STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ANNUAL STATE PLAN

AUGUST 17, 2026

STATE ENERGY OFFICE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS 4
Background and Summary 4
Public Comments and Responses Thereto 5
Conclusion 8
Hearing Officer's Recommendation 8
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 8
Introduction 8
Hearing Officer Appointment 9
Public Notice 10
Transcript 12
DOCUMENTS TO FILE 13
ADOPTED PLAN 14

SUMMARIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this hearing report is to outline proceedings for the proposed adoption of the *"State of North Carolina Weatherization Assistance Program, Annual State Plan," "Training and Technical Assistance Plan," "Weatherization Installation Standard Work Specifications,"* and the *"Health and Safety Plan."*

Background and Summary

The goal of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is to install energy conservation measures in the homes of income-eligible persons, especially homes occupied by the elderly, persons with disabilities, children, and high energy burden users. Funds are applied to the most cost-effective conservation measures, which are determined by conducting an on-site energy audit of the dwelling. Energy conservation measures funded through the program may range from air sealing and insulating single-family homes to replacing hearing systems, windows, and doors. WAP assistance is eligible in all types of housing units, including both single and multi-family housing, manufactured housing and group homes. The program is not geographically limited and provides services in each of North Carolina's 100 counties.

The North Carolina State Energy Office (NCSEO) implements WAP through a network of local providers with expertise in energy conservation. These subgrantees provide energy conservation services using their own trained crews or by contracting work to qualified contractors. To achieve a successful WAP program, NCSEO plans to improve programmatic processes to increase the number of weatherized homes. The plan is necessary to receive funding during the state fiscal year 2026-2027.

NOTE: One process to improve the NC Weatherization Assistance Program was to streamline the State Plan by including information that the U.S. Department of Energy required in the *Annual File and Master File*. Text that what describe operational procedures was placed in its own document entitled *WAP Standard Operating Procedures Manual.*

Pursuant to 10 CFR 440.17, *Policy Advisory Council*, the state's WAP advisory council, met on August 13, 2026, to review key components of the state plan. Active members of the advisory council contained backgrounds that: (1) solve problems of low-income persons through weatherization and energy conservation measures; (2) are representative of organizations and agencies, including consumer groups that represent low-income persons, particularly elderly and handicapped low-income persons in the state; and (3) have responsibility for advising the North Carolina WAP regarding program implementation.

In accordance with 10 CFR 440.14, *State Plans*, requires a State to provide at least 10 days' notice prior to conducting a public hearing. The public comment period for the hearing began on August 5, 2025, by providing notice through the News & Observer newspaper and posting on the Department of Environmental Quality's webpage.

A hybrid public hearing was held in the DEQ green Square Office Building, 1st Floor Training Room (1210), on April 17, 2025, concerning the *State of North Carolina Weatherization*

Assistance Program Annual State Plan, along with additional attachments associated with the plan. Melanie Stolp, Weatherization Program Manager of the NCSEO, was appointed and acted as the hearing officer during the hearing.

Public Comments and Responses Thereto

PY 26-26 (FY27) Public Comments/Questions	Answers
Training Plan	
Regarding subcontractor training requirements: The proposed plan requires subcontractors to take several days worth of weatherization specific training that, in most cases, is unrelated to the work they perform. Larger companies could be required to send upwards of 30 staff to these trainings with no way to compensate for the labor rate. A small company would be just as burdened as they could be looking at taking half or all of their staff out of the field in order to take these trainings, again with no way to make up for the labor wages. In both cases, the companies would be forced to stop production and lose income by taking staff out of the field, again with no way to be compensated. The Training Plan also puts unnecessary requirements on subgrantee staff. I see the value in the required training for newer staff, but there should be more waivers available for tenured staff members. Why should someone who has been completing weatherization work for 8yrs have to go and get the most basic of BPI certifications like BA-T? I personally have been working in weatherization for 16+ years, as written, the plan would require me to take Retrofit Installer Tech, IDL, BA-T, and BA-P. Again, I see the value for new staff but these sorts of elementary classes are not a good use of time for long serving staff members. More trainings need to be included in the waiver.	Thank you for your comment. In response to this feedback, SEO has modified the Training Plan by removing the requirement for subcontractors to complete the trainings. The requirement for subgrantee staff remains.

