

In The Matter Of:
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
April 10, 2019

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
PROGRAM YEAR 2019

Public Comment Hearing held at the
Connecticut Department of Energy and
Environmental Protection, 10 Franklin Square,
New Britain, Connecticut, on Wednesday, April
10, 2019, beginning at 11:40 a.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :
DIANE W. DUVA, Director,
Office of Energy Demand

1 A p p e a r a n c e s :

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3 D E E P S t a f f :

4 B R I A N B I E R N A T

5 L I N D A F O R E M A N

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7 S p e a k e r s :

8 R E P R E S E N T A T I V E L A R R Y B . B U T L E R

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10 N e w O p p o r t u n i t i e s , I n c .

11 J O H N F E R G U S O N

12 M I C H A E L F R O W N F E L T E R

13 J O A N N E B A L A S C H A K

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15 T h e A C C E S S A g e n c y :

16 P E T E R S . D e B I A S I

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18 C o n n e c t i c u t A s s o c i a t i o n f o r C o m m u n i t y

19 A c t i o n :

20 E D I T H K A R S K Y

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22 A l s o p r e s e n t : L a m o n t A h e a r t , C R T ; J o h n

23 L a t o u r ; a n d C a r l e n e T a y l o r , D S S

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1 MS. DUVA: Good morning. Hello,
2 everyone. Today is April 10, 2019. It is
3 currently 11:40 a.m. We're at the Connecticut
4 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
5 building in New Britain, Connecticut. I am Diane
6 Duva, Director of the Office of Energy Demand in
7 the Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy within
8 the Department of Energy and Environmental
9 Protection. With me here today as well are staff
10 of the Department, including Brian Biernat