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PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES  
TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE  
ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
IN LOW- AND MODERATE-  
INCOME COMMUNITIES

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Building on the Administration's [initiative to increase access to solar energy for all Americans](#), and recognizing the importance of ensuring that the communities most likely to be impacted by climate change must also share in the benefits a clean energy future, today, President Obama is creating an **Interagency Task Force to Promote a Clean Energy Future for All**, which will work in partnership with states and community organizations to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and scale up the deployment renewable energy in low- and moderate- income communities. The Task Force, whose participants include the Executive Office of the President, DOE, EPA, HUD, USDA, DOL, and Treasury, will work to enhance this shared goal through three key mechanisms: leveraging EPA's clean energy incentive program; enhancing federal resources for low-and moderate income communities; and identifying private sector and foundation support.

To ensure all interested parties are aware of the breadth of Federal resources already available to increase the deployment of renewable energy and promote energy efficiency, the Administration is releasing this summary. Energy efficiency and renewable programs create jobs both directly, as crews are needed to install the measures themselves, and indirectly, as energy savings get redirected back into the general economy. Weatherization and other energy efficiency efforts can have significant additional health and safety benefits for the retrofitted households. And beyond the participating households, there are important non-participant benefits including lower system-wide costs, less pollution, and increased reliability and energy security.

## **FEDERAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTTING THE DEPLOYMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN LOW- AND MODERATE INCOME COMMUNITIES**

### ***Department of Energy***

- **State Energy Program (SEP):** SEP provides funding and technical assistance to state and territory energy offices to help them advance their clean energy economy while contributing to national energy goals. SEP also provides leadership to maximize the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy in each state through communications and outreach activities and technology deployment, and by providing access to new partnerships and resources.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP):** WAP offers grants to states, territories, and Indian tribes to improve the energy efficiency of the homes of low-income families. These governments, in turn, contract with local governments and nonprofit agencies to provide weatherization services to those in need using the latest technologies for home energy upgrades. Since the program began in 1976, the Department of Energy (DOE) has helped improve the lives of than 7 million families, lowering their energy bills on average by \$250 to \$450 per year. In addition to funding, WAP provides training and technical assistance to states and their subcontractors. Weatherization service providers must follow a rigorous, sophisticated whole-home analysis for each home and consider a comprehensive series of energy efficiency measures, as well as an all-around health and safety check. As a result of these requirements, WAP is helping to advance home energy science and grow a new industry providing home energy efficiency services.
- **Home Energy Score:** The Home Energy Score is similar to a vehicle's miles-per-gallon rating. It helps homeowners and homebuyers understand how much energy a home is expected to use and provides suggestions for improving its energy efficiency. It also allows homeowners to compare the energy performance of their homes to other homes nationwide. The Home Energy Score includes: 1) the Score itself, 2) facts about the home including data collected and energy use breakdown, and 3) recommendations to improve the Score and the energy efficiency of the home.

