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July 6, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Kevin Smit, Senior Energy Efficiency Analyst

SUBJECT: Bonneville Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Amy Burke, BPA

Summary: BPA staff will present on the BPA's low-income energy efficiency program. This program works with regional utilities, state agencies, community action agencies, and tribes to improve access to energy efficiency for all income-qualified homes and residents. The BPA low-income program provides \$6 million in funding to weatherize homes, improve heating, ventilation, and air conditioning as well as water-heating systems, and install efficient lighting and appliances. This program targets serving tribal communities and low-income end users within BPA's service territory.

Relevance: An important component of the 2021 Plan's Conservation Program is to weatherize all homes that are currently lacking. Many of these homes are owned or occupied by people that are low-income and/or have tribal affiliation. BPA's program is designed to target these homes.

More Info: <https://www.bpa.gov/-/media/Aep/energy-efficiency/low-income-energy-efficiency/low-income-summary.pdf>



BPA Residential Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs

Amy Burke, Low-Income & Weatherization Program Manager



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For more than three decades, BPA, public utilities, Community Action Agencies, tribes and states have worked to improve equitable access to energy efficiency for all Northwest residents.

~ BPA's Low-Income Energy Efficiency New Opportunities Guide



Picture courtesy of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe





BPA Tribal & Low-Income Energy Efficiency

Mission: *Public interest funding aimed at providing equitable access to energy efficiency across the Pacific Northwest at low or no cost to qualifying residents.*

Energy Burden

The Pacific Northwest Regional Energy Burden for Median to Low-Income Earners is **6.8%** compared to 2.3% for median earners.



Energy
Spending



Household
Income



Total Energy
Burden

What Is the Benefit?

Making energy efficiency upgrades can:

- ✓ Reduce energy bills and energy burden
- ✓ Fix health and safety issues
- ✓ Reduce home fires
- ✓ Improve indoor air quality
- ✓ Reduce environmental related illnesses
- ✓ Help residents stay in their home
- ✓ Make homes more comfortable and livable for future generations
- ✓ And more...



Picture courtesy of the Lower Elwha S'Kallam Tribe

One Mission, Two Programs

Utility Low-Income EEI

Residential energy efficiency deemed measures implemented through utility programs using rate-payer funding. Some utilities work with local tribes.

State & Tribal Grants

Separate budget and implementation process, established with state agencies and regional tribal partners to fund qualifying residential energy efficiency projects.



So Many Players...



