

# **BPA's Low Income Energy Efficiency Grant Program**

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## Background

- Grant program originated in the years following the first Power Act
- The 1983 and 1986 Power Plans called BPA into action
  - “Ensure that the residential weatherization program operates reliably across all segments of the existing residential sector, including achieving penetration rates into low income and rental housing at least in proportion to their share if the service territory of each utility operating the Bonneville program.” (1986 Power Plan)



## Background

- BPA responded to the Power Act by establishing the grant program
- BPA (as an agency under DOE) piggy backed on the DOE program: The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- The program was well established, successful, and had a network of local community agencies already in place. This made it very efficient for BPA to piggy back on, and to leverage funding from other sources



# Low Income Energy Efficiency Grant Program

- Public purpose program funded through IPR process and set by the Administrator. Separate process and funding mechanism as the EE acquisition program
- \$5.2 million dollar annual budget
- In 1999, \$500,000 (of the \$5M) was set aside to be directly distributed from BPA for the “Tribal Set Aside” program
- Remaining 4.6 million is distributed to states in the form of grants



# Grant Program Implementation

- BPA administers 2-year grants to the states of WA, OR, MT, ID
- The states contract out the funding to local Community Action Agencies (CAAs). Also referred to as CAPs (Community Action Programs)
- BPA also collects quarterly reports on units served under the program



# Grant Program Implementation

## Oversight:

- The states and CAAs are monitored by DOE, and adhere to all DOE's requirements including; training standards, audits and inspections, monitoring, file management, and cost effective criteria referred to as the SIR (savings to investment ratio)
- BPA also reserves the right to audit the program at any time



# Grants Compliment DOE program

- Grants follow the DOE program with the exception of the following
  - 30% for health and safety (DOE is 15%)
  - 30% for LIWx repairs (DOE 15%)
  - Allows for some appliances
  - No age requirement for dwelling
  - Can return to unit as many times as necessary
  - Must be in BPA customer territory and be an electrically heated home



# DOE Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

- Established in 1976
- Very successful, over 7 million homes served
- Provides guidance
  - Quality Management Plan
  - Health and Safety (Weatherization Plus Health)
  - Workforce Tools and Resources
  - Quality Work Plan
  - Allowable costs and supplies
  - Application and Reporting Requirements





# Cost Effective vs. Program Costs

- All measures implemented as part of the BPA grant program and the DOE program are cost effective measures
- The programs itself is a higher cost program because of the dollar for dollar reimbursement and the related expenses of weatherizing low income homes.



# Resources for DOE WAP program

- [www.waptac.org](http://www.waptac.org)
- [www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-assistance-program](http://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-assistance-program)



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