



## INNOVATION GRANTS

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) offers [competitive innovation grants](#) to disseminate best practices and scale innovation to the formula WAP.

### Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers Grants

The competitive Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) grants provide opportunities for local WAP providers to expand the Program to include materials, renewable, and domestic energy technologies not traditionally included within the WAP scope while reducing energy costs for low-income households.

SERC grants are authorized per [Title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 \(EISA\), Section 411\(b\) \(Pub. L. 110-140, title IV, §411\(b\), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1600.](#)

If WAP-appropriated funds exceed **\$275 million**, the DOE Secretary may elect to use up to two (2) percent of the amount of funds made available for SERC grants. This provision authorizes local weatherization providers to expand the Program for *"materials, benefits, and renewable and domestic energy technologies not currently covered."*

An illustrative list of materials and technologies includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Air source heat pumps
- Solar photovoltaic systems
- Solar hot water heaters
- Solar thermal air systems (space heating)
- Distributed energy storage
- Heat pump water heaters
- Geothermal heat pumps
- Cool roofs



## SERC Grants | Key Benefits

The WAP SERC grants are not subject to the **Average Cost per Dwelling Unit (ACPU)** or the **Savings to Investment Ratio (SIR)** requirements of the WAP formula program. The requirements under [10 CFR 440.18](#) and [10 CFR 440.21](#) apply only to funds provided under the formula WAP grant.

## Funding and Projects

Through Fiscal Years 2020-2023 appropriations, DOE reserved approximately **\$23 million for SERC Grants**. In addition, DOE reserved **\$70 million** for SERC grants from the \$3.5 billion appropriated for WAP through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

SERC Funding	PY 2022 Round 1	PY 2023 Round 2	BIL Funds
Total Available Funding	\$6 million	\$15.2 million	\$70 million
Total Grants Awarded	5 grants	10 grants	TBD

## Enhancement & Innovation Grants

Within [Section 1011\(e\) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, \(Public Law 116-260, signed December 27, 2020\)](#), Congress directed DOE to establish a competitive program for WAP Enhancement & Innovation (E&I).

The focus of the WAP E&I grants are to:

- Increase the number of dwelling units occupied by low-income persons that receive weatherization assistance by making such dwelling units weatherization-ready.
- Promote the deployment of renewable energy in dwelling units that are occupied by low-income persons.
- Ensure healthy indoor environments by enhancing or expanding health and safety measures and resources available to dwellings that are occupied by low-income persons.
- Disseminate new methods and best practices among entities providing weatherization assistance.
- Encourage entities providing weatherization assistance to hire and retain employees who are individuals –
  - From the community in which the assistance is provided; and
  - From communities or groups that are underrepresented in the home energy performance workforce, including religious and ethnic minorities, women, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and individuals who are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

The WAP E&I competitive grants are open to current WAP Grantees and Subgrantees, and other nonprofit entities. Through partnerships and leveraging of the DOE WAP and other funding sources, the E&I projects enable deep energy retrofits of low-income housing.

## E&I Grants | Key Benefits

The WAP E&I grants are not subject to the **ACPU** and **SIR** requirements of the WAP formula program. The requirements under [10 CFR 440.18](#) and [10 CFR 440.21](#) apply only to funds provided under the formula WAP grant.

## Funding and Projects

Within the first round of E&I grants, **\$37.9 million were awarded to 21 organizations** with a maximum award amount of \$2 million. Through the BIL funding, WAP has an additional **\$25 million** to allocate towards BIL E&I grants.