Bonneville Power Administration

Northwest Public Utilities

State Agencies



Community Action Agencies

Tribal Governments

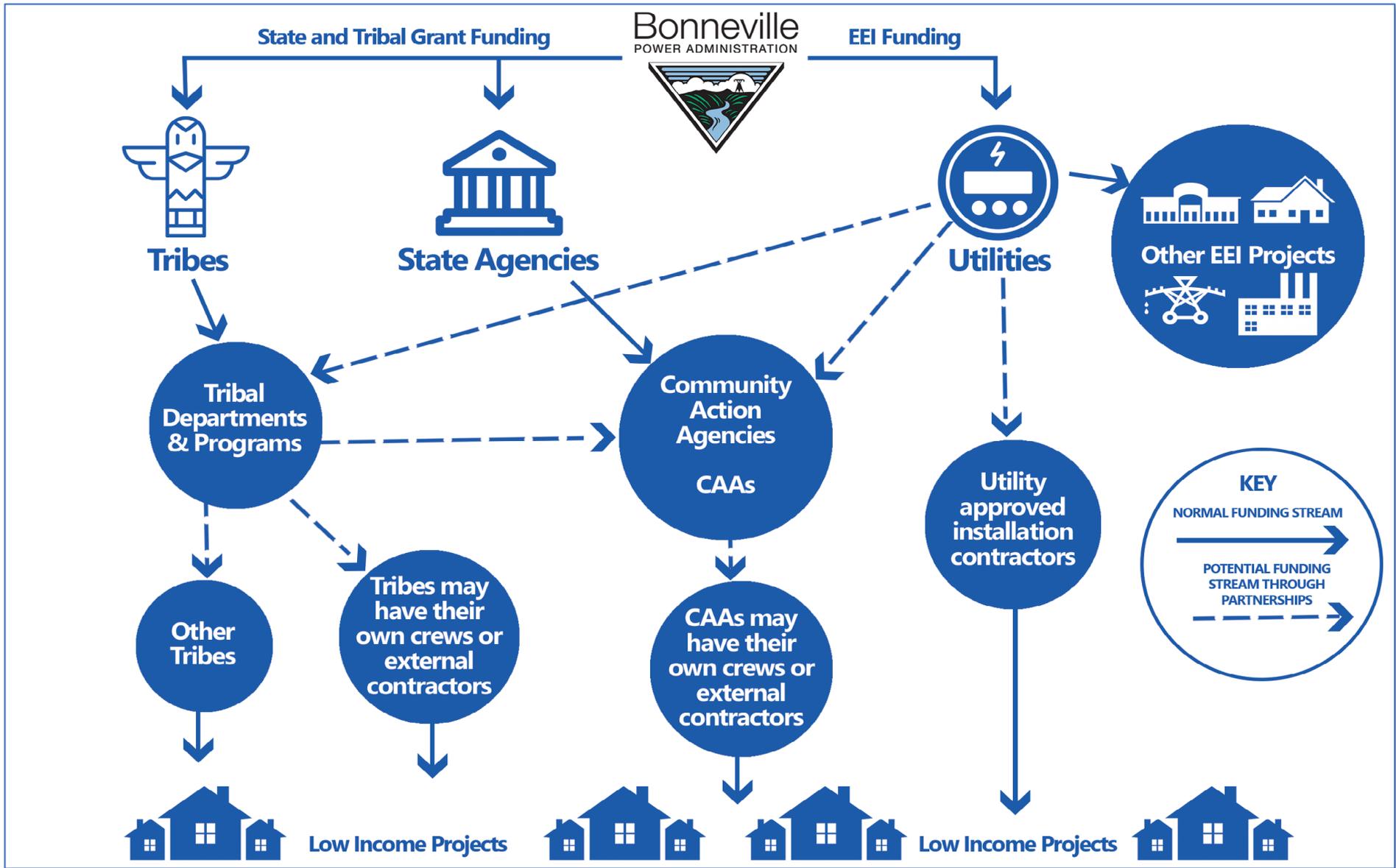


BPA Energy Efficiency Low-Income New Opportunities Guide

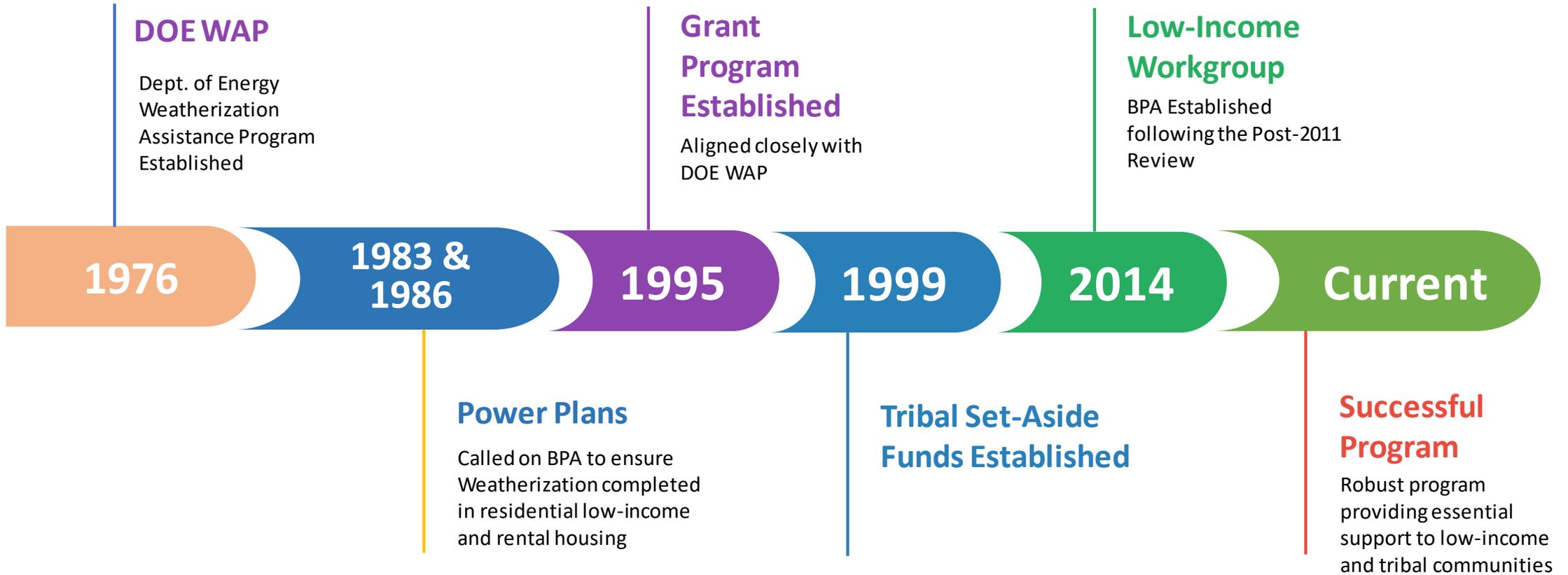
Public reference guide for all things BPA Low-Income:
[Low Income Energy Efficiency - Bonneville Power Administration](https://www.bpa.gov/energy-efficiency/low-income)
[\(bpa.gov\)](https://www.bpa.gov)