Sub Contractor Training requirements: Page 6 Technical trades such as HVAC, Electrical and Plumbing require their own certifications, trainings and licenses from the state. The licenses must be renewed and also require continuing education. The only requirement I can see that would be beneficial is the RRP. We hire these particular trades for there knowledge and expertise in their fields. Basic Weatherization and BSP would not be beneficial from my stand point. With the HVAC side they are not allowed to perform there own duct leakage test. I can see the benefit of these trainings for our Shell Contractors, we also require them to have their RRP but it is not required on this list. We should also be able to compensate their time for these trainings. Most of our shell crews are small businesses and cannot afford to be out of work for weeks at a time. It is a difficult task to find shell contractors and we do not want to lose any due to requirements.	
Remove "lock out/tag out" wording from retrofit installer on page 20.	Wording has been removed from the example form.
Health and Safety Plan	
I urge the State Energy Office to ensure that the Health and Safety Plan portion of this macro-allocation remains flexible enough to allow local contractors to address vital structural readiness issues—such as minor roof repairs or mold mitigation—so that homes are not deferred or disqualified from receiving energy-saving improvements.	Items that readiness funds can be used for are outlined in the State Plan.
State Plan	
As a resident of the Piedmont Triad region, I want to emphasize the critical importance of robust funding allocations for our local service provider, the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC). Our regional footprint spans eight diverse counties, including several rural areas, where lowerincome families, elderly residents, and individuals with disabilities face disproportionately high energy burdens. I strongly support the continuation and expansion of	Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) is an awarded subgrantee in the State Plan for fiscal year 26-27. Funding allocations have been determined using county and poverty data to ensure predictable baselines required to meet the high demand for weatherization services.

federal funding formulas that ensure PTRC has the predictable baseline resources required to meet the high demand for home air sealing, insulation, and HVAC upgrades in our communities.	
Dispute resolution on page 39 says "Homes and Hear" rather than Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	Wording has been corrected
Wording on page 36 in the Program Budget section regarding the percentage of administration is unclear. Is it 7.5% of total costs or of the 15% administrative costs?	Wording has been updated in the State Plan to clarify that it is 7.5% of total costs, not of the 15% administrative costs
Person County was included with Central Pines Regional Council rather than Piedmonth Triad Regional Council per the RFP submission	Person county has been delegated to Central Pines Regional Council, the state plan confirms this
Applicant referrels specifically for the regions previously allocated to Economic Improvement Council, Choanoke Area Development Association, and Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills to promote continuity of service for applicants who have previously applied	The only region that is not currently designated is the region previously allocated to Choanoke Area Development Association. NCSEO plans to allocate this region to an existing subgrantee after the contracting process. All applicant files (digital and print) from previous subgrantees will be transferred to the respecitve agency upon contracting.
Regarding standardization of application: Can the entire WAP network utilize the same application?	This comment is outside the scope of the public hearing
Can there be streamlined applicant integration between EnergySaver NC and Weatherization Assistsance Program?	This comment is outside the scope of the public hearing
Can "high energy use" criterion be expanded to include residents that don't have electric heating and instead rely on gas, propane, wood, or another fuel?	Overall energy use is taken into consideration when defining high energy use.
Subgrantee Specific Comments	
Regarding the fitness of the following agencies to serve as subgrantees, specifically their ability to adhere to and meet fiscal and programmatic requirements. Agencies mentioned include: Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA), the Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission (BROC), Central Pines	This comment is outside the scope of the public hearing

Regional Council, Yadkin Valley Economic Development District (YVEDDI)	

Conclusion

Overall, 2 commenters provided feedback on the *State of North Carolina Weatherization Assistance Program Annual State Plan*, along with additional attachments associated with the plan. Commenters included members of the public and local community action agency.

As a result of the comments, changes include training guidelines for subgrantees, minor typos and technical errors, and updated subgrantee information.

Hearing Officer's Recommendation

The Hearing Officer recommends that the proposed plan of this hearing report be adopted by the USDOE.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

The Department of Environmental Quality, State Energy Office, held hybrid public hearings on April 17, 2025, at 1 p.m. at DEQ Green Square 1st Floor Training Room (1210) located at 217 West Jones Street Raleigh, NC, 27603.

