

To: Interested Parties
From: DHS Office of Policy Development
Date: April 12, 2016
Subject: Public Hearing for Review of the RI State Plan for Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons

In accordance to Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) 42-35, notice is hereby given that the Department of Human Services proposes to amend the following DHS State Plan:

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. WAP is operated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. territories. Funds are used to improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. The energy conservation resulting from the efforts of state and local agencies helps our country reduce its dependence on foreign oil and decrease the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes.

WAP is governed by various federal regulations designed to help manage and account for the resources provided by the DOE. WAP funding is derived from annual appropriations from Congress. Each year, the Senate and House Interior Appropriations committees decide how much funding to allocate to the program.

In the development of this State Plan, consideration was given to the following: (1) alternative approaches; and (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions. No alternative approach or duplication or overlap was identified based upon available information.

This proposed state plan amendment is accessible on the R.I. Secretary of State website (<http://www.sec.state.ri.us/ProposedRules>) and the DHS website (www.dhs.ri.gov) or available in hard copy upon request (401-462-2018 or RI Relay, dial 711). **A public hearing will be held to consider the proposed amendments on Friday, April 22, 2016 at 1:00PM at the RI Department of Human Services Louis Pasteur Building, 57 Howard Ave, Fl#1 Cranston, RI 02920 in the West Wing Conference Room.** Persons wishing to testify may do so by signing up at the Hearing or by submitting written testimony by Friday, April 22, 2016 to Christina Clement, Office of Policy Development, Department of Human Services, Louis Pasteur Building, Bldg. 57, Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 or by emailing Christina.Clement@dhs.ri.gov.

The Hearing will begin at 1:00 P.M. and will conclude when the last speaker finishes testimony or at 3:00 P.M., whichever occurs first. The RI Department of Human Services Louis Pasteur Building is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals with hearing impairments may request an interpreter's presence by calling 711 or Relay RI 1-800-745-6575 (Voice) and 1-800-745-5555 (TDD). Requests for this service must be made at least 72 hours in advance of the Hearing date.

The Department of Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief or handicap.