- Advice on building relationships and working with Community Action Agencies (CAA)
- CAA and utility contact information
- Example tribal and utility case studies and agreements
- List of federally recognized tribes in BPA's service territory
- [Summary Document](#)
- In English and Spanish

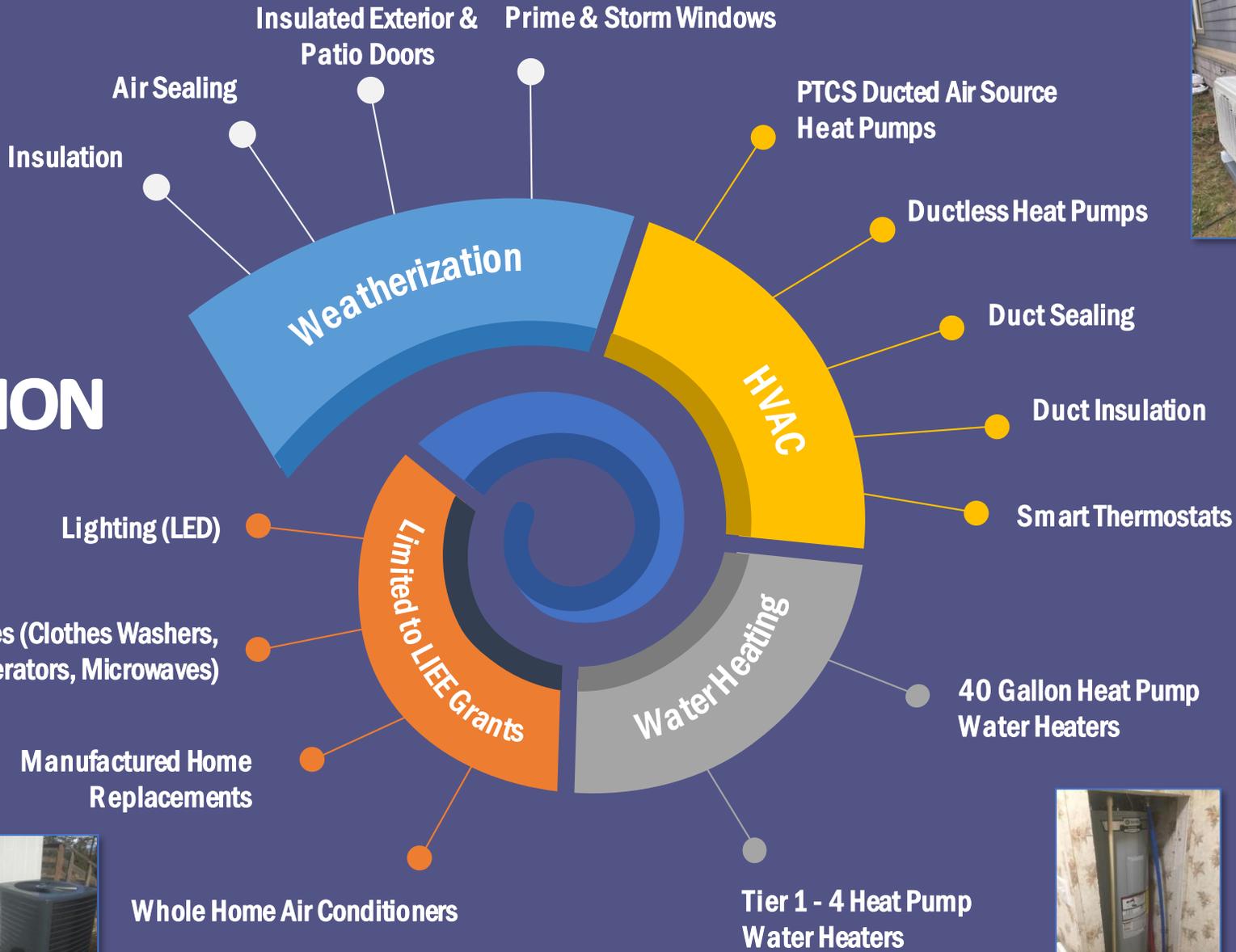




Low-Income Program Timeline



NOT JUST WEATHERIZATION



Most measures paid dollar-for-dollar

Costs of most low-income energy-efficiency measures reimbursed dollar-for-dollar. Some have payment cost caps up to a certain amount.