The hearing considered the proposed *"State of North Carolina, Weatherization Assistance Program, Annual State Plan."* In addition, consideration of the companying revised attachments titled, *"Training and Technical Assistance Plan," "Health & Safety Plan,"* and *"Weatherization Installation Standard Work Specifications"* for the proposed adoption. Public comments were accepted between August 5, 2026, through August 19, 2026.

A public notices announcing the hearing was published in the August 5, 2026, *"News and Observer"* statewide newspaper at least ten days before the public hearing, and the proposed plan text for the hearing was posted on the North Carolina State Energy Office's website at least ten days before the public hearing in accordance with 10 CFR 440.

The projected effective date for the material presented in each hearing is projected to be July 1, 2026.

Hearing Officer Appointment

JOSH STEIN
Governor
D. REID WILSON
Secretary
JULIE WOOSLEY
Director

NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

August 14, 2026

To: Melanie Stolp

From: Julie Woosley

Subject: Hearing Officer Appointment

A hybrid public hearing has been scheduled for August 17, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the Department of Environmental Quality, Green Square Building, 1st Floor Training Room (1210), 217 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603, to receive public comments on the proposed "State of North Carolina Weatherization Assistance Plan Program Year 2027" and related documents. The attached public notice describes the hearing's purpose.

I am hereby appointing you as the hearing officer for this hearing. You will receive all relevant public comments and report your findings and recommendations to the State Energy Office in a hearing record. You and Weatherization Assistance Program Staff will assist in this process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Julie Woosley, at (919) 707-8374.

Julie Woosley, SEO Director

8/14/2026
Date

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | State Energy Office
217 West Jones Street | 4345 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4345
919.707.8778

Public Notice

NC Department of Environmental Quality: Published Public Notice

DEQ State Energy Office to hold public hearing on Weatherization Assistance Program annual plan

August 17, 2026

RALEIGH - DEQ will hold a public hearing on Aug. 17 to accept public comments on the Weatherization Assistance Program's Annual State Plan. The plan describes the administration of the program for Fiscal Year 2027, as required by federal regulations. Members of the public are invited to attend in person or online.

The Weatherization Assistance Program saves North Carolinians energy, reduces utility bills and increases home comfort and safety. The program provides free weatherization services for income-eligible households.

DEQ will also receive comments on the accompanying revised Training and Technical Assistance Plan, Health and Safety Plan, and Weatherization Installation Standard Work Specifications.

Event: Public hearing on the Weatherization Assistance Program's Annual State Plan
When: Monday, Aug. 17, 2026, 1 p.m.
Where: DEQ Green Square Office Building, Training Room #1210, 217 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603
Join via Webex: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=ma6f4f2a254013b127dbc2e4d0019341b
Meeting Number/Access Code: 2437 147 5395
Meeting Password: weatherization (93284374 when dialing from a phone)
Join by telephone: +1-415-655-0003 US Toll, +1-904-900-2303 United States Toll (Jacksonville)

Public Comment Period Aug. 5-19

Public comments can also be:

Mailed to the DEQ Weatherization Assistance Program, 1613 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1613.

Emailed to seo.publiccomments@deq.nc.gov, with "2026 Weatherization Comment" in the subject line.

The public comment period is open beginning Aug. 5, 2026, through Aug. 19, 2026. To be included in the hearing record, all comments must be postmarked, emailed or received by SEO (if delivered in person) no later than Aug. 19, 2026.

News & Observer: Published Public Notice (Publisher's Affidavit)

McClatchy

The Beaufort Gazette
The Belleville News-Democrat
Bellingham Herald
Centre Daily Times
Sun Herald
Idaho Statesman
Bradenton Herald
The Charlotte Observer
The State
Ledger-Enquirer
Durham | The Herald-Sun
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
The Fresno Bee
The Island Packet
The Kansas City Star
Lexington Herald-Leader
The Telegraph - Macon
Merced Sun-Star
Miami Herald
El Nuevo Herald
The Modesto Bee
The Sun News - Myrtle Beach
Raleigh News & Observer
Rock Hill | The Herald
The Sacramento Bee
San Luis Obispo Tribune
Tacoma | The News Tribune
Tri-City Herald
The Wichita Eagle
The Olympian

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Cols	Depth
66504	IPL0363134	Legal Ad - IPL0363134	NC DEQ Weatherization	1.0	54.0L

