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July 6, 2022

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Council Members**

**FROM: Elizabeth Osborne**

**SUBJECT: Overview of Washington Weatherization Program**

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenter:** Amanda Rains, Senior Program and Evaluations Supervisor, Washington Department of Commerce

**Summary:** The Washington Department of Commerce manages the state and federal programs that provide weatherization services for qualified low-income households. Weatherization Program staff will present on how these programs are funded and administered, and the challenges associated with delivering weatherization services.

**More Info:** Washington Department of Commerce Weatherization Program information; <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/weatherization-and-energy-efficiency/>

# Washington's Low-Income Weatherization Program

July 2022 updates

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Seth Kolodziejski, Bill Kraus & Amanda Rains

JULY 13, 2022



Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

# We strengthen communities

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**HOUSING  
HOMELESSNESS**



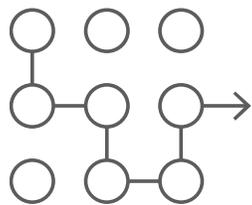
**INFRASTRUCTURE**



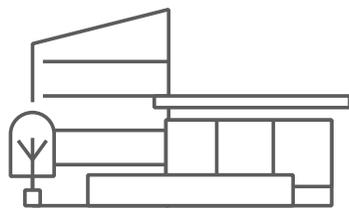
**BUSINESS  
ASSISTANCE**



**ENERGY**



**PLANNING**



**COMMUNITY FACILITIES**



**CRIME VICTIMS &  
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**

# Federal Funding- Program Updates

Seth Kolodziejcki



# Federal program funding outlook

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- 2022 DOE formula funding: \$5,937,231
- 2022-2027 BIL Infrastructure funding: \$47,115,447
- 2023 LIHEAP formula funding: TBD
- 2021-2023 LIHEAP ARP (American Rescue Act) funding: \$14,368,097
- 2022 BPA funding: \$2,553,626

# Federal program policy changes

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- DOE regional priority lists
- DOE categorical eligibility
- DOE/LIHEAP Weatherization Readiness

# Opportunities

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- **Multifamily program**
  - 20% carve out of BIL funding
  - Develop new and existing local agency capacity
  - Target historically hard to reach areas
- **Low income solar**
  - 2022 LIHEAP State Plan
  - DOE solar pilot