Related Repair Costs

Additional coverage for health & safety repair costs.

Key focus area in both utility and grant program implementation.



BPA Utility Low-Income Programs



Between 2016 to July 2022:



PARTNERSHIP

53 utilities have claimed low-income measures.



EE SAVINGS

About 3 aMW have been saved in low-income homes.



HVAC & WATER HEATING

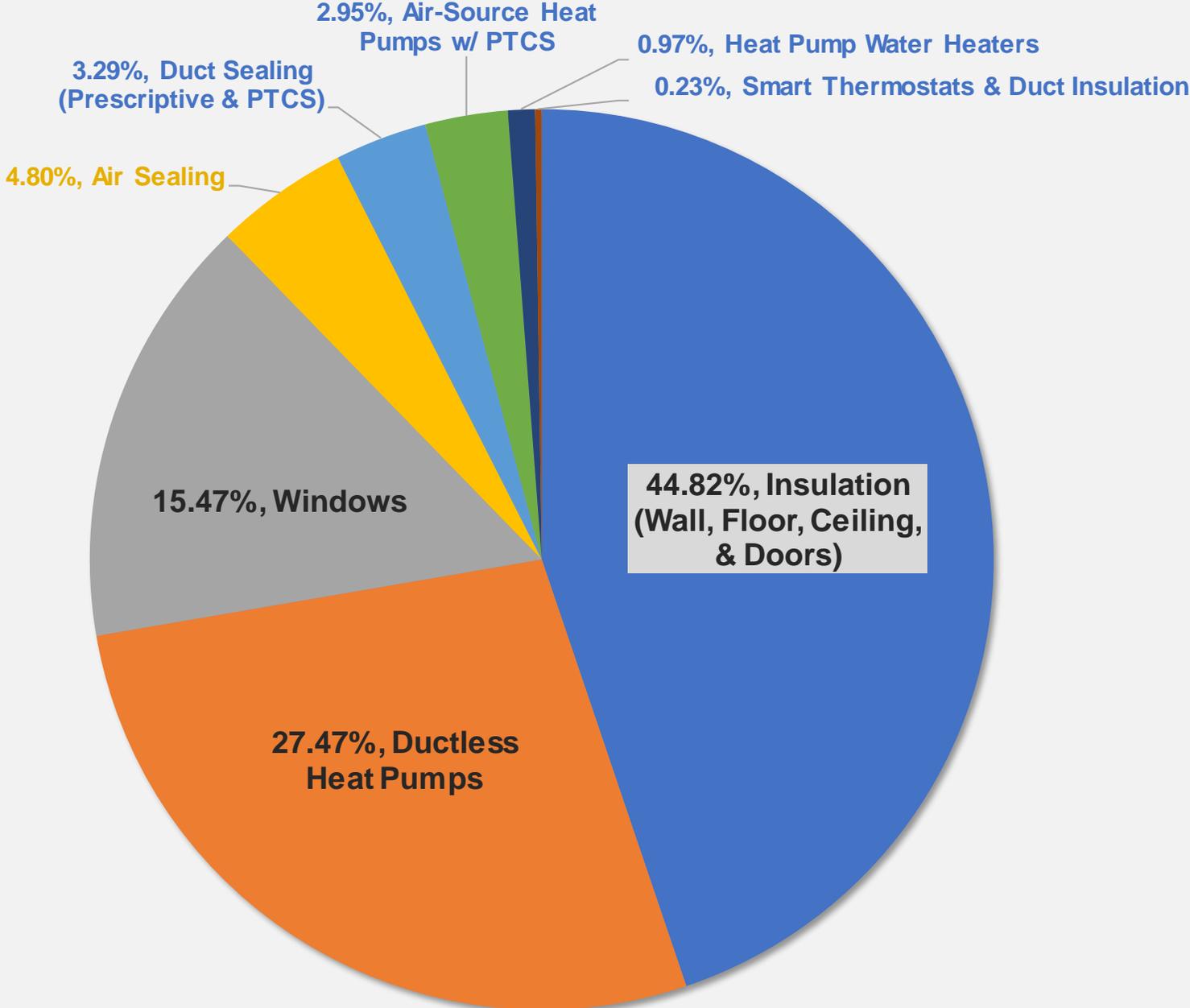
About 5,330 projects have been completed updating heating, cooling, duct, and water heating systems.