ATTENTION: NC Dept of Environmental Quality State Energy Ofc
217 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603
sascha.medina@deq.nc.gov

NC Department of Environmental Quality, State Energy Office NC Weatherization Assistance Program PUBLIC HEARING FOR NC WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ANNUAL STATE PLAN

The NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) State Energy Office (SEO) will conduct a public hearing on Aug. 17 to accept comments on the NC Weatherization Assistance Program's proposed Annual State Plan. The plan describes the administration of the program for Fiscal Year 2027, as required by federal regulations. DEQ will also receive comments on the accompanying Training and Technical Assistance Plan, Health and Safety Plan, and Weatherization Installation Standard Work Specifications.

The Weatherization Assistance Program saves North Carolinians energy, reduces utility bills and increases home comfort and safety. The program provides free weatherization services for income-eligible households.

Members of the public are invited to join in person at the DEQ Green Square Office Building, 217 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603, or online. For information on how to join virtually via Webex and access associated documentation, please visit: www.deq.nc.gov/wap-hearings.

Public comments can also be mailed to the DEQ Weatherization Assistance Program, 1613 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1613, or emailed to seo.publiccomments@deq.nc.gov, with "2026 Weatherization Comment" in the subject line.

The public comment period is open beginning Aug. 5, 2026, through Aug. 19, 2026. To be included in the hearing record, all comments must be postmarked, emailed or received by SEO (if delivered in person) no later than Aug. 19, 2026.

IPL0363134
Aug 5 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE, COUNTY OF DURHAM

Before the undersigned, a Notary duly commissioned and authorized to administer oaths, affirmations, etc., personally appeared the undersigned, who being duly sworn or affirmed, according to law, doth depose and say that he or she is Accounts Receivable Specialist of the News & Observer Publishing Company, a corporation organized and doing business under the Laws of the State of North Carolina, and publishing a newspaper known as The News & Observer, Wake and State aforesaid, the said newspaper in which such notice, paper, document, or legal advertisement was published was, at the time of each and every such publication, a newspaper meeting all of the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and was a qualified newspaper within the meaning of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and that as such he or she makes this affidavit; and is familiar with the books, files and business of said corporation and by reference to the files of said publication the attached advertisement was inserted in the aforesaid newspaper on dates as follows:

1.0 insertion(s) published on:
08/05/26 Print

Print Tearsheet Link

Marketplace Link

Sherry Chasteen

Sherry Chasteen

Amanda Rodela

Sworn to and subscribed before me on Aug 5, 2026, 10:28 AM EDT

AMANDA RODELA
ELECTRONIC NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS
COMMISSION # 135111302
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 4/15/2029

Online Notary Public. This notarial act involved the use of online audio/video communication technology. Notarization facilitated by SIGNiX®

Transcript

A transcript of the April 17, 2025, Raleigh hybrid public hearing is available as a separate attachment and a video recording of the proceeding will be kept on file with the North Carolina State Energy Office (NCSEO) for one year from the date of the final actions by the North Carolina Weatherization Assistance Program.

A list of those who attended Raleigh hearing whether in-person or online are listed below

Hearing Officer:

Melanie Stolp

In-Person and Virtual Staff Members of the NCSEO or other state employees at the Raleigh hearing:

Sascha Medina	Julie Woosley	Helen Hossley
Noelle Keister	Pablo Torres	

In-Person or Virtual member of the General Public:

Brian Riley	Daniel Pate	LaTosha Gibson
Scout Yokley	Ricardo Saines	Meech Carter
Katie Grelck		

Last Names Not Reported
Bob
Laura
Magda
Marinel
Brsyndin
Hannah

DOCUMENTS TO FILE

The following documentation is incorporated as part of this hearing record by reference. However, the materials are maintained on file for a period of 7 years.

1. Confirmation of purchase of materials submitted to the News & Observer
2. Recording of the public hearing and the associated transcript
3. Meeting minutes for the August 13, 2026, Policy Advisory Council

ADOPTED PLAN

The proposed "*Annual State Plan*" with changes made in response to public comments received during the public comment period follows. There are no changes to the accompanying plans. The accompanying plans have been uploaded to PAGE.

Formatting Key

For Changes Due to Public Comments:

Text = deleted text

Text = added text