# State Funding- Program Updates

Bill Kraus





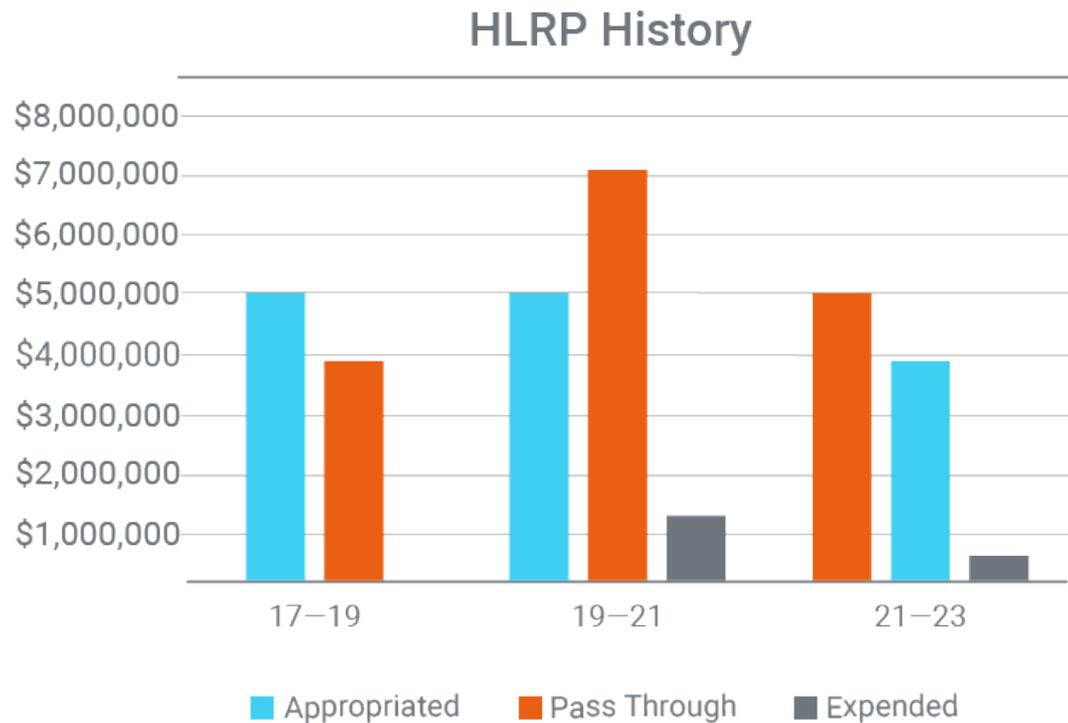
# State Program Policy Changes

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- Matchmaker Program becomes WA Weatherization Plus Health funding (state Wx+H)
- State Wx+H implements Plus Health program statewide
- State Wx+H opens up Tier II activities-now funds weatherization readiness and oil/propane fuel switch to electrical technologies

# HRLP updates

## Program funding & spending



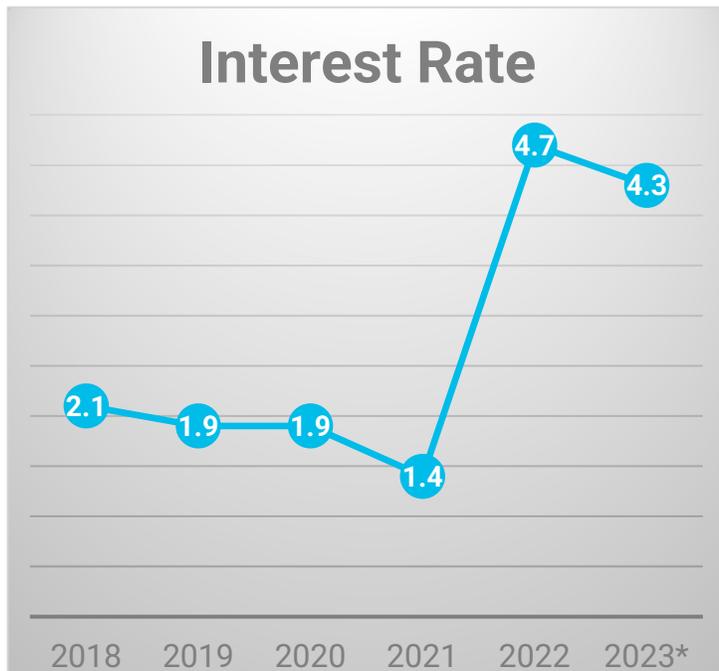
- **Looking Ahead to 2023-2025**

- Program struggling with current legislation restrictions

- What's next?

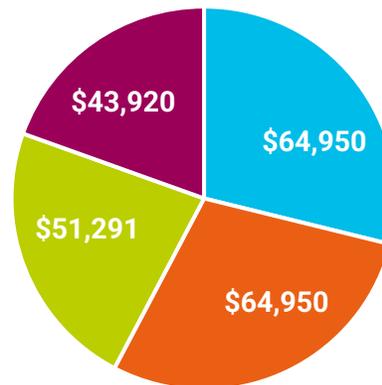
# HRLP challenges

- Interest rate tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI)



- Income eligibility levels

Thurston County 3 person household



■ HUD Loans ■ State WX+H ■ Fed WX ■ HRLP

- Appraised vs tax value of home
- Maximum loan amounts
- Ability to transfer loans to qualified people

# Program Challenges



# Workforce development achievements

## Weatherization Workforce Roadmap for Washington State

Prepared by:  
Alan Hardcastle, Ph.D.  
Senior Research Manager

March 2020



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## WEATHERIZATION CAREERS WASHINGTON

### Why start a career in weatherization?

- Earn competitive wages while you learn – the cost of your training is covered.
- Paid benefits can include health care, retirement, vacation, and sick leave.
- Choose a career pathway that is technical or administrative, depending on your interest.
- Your skills and experience move with you anywhere in the country. Since 1976, weatherization has grown into a multibillion-dollar industry, with work in every county and state.
- Your work can improve your neighborhood and help the most vulnerable residents by making their homes safer to live in and more energy-efficient.