WEATHERIZATION

Around 4,900,000 square feet of windows replaced, homes insulated and air sealed, and ducts insulated.

POPULARITY OF UTILITY LIEE MEASURES: 2016 – JULY 2022



Where to Find More Utility LIEE Information

- [BPA’s Energy Efficiency Implementation Manual lists all available low-income measures in section 11.11](#)
- Find incentive payment amounts, examples of qualifying repair costs, and measure implementation requirements.
- [Low-Income New Opportunities Guide](#)
- Interested utilities should contact their BPA Energy Efficiency Representative.



BPA Low-Income Energy Efficiency Grants



STATE GRANTS

FY 2022 Budget: \$5,404,500

Budgets align with BPA's rate period.

State grants established with:

Washington
Oregon
Montana
Idaho



TRIBAL GRANTS

FY 2022 Budget Available: \$600,500

Awarded as needed as funding is available.

Consistent outreach throughout the year to regional tribes to identify qualifying projects and funding needs.

BPA Grant manager works closely with BPA Tribal Affairs Liaisons.



PARTNERSHIP

4 state agencies, 26 tribes, and many Community Action Agencies have participated since 2009.

Supports government-to-government partnership.



EE PROJECTS

Nearly 14,500 projects completed with State Grant funding since 2016.



INVESTMENT

Additional funding to support training needs, travel, health and safety repairs, and administrative and tribal indirect costs.



FLEXIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

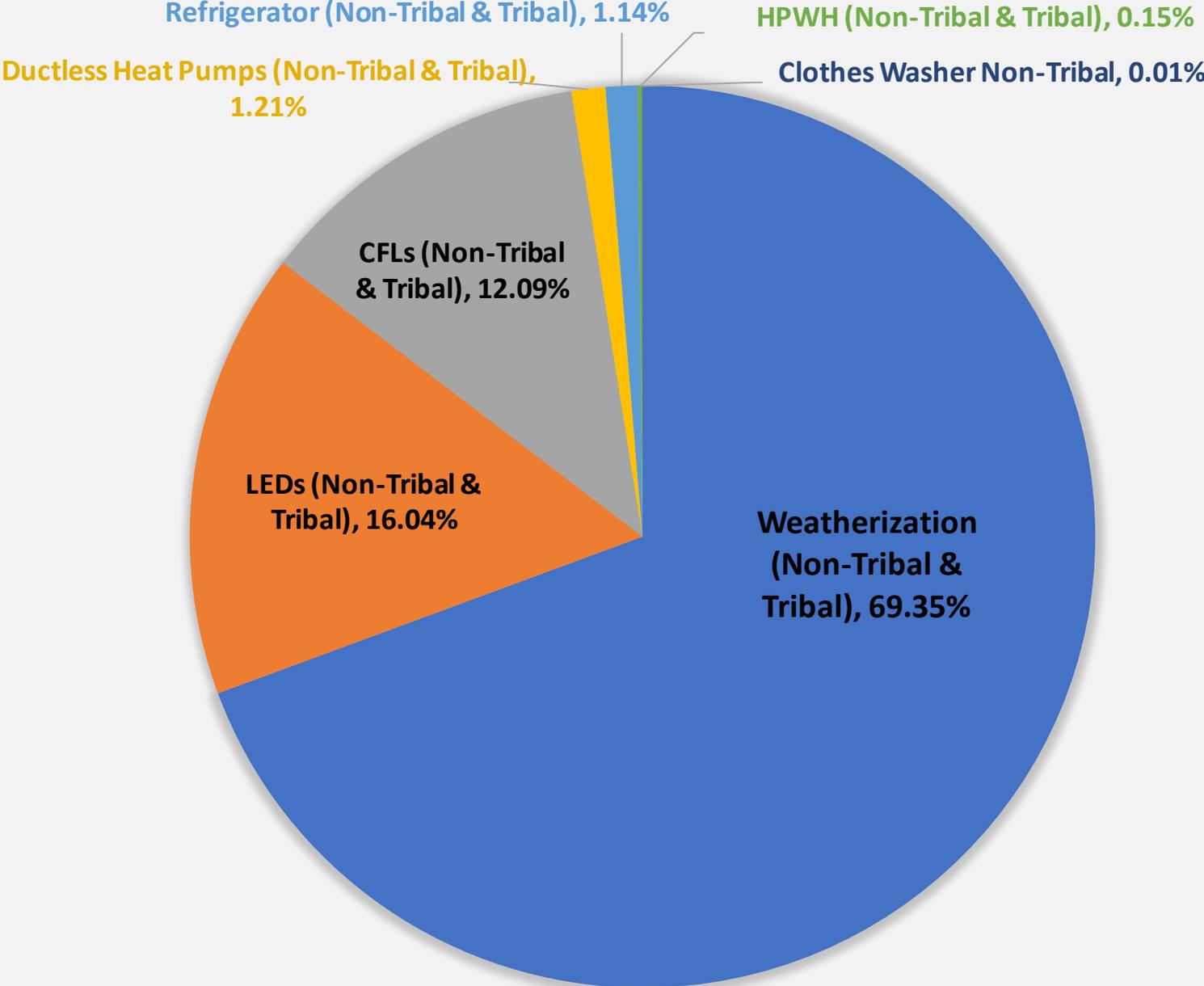
Iterative discussions with states and tribes to support their implementation.

Hands-on support always available.

Grant recipients can fund two kinds of residential energy efficiency measures:

- 1) Deemed measures that do not require a pre and post DOE-Certified home audit, or
- 2) Measures identified through a DOE-Certified “Savings-to-Investment Ratio” (SIR) audit process and calculation.

POPULARITY OF STATE GRANT LIEE MEASURES: 2016 – JULY 2022



Tribal Grants

Some regional tribes who have established grants with us in the past (not comprehensive):

- Coeur D'Alene Tribe
- Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Skokomish Tribal Nation
- Tulalip Tribes
- Nez Perce
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Makah Indian Tribe
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- and more



General Challenges Implementing Low-Income



Challenges to Overcome in Implementation

- Income qualification requirements
- Limited contractor capacity in some areas, resulting in long waitlists for project completion
- Rising equipment costs
- Long wait times for order fulfillment due to supply chain issues
- Making the case to renters/landlords for energy efficiency
- Tribal housing departments and authorities inundated with requests
- Lingering ongoing issues with Covid-19 Pandemic



