supervises the work performed.
 - 2. Volunteers: A volunteer who performs work for a covered organization is not required to be certified if he or she is not directly installing or repairing mechanical equipment or other items that require skilled labor.
 - 3. Training: Training and technical assistance funds will be used to provide training for required certification.
 - 4. Minimum efficiency standards: effective October 1, 2015:
 - i. Each retrofit meets minimum efficiency and quality of work standards after weatherization; and
 - ii. At least 10% of units are randomly inspected by an accredited third party to ensure compliance.
 - iii. Standards must meet or exceed the industry standards in effect on the date of enactment as determined by the Secretary.

Title II – State Energy Program

Section 201 – Reauthorization of SEP

- a) \$75 million is authorized for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 for a noteworthy core program managed by the Department of Energy.