- **National Community Solar Partnership:** Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in collaboration with HUD, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), representatives from solar companies, NGOs, and state and community leaders launched a National Community Solar Partnership to unlock access to solar for the nearly 50 percent of households and business that are renters or do not have adequate roof space to install solar systems. The partnership will leverage the interest in the public and private sector to expand access to community solar, in particular, for low- and moderate- income communities, while utilizing the technical expertise of DOE and the National Laboratories.
- **Community Renewable Energy guide:** The DOE SunShot Initiative and the National Renewable Energy Lab released a [new guide](#), which answers key program design questions collected from states that have implemented shared solar policies and programs around the country. The guide explains how shared solar polices work in conjunction with other polices and provides links to relevant shared solar publications.
- **Better Buildings Multifamily Program:** Through the Better Buildings Challenge, the DOE and Housing and Urban Development are partnering with both market rate and affordable housing owners as well as public housing agencies to cut energy waste and help families save on their utility bills. Through the Challenge expansion announced in December 2013, 50 multifamily partners – representing roughly 200,000 units and over 190 million square feet – have committed to cutting their energy use by 20 percent in ten years.
- **Quadrennial Energy Review:** In April 2015, Vice President Biden and Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Moniz announced the release of the first installment of the Quadrennial Energy Review (QER), a series of reports to develop a comprehensive and integrated energy strategy through interagency dialogue and active engagement of external stakeholders. Conducted as an interagency effort, the QER's first installment focused on energy transmission, storage, and distribution – the networks of pipelines, wires, storage, waterways, railroads, and other facilities that form the critical backbone of our energy system. The report proposed major policy recommendations to replace, expand, and modernize U.S. infrastructure. Recommendations included: enhancing natural gas safety, efficiency, and lower emissions by reducing natural gas leakage and improving the efficiency and safety of the natural gas infrastructure through support for innovative programs to upgrade natural gas distribution system performance through targeted funding to low-income consumers; reducing other air pollution from TS&D infrastructure systems, where low-income and minority households are two to three times more likely to be affected by freight-based diesel particulate pollution than the overall U.S. population; and supporting an energy-job skills training system. Future installments of the QER will place a spotlight on other key aspects of national energy policy.
- **Green Button:** The [Green Button initiative](#) is an industry-led effort that responds to a White House call-to-action to provide utility customers with easy and secure access to their energy usage information in a consumer-friendly and computer-friendly format. Customers are able to securely download their own detailed energy usage with a simple click of a literal "Green Button" on electric utilities' websites.
- **Appliance and Equipment Standards:** In 2014, DOE issued 9 proposed and 10 final energy conservation standards for appliances and equipment. In total, those final rules are expected to reduce emissions by more than 350 million metric tons by 2030. Building on this momentum, DOE has proposed 6 additional energy conservation standards so far in 2015. All together, the final

standards completed during this Administration to date will avoid more than 2.2 billion metric tons of carbon emissions by 2030, saving consumers over \$480 billion on their utility bills through 2030. The Administration remains on track to meet the Climate Action Plan's goal of cutting 3 billion metric tons of carbon pollution from these energy savings measures by 2030.

- **Solar Ready Vets:** In April 2015, President Obama and DOE launched Solar Ready Vets, a program at four military bases across the country, with plans to expand to 10 bases total. This accelerated training will prepare transitioning service members for careers in the solar industry as installers, sales representatives, system inspectors, and other related occupations.

### *Environmental Protection Agency*

- **Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs:** EPA's Drinking Water and Clean Water SRFs support the financing of energy efficiency projects. The Clean Water SRF alone has provided \$1.7 billion in financial assistance to energy efficiency projects since 2009. Most assistance is provided in the form of loans at below market interest rates. Furthermore, the [Drinking Water SRF](#) assistance selection process gives priority to disadvantaged communities.
- **Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grant program:** EPA's [EWDJT](#) program provides competitive grant funding to nonprofit organizations and governmental entities to recruit, train and place unemployed and under-employed residents of solid and hazardous waste affected communities with the skills and certifications needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. Under the EWDJT program, applicants have the flexibility to develop their own training curricula based on local employers' hiring needs. Grant funds may be used to support a variety of environmental training, including training in the installation of technologies that use alternative energy, such as solar, wind, or geothermal power, or alternative fuels (e.g., biofuels), as well as supporting training that prepares formerly contaminated sites for renewable energy installation.
- **RE-Powering America's Land Initiative:** Through the [RE-Powering America's Land Initiative](#), the EPA promotes the reuse of potentially contaminated lands, landfills and mine sites for renewable energy through a combination of tailored redevelopment tools for communities and developers, as well as site-specific technical support. Many of the sites that are the focus of RE-Powering America are in low-income communities. The Initiative has a Mapper that helps identify such sites and currently contains over 66,000 sites covering in excess of 35 million acres. The Initiative also has developed Decision Trees for both solar PV and wind (developed in partnership with DOE/NREL) to help screen sites for renewable energy potential.
- **Green Power Partnership (GPP):** The [Green Power Communities](#) program (an initiative of EPA's GPP) is increasing community use of renewable electricity across the country and in low-income communities. The program is working to integrate and improve renewable energy procurement opportunities, such as Community Choice Aggregations, to provide scale and leveraged buying power for these communities. Over fifty local governments across the nation are already partnering with EPA to become Green Power Communities. GPP's Clean Energy Collaborative Procurement Initiative provides a collaborative platform to help aggregate purchases at institutions (e.g., affordable housing, schools, critical services) that are cornerstones of all communities. The initiative will work with low-income communities, and affordable housing, to use this platform and assess the collaborative solar PV opportunity with stakeholders.