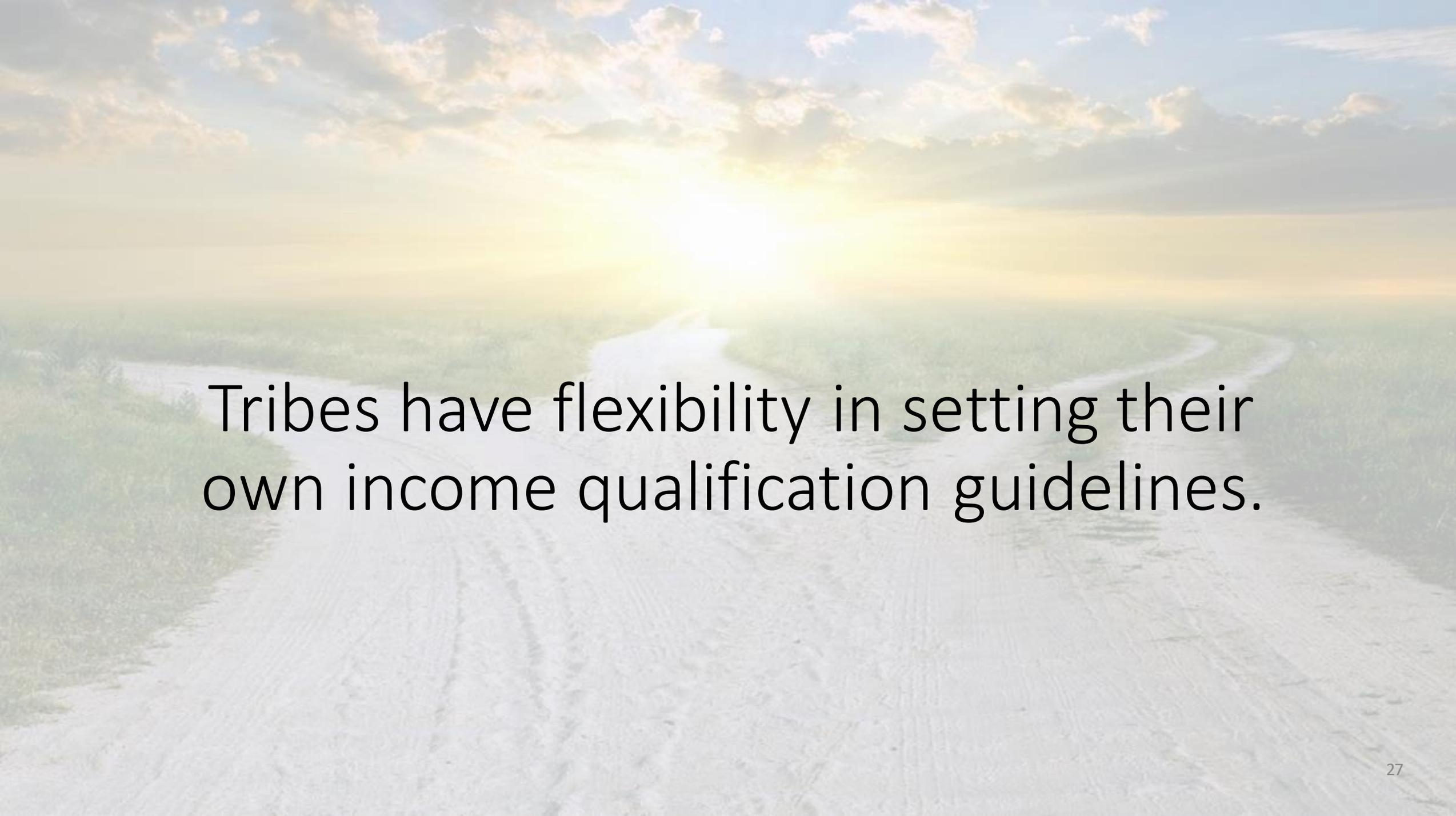
Income Qualification Guidelines

Match any existing federal, state or tribal program guidelines, including **but not limited to:**

- LIHEAP
- HUD
- HHS (Health & Human Services)
- NAHASDA
- TANF
- SSI
- DOE (Department of Energy)
- And many more...

Income qualifications follow the U.S. Department of Energy WAP definition of 200% of the federal poverty-income level based on household size.

2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA		
Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline	200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline
1	\$13,590	\$27,180
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$46,060
4	\$27,750	\$55,500
5	\$32,470	\$64,940
6	\$37,190	\$74,380
7	\$41,910	\$83,820
8	\$46,630	\$93,260

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through a field towards a bright sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the field. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

Tribes have flexibility in setting their own income qualification guidelines.

Questions?

For further questions, utilities can reach out to their Energy Efficiency Representative or contact Amy Burke at aaburke@bpa.gov or call 503.230.4364.



Thank you so much!