### Do you have a...

- Willingness to learn?
- Positive attitude and strong work ethic?
- Desire to help your community and the environment?

Then a career in weatherization may be a good fit for you!

### Sample Career Pathway depending on experience and qualifications



### Average Washington Wages based on a 40-hour work week. These wages are averages and may vary by agency.



**Retrofit Installer Technician**  
Installs home energy-saving upgrades  
\$18.50/hr. or \$38,480/yr.



**Crew Leader**  
Supervises installation of home energy-saving upgrades  
\$20.50/hr. or \$42,640/yr.



**Energy Auditor**  
Examines homes to identify energy-saving upgrades  
\$24.50/hr. or \$50,960/yr.



**Quality Control Inspector**  
Ensures quality and completion of installed energy-saving upgrades  
\$25.50/hr. or \$53,040/yr.



**Client Intake Specialist**  
Confirms client eligibility for the program  
\$18.50/hr. or \$38,480/yr.



**WAP Program Manager**  
Oversees program staff, planning, and performance.  
\$29.00/hr. or \$60,320/yr.

### Find a weatherization agency near you:

<http://wacommerce.staging.wspingrhe.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/HR-Weatherization-County-Local-Agency-List-3-2-13.pdf>

February 2022



# Workforce development priorities

- Develop and share career resources

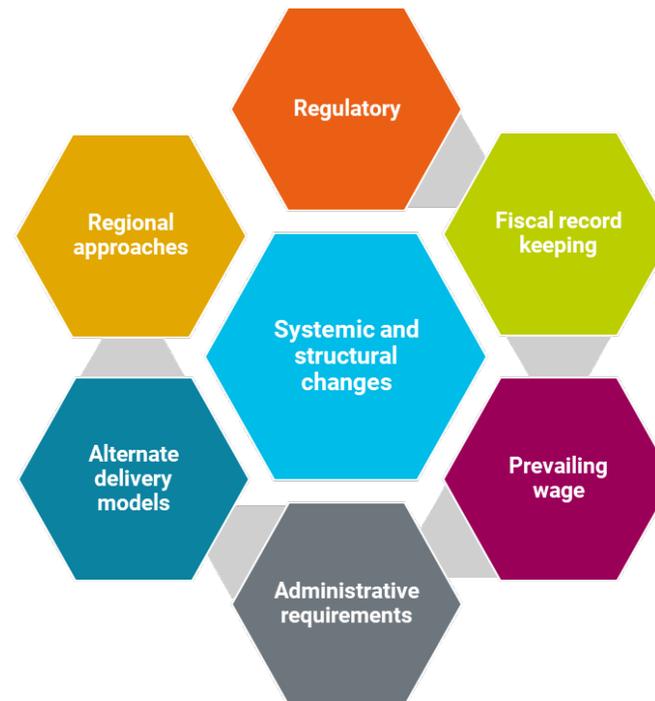


## GET STARTED

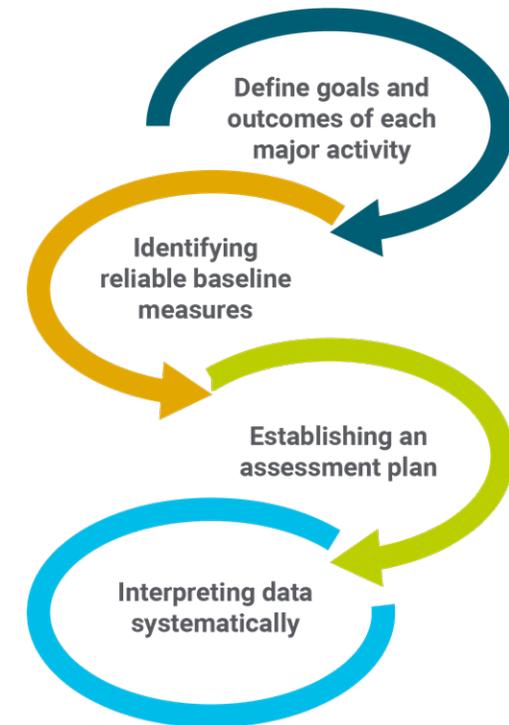
Careers in weatherization offer...