- Local Climate and Energy Program:** This EPA program helps local governments meet sustainability goals with cost-effective climate change and clean energy strategies that can achieve multiple goals that benefit low-income communities, including lowering energy costs for residents and businesses, supporting local economic development, improving people's health and quality of life, and strengthening community resilience to climate change impacts. The program coordinates among federal, state, and non-governmental programs to provide comprehensive planning, policy, technical, and analytical information resources for municipal governments. Key resources include: the [Local Government Climate and Energy Strategy Series](#) (documents on energy efficiency, transportation, community planning and design, solid waste and materials management, and renewable energy); the Local Climate Action Framework (a comprehensive, step-by step website that guides local governments through the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating climate and energy programs); the Climate Showcase Communities (50 models of replicable greenhouse gas reduction projects); and webcasts and newsletters.
- Office of Sustainable Communities:** EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities provides tools, research, and [technical assistance](#) to help communities use smart growth strategies and develop in ways that are environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable. Smarter, more efficient development uses energy, water, and other resources more efficiently, which can save money on household bills. Compact development can make it easier for people to get to destinations in their neighborhood and in the region. Reducing the costs of transportation and energy reduces the overall cost of housing, which makes more homes more affordable to low-income residents.
- ENERGY STAR for Congregations:** ENERGY STAR works with individual congregations, denominations and interfaith organizations to save money through improved energy efficiency in their buildings, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Houses of worship can typically reduce energy costs and related greenhouse gas emissions by about 30% by using ENERGY STAR's free information, tools, training and tech support for strategic energy management. America's faith community has long standing ministries and programs working with low-income and overburdened citizens. [Congregations](#) can repurpose utility savings to their community mission, including programs and assistance to residents in low-income communities.
- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR:** [Home Performance](#) with ENERGY STAR (HPwES) is a national program administered by DOE in conjunction with the EPA. Unlike typical energy audit programs, the goal of HPwES is to turn recommendations into improved, more efficient, more comfortable homes. HPwES is managed by a local sponsor that recruits, trains, and provides quality assurance over home improvement contractors who deliver comprehensive home energy assessments and efficiency installations. Many homes are candidates for this program to achieve savings of 20% or more through cost-effective home improvements.
- ENERGY STAR Certified New Homes:** ENERGY STAR and its partners work together to promote the benefits and increase sales of ENERGY STAR certified homes. Homes eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR label include single-family, low- and high-rise multifamily, as well as modular and manufactured homes and public housing. Typically, [single-family](#) and low-rise multifamily homes must be at least 15% more efficient than those built to the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), and include additional energy-saving features to deliver a performance advantage of up to 30% compared to typical new homes.
- ENERGY STAR Products:** The ENERGY STAR [label](#) helps consumers and businesses identify the most energy-efficient products on the market without having to sacrifice performance. By reducing monthly bill payments, energy efficiency improvements targeted to lower income

customers can help reduce bill nonpayment or delinquency. Energy efficiency improvements can also improve community health by reducing peak energy production and corresponding emissions from electrical generating units. An investment in energy efficiency can create jobs and improve local economies by relying on local companies, contractors, and retailers to provide energy management services and energy-saving products.

- **Water Sense:** The [WaterSense Program](#) labels products that are independently certified to meet EPA's criteria to use 20% less water and perform as well as conventional models. The WaterSense label is currently available on residential toilets, bathroom faucets and faucet accessories, showerheads, flushing urinals, pre-rinse spray valves, weather-based irrigation controllers and new homes. Assisting low-income members of a community to decrease their water use by providing incentives for WaterSense labeled products or promoting water-efficient behaviors can help households to lower their water and energy bills.

