

RFA-FY20-AED-760

Questions and Answers as of January 28, 2020

The following questions have been asked of the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment regarding RFA-FY20-AED-760, “Characterizing Utility Burden among Low- and Moderate-Income District Residents.” Please see answers below.

Question: Considering the project output identified in Item #1.c on page 21. The item says that “At least some residents must have received assistance from all five utility affordability programs.” The five programs appear to be: #1 – Solar for All; #2 – Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP); #3 – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); #4 – Utility Discount Programs (UDP); and, #5 – Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC). However, it appears that CRIAC is only available to households that are NOT low-income while WAP, LIHEAP, and UDP programs are only available to households that ARE low-income. If that is true, there is no overlap between CRIAC and the WAP/LIHEAP/UDP participants. Or, is it true that low-income households can receive CRIAC in addition to UDP?

Answer: UDP provides discounted PEPCO, Washington Gas, and DC Water rates to residents with 60% or less of State Median Income (SMI). CRIAC is an extension of the DC Water component of UDP for residents with up to 100% of Area Median Income (AMI).

If an applicant applies to either UDP or CRIAC and has 60% or less SMI, that applicant is considered to be enrolled in both UDP and CRIAC. So, there is overlap between CRIAC and the WAP/LIHEAP/UDP participants. However, there is no additional benefit to low-income households that already receive UDP.

DOEE wants to understand residents who are recipients of all of the following: #1 – Solar for All; #2 – WAP; #3 – LIHEAP; and, #4 – Utility Discount Programs (at a minimum, the resident must receive the water discount and either the electric discount or gas discount).

Question: Considering the project output identified in Item #1.c on page 21. The item says that “At least some residents must have received assistance from all five utility affordability programs.” It can be challenging to match participant households across program databases. Does DOEE have one household ID that is the same in the databases for all five utility affordability programs? Or, will the applicant need to use name and address information to match across multiple databases?

Answer: There is no unique identifier across the databases. Name and address information must be used to match across datasets.

Question: In order to develop a proposed schedule for the project, it will be important to know the following: How long will it take for DOEE to furnish a data extract with information on the program participants for each program?

Answer: In your proposed schedule, please allow DOEE three weeks to furnish these data.

Question: Please clarify the RFA for the Utility Assistance Study because in the project description, DOEE notes that DOEE will “draw from existing program data to assist in the identification of current program recipients.” In thinking through our proposed research design, we believe that we could offer a stronger piece of research if we were to receive the full administrative dataset, in order to better understand the demographics of those receiving assistance, and allow for a more deliberate stratified sample for outreach. Would DOEE consider providing access to the full data to the winning applicant? If we receive the grant we would, of course, take all appropriate precautions to protect confidentiality and data security.

Answer: DOEE is open to providing data that will assist an applicant in providing quality research, but will discuss the release of these data on a field-by-field basis to ensure data sharing is done with careful consideration.

Question: Identifying some gaps in the program would come from people who need the program(s) but have not applied. Are you interested in research on households who do not receive assistance from any of the programs?

Answer: The focus of the grant is on recipients of the program and applicants should prioritize program recipients; however, if an applicant has sufficient resources to examine populations who receive none of the programs, DOEE agrees there is valuable insight to be gained from this population and believes this analysis would align with the purpose of the grant.

Question: Does DOEE have a relationship with other agencies or offices who could furnish a list of residents who participate in their programs but not in DOEE’s programs?

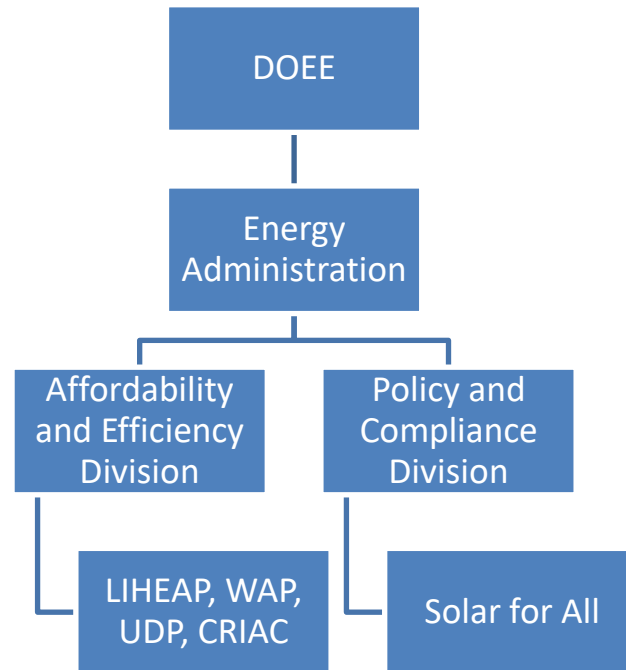
Answer: DOEE does not have any relationships we could leverage to supply a list of non-program participants.

Question: Does DOEE have formal relationships with other assistance agencies/nonprofits that provide utility assistance?

Answer: No, DOEE has informal relationships with these agencies/nonprofits.

Question: Is the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) in the same department as the other assistance programs?

Answer: All of the programs listed in the grant are in the DOEE Energy Administration. All five programs listed in the grant share staff, data, and best practices.



Question: How many application intake agencies are in the District?

Answer: DOEE has two intake agencies, one is at 1207 Taylor St NW and the other is at 2100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., SE.

Question: Can a partner participate as something other than a non-profit or university-affiliated?

Answer: DOEE suggests this may be a contractor.

Question: Can you clarify which parts of the application need to be within the page limit and which can be supplemental?

Answer: The ten page limit is a narrative that should address the scoring criteria. The one page organization description, past performance, budget, budget narrative, and resumes are not included in the 10 page limit.

Question: Would the data we collect be available for future academic publications including peer reviewed journals and [books]? It would be helpful to include the perspectives of DC residents in this research on US energy insecurity.

Answer: Yes, these data can be released after going through an internal review process.