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- benefits that can include health care, retirement, vacation, and sick leave.
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- skills and experience that move with you anywhere in the country. Weatherization is a multibillion-dollar industry, with work in every county and state.
- work that can improve your neighborhood and help the most vulnerable residents by making their homes safer to live in and more energy-efficient.

- Enhance activities



- Measure outcomes

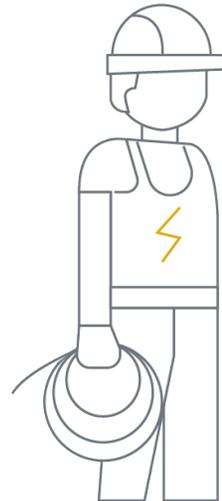


# WX Measure availability

- Window orders are two to three months behind

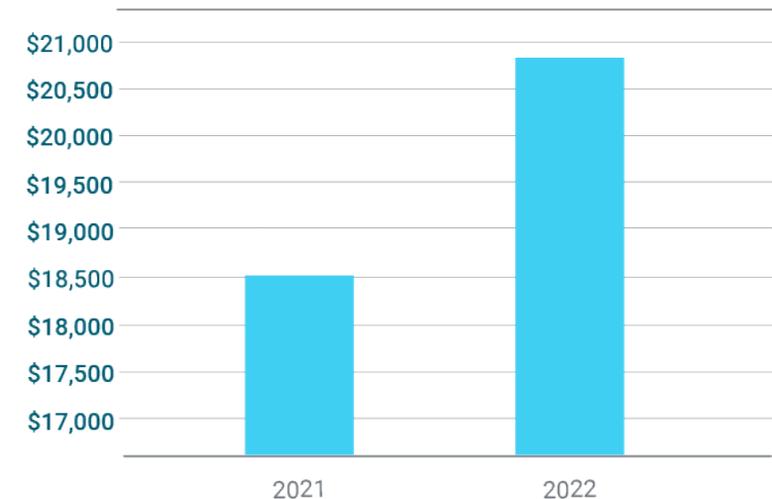


- Electricians inability to deliver in a timely manner



Our average material/labor has increased over the past year

Average Single Family Cost



# Program Opportunities



# FY23 Weatherization program opportunities

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- Implementing our Workforce Development Plan
- DOE Regional Priority Lists
- Categorical eligibility for HUD programs
- BIL funding multi-family program
- Piloting solar as a weatherization measure
- Statewide Plus Health program
- Expanded activities for State Wx+H program
  - Weatherization readiness
  - Fuel switch from oil and propane to electric
  - Tribal home rehabilitation (still in pilot phase)

# FY23 Weatherization program opportunities

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- **Needs assessment for energy efficiency services for low-income household and overburdened communities**
  - **Task 1:** Comprehensively assess the needs for providing building energy efficiency services to low-income and overburdened communities.
  - **Task 2:** Assess the strengths and limitations of the existing building energy services and delivery systems
  - **Task 3:** Identify viable opportunities and options to meet state energy strategy goals for scaling up building energy efficiency services to equitably serve low-income populations by creating a detailed implementation plan.

# Thank you!

Seth Kolodziejski

POLICY & CONTRACTS SECTION SUPERVISOR

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SECTION SUPERVISOR

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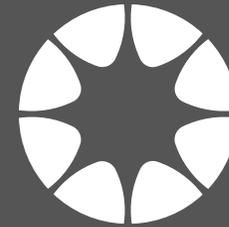
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Department of  
**Commerce**

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