### *USDA*

- **Rural Energy for America Program:** The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) which is administered through USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), has a separate grant component for Energy Audits and Renewable Energy Development Assistance (EA/REDA). This program helps increase American energy independence by increasing the private sector supply of renewable energy and decreasing demand through energy efficiency improvements. These investments can also help lower energy costs for small businesses and agricultural producers. . More information is available [here](#).
- **Rural Housing Service's Multi-Family Housing Programs:** USDA's Rural Housing Service's multi-family housing programs offer rural rental housing loans to provide affordable multi-family rental housing for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities to purchase solar energy systems.
- **USDA's High Energy Cost Grant Program:** USDA's High Energy Cost Grant Program provides financial assistance for the improvement of energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities servicing eligible rural communities with home energy costs that are over 275% of the national average. Grants under this program may be used for the acquisition, construction, installation, repair, replacement, or improvement of energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities in communities with extremely high energy costs. On-grid and off-grid renewable energy projects are eligible. This program has funded solar photovoltaic and solar water heating projects. Additional information can be found [here](#).
- **Rural Business Cooperative Service (RBS):** USDA, through the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), has partnered with three minority serving intuitions, Alcorn State University, Prairie View A&M University, and University of Texas Pan Am, to train and certify energy auditors to advance renewable energy use in low income areas. This investment not only supports workforce development but encourages the use of renewable energy, including solar, for agricultural producers and rural small businesses. RBS also worked with UPEPO to conduct workshops in North Dakota, New Mexico, Texas, Georgia, Oklahoma, Maryland, and Alaska. Through these workshops, attendees from historically underrepresented and underserved populations were educated about the impacts of renewable energy systems (including solar) and how USDA programs could assist them in their communities.

### *Department of the Treasury*

- **The New Markets Tax Credit Program/Community Development Financial Institutions:** The New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) authorizes a 39% tax credit that is spread over a 7-year period. The program attracts investors to make qualified equity investments in community development entities that invest in low-income communities. The NMTC has already provided sizable benefits to the renewable energy industry. New Markets Tax Credits have been used to finance a variety of energy related businesses including [a??] solar biomass power plant, wind power generation, and solar energy installation projects. For example, through the NMTC a large solar energy installation project has been undertaken in [Denver, Colorado](#), and another in Silver Lake City, [Utah](#).
- **Low Income Housing Tax Credit:** LIHTC can be used for energy efficiency upgrades.
- **Investment Tax Credit:** The Internal Revenue Code provides an investment tax credit (“ITC”) for certain energy property.
  - The ITC amount is 30 percent of eligible basis for solar, fuel cell and small wind property placed in service by December 31, 2016, and 10 percent for microturbine and combined heat and power system property and geothermal property.
  - The Administration’s Fiscal Year 2016 Budget proposals include various extensions and enhancements of the ITC and other tax incentives available to renewable energy. Specifically the FY 2016 Budget includes a proposal that would permanently extend the ITC. Furthermore, it contains a proposal that would make the energy production tax credit (PTC) available to solar facilities, allow the PTC to be available for electricity consumed on-site (rather than requiring third party sales), and make the credit refundable. This last point ensures the full incentive is available regardless of tax liability.
- **QECBs (Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds).** The 2009 Recovery Act authorized \$3.2 billion of qualified energy conservation bonds. A Federal subsidy of up to 70 percent of the interest reduces the issuers’ borrowing costs on these taxable bonds. The issuer can choose to receive this borrowing subsidy either through a direct cash subsidy from the U.S. Government paid to the issuer or through Federal income tax credits provided to investors in the bonds. These bonds may finance a broad range of qualified conservation purposes, including rural development programs, projects to reduce energy consumption in public buildings, green community programs, research, mass commuting projects, and demonstration projects. Authority to issue these lower-cost bonds was allocated among States and large local governments, based on population. A significant amount of this authority remains available. The Administration has conducted outreach with State green banks to raise awareness about this lower-cost financing option for energy conservation initiatives.
- **New CREBs (New Clean Renewable Energy Bonds).** The 2009 Recovery Act authorized \$2.4 billion of new clean renewable energy bonds. A Federal subsidy of up to 70 percent of the interest reduces the issuers’ borrowing costs on these taxable bonds. The issuer can choose to receive this borrowing subsidy either through a direct cash subsidy from the U.S. Government paid to the issuer or through Federal income tax credits provided to investors in the bonds. A broad range of qualified renewable energy facilities, including wind and solar projects, may be financed with these bonds for State and local governments, public power providers, and cooperative electric companies. The Treasury Department and the IRS recently, announced an application process to reallocate over \$1.39 billion of unused available bond volume issuance authority for these bonds. See Notice 2015–12, 2015–10 IRB 700 (March 9, 2015).

*Department of Housing and Urban Development*

- **Residential PACE Guidance:** Today, the President announced FHA will allow homeowners to benefit from energy efficiency improvements while preserving the marketability of properties with PACE loans. FHA will make financing available for single family homes with existing subordinated Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loans as long as they meet certain conditions. PACE is an innovative way to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to buildings. Property owners receive financing for energy efficiency upgrades, which are repaid as a property tax assessment for up to 20 years. While PACE-enabling legislation has been enacted in 30 states plus Washington, D.C., this financing option has not been well-integrated with the mortgage markets, thereby limiting its traction in the marketplace. FHA will provide guidance to lenders that will outline the conditions under which FHA-insured mortgages may be used to finance properties with existing PACE liens.
- **Energy Efficient Home Program and Home Energy Score** The President also announced an amendment to FHA's Energy Efficient Home (EEH) program which allows consumers to qualify for a higher loan amount due to cost savings associated with energy efficiency improvements. FHA will provide flexible underwriting to recognize the reduced costs of utilities when those costs are established through the use of the DOE Home Energy Score. DOE's new Home Energy Score is a low-cost, reliable method for estimating the energy use of a home. The score is the equivalent of an automobile's easily-understood "miles per gallon" label for homes. The score measures the energy efficiency of homes on a scale of 1-10. FHA will be providing a two-percentage-point "stretch ratio" for FHA-insured mortgages on homes that achieve a score of at least 6. This means that FHA borrowers will be able to borrow slightly more when they buy or refinance a home with an above-average Home Energy Score.
- **Single Family FHA Energy Efficient Financing Options:** FHA offers a range of financing options to assist homebuyers and homeowners who wish to invest in energy efficiency improvements. First, the FHA 203(k) rehabilitation loan program allows borrowers to purchase or refinance a home and include energy efficiency improvements such as insulation, double pane windows, etc., in the cost of rehabilitation. Buyers may finance the purchase price and all repair costs with one new loan. FHA's solar and wind technologies policy allows borrowers to add the cost of a solar- and wind-driven energy system improvements to the loan amount as long as these enhancements meet certain conditions. Similarly, FHA's weatherization policy allows borrowers to finance up to \$3,500 to pay for basic weatherization items as part of a standard FHA loan. Consumers may use these funds to finance thermostats, insulation, storm windows and doors, weather-stripping and caulking, and similar improvements. And through the Energy Efficient Mortgage Program, FHA borrowers may finance up to 5% of the appraised value of a home to invest in energy efficiency improvements as long as the energy savings are more than the cost of the improvements.
- **Administration Goal To Install 300 Megawatts Of Renewable Energy in Federally Subsidized Housing:** In the Climate Action Plan, the President set a goal of installing 100 megawatts (MW) of solar and other types of renewable energy in Federally subsidized housing. The Administration has already surpassed that goal, through commitments to install more than 185 MW of renewable energy. Last month, the Administration announced that the Administration is tripling its current goal and setting a new goal to install 300 MW of renewable energy on affordable by 2020, as well as expanding the goal to include community and shared solar installations. Since one of the largest barriers to deploying onsite solar on affordable housing is the lack of knowledge on how to initiate the process. To overcome this barrier, HUD will offer direct technical assistance to affordable housing organizations making a commitment toward the Administration's new 300 MW goal. As part of this assistance, HUD is launching a website to provide policy guidance, tools, and other



online resources to help advance solar deployment and the installation of other renewable energy in affordable housing.

- **Renewable Energy Online Resource:** Earlier this summer, HUD launched a renewable energy online resource, which will provide policy guidance, tools, and other valuable information to help advance solar deployment and the installation of other renewable energy in affordable housing. This site also will serve as a vehicle for highlighting renewable energy commitments made under the Federal Renewable Energy Target. HUD is also offering direct technical assistance to those organizations making commitments to install renewable energy onsite.
- **Public Housing Authorities (PHA) Cost Savings:** HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing updated its utility cost reduction incentives to allow Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to share in the utility cost savings achieved through the installation of on-site renewable energy technology. All 18 PHA partners that have made a pledge towards the 100MW goal will share in the financial, social, and environmental benefits.
- **Section 108 CDBG Funding:** Last year, HUD's Community Planning and Development (CPD) office affirmed that under current guidelines, Section 108 Community Development Block Grant funding can be used for clean energy and energy efficiency projects. Already, the City of Los Angeles has utilized these funds to build the LEED Platinum New Genesis Apartments, a six-story new construction project that will provide 106 affordable apartment units. Most of these units have Section 8 Project-Based Voucher subsidies and are reserved for chronically homeless and low-income individuals with special needs.
- **Multifamily PACE Pilot in California:** Earlier this year, California Governor Jerry Brown, the MacArthur Foundation, and HUD Secretary Castro announced the launch of a PACE Financing pilot program for multifamily housing in California. The pilot program allows multifamily building owners and developers to gain access to capital to accelerate renewable energy and efficiency retrofits for energy and water. This will make existing multifamily housing more affordable to renters with low incomes and save money for consumers and taxpayers.
- **Partnership for Sustainable Communities:** On June 16, 2009, HUD, DOT, and EPA joined together to help communities nationwide improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment. The Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) works to coordinate federal housing, transportation, water, and other infrastructure investments to make neighborhoods more prosperous, allow people to live closer to jobs, save households time and money, and reduce pollution. The partnership agencies incorporate six principles of livability into federal funding programs, policies, and future legislative proposals. In 2015, one of the three key focus areas is using PSC agency resources to advance economic opportunity and mobility for every American and every community. More information is available [here](#).
- **Section 108 Toolkit:** To make it easier to use Section 108 Community Development Block Grant funds for solar energy systems, next month, HUD is releasing a renewable energy toolkit for use by Community Planning and Development (CPD) grantees. The toolkit will provide program compliance information, tools, and case study examples to help communities integrate renewable energy components such as solar photovoltaic, solar hot water, and cogeneration into the program in an efficient, cost-effective, and impactful way by using CPD funds. This action builds on an announcement last year during which, HUD's CPD office affirmed that under current guidelines,

Section 108 Community Development Block Grant funding can be used for clean energy and energy efficiency projects.

- **EPowerSaver:** FHA is planning updates to its second-mortgage program that will make it easier for homeowners to borrow up to \$25,000 for solar and energy-efficient improvements by cutting red tape and making improvements more affordable. Key features of the second mortgage program will include: 1) providing flexible underwriting to recognize the reduced cost of utilities for energy efficient homes; 2) allowing homeowners to control the disbursement of loan funds to the contractor; and 3) permitting contributions to lower out-of-pocket expenses and/or reduce borrower interest rates.
- **Clarified Policy to Pave the Way for Increased FHA Solar and Energy Efficient Financing on Federally Assisted and Insured Housing.** FHA recently clarified its policy on first mortgages to allow flexible financing options and the ability to obtain larger loan amounts for solar systems. FHA is conducting forums on the updated Single Family Handbook to help increase lender awareness of these financing options, which will be effective September 14, 2015.

#### *Department of Health and Human Services*

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Services:** LIHEAP is a capped block grant program established in 1981, which distributes funds to states, territories, and tribes. The grants are distributed through a formula that accounts for the jurisdiction's proportion of low-income households, cost and prevalence of residential heating and cooling fuel costs, and climate. Eligible households must be at or below 150% of the poverty guidelines or 60 percent of state median income, provided it's not lower than 110% of the poverty guidelines.

#### *Department of Labor*

- **ApprenticeshipUSA/\$100 Million in Apprenticeship Funds:** Energy companies, utilities, and joint labor-management organizations have joined up with ApprenticeshipUSA to develop Registered Apprenticeship programs in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) – resulting in training programs that exemplify high standards, instructional rigor and quality training. DOL's Office of Apprenticeship works with the energy industry to start apprenticeship programs, develop new "apprenticeable" occupations, and provide technical assistance in the energy field. Today, there more than 650 Registered Apprenticeship programs in the energy sector – offering job-driven training to nearly 7,900 apprentices. Apprentices are trained in a variety of high-skill energy occupations, such as electricians, linemen, wind turbine technicians, and energy auditors. To meet the future needs of the energy industry, the Department of Labor will convene leading companies and organizations in the energy industry to advance the number of apprenticeships available, plan for future occupations in the field, and to meet broader industry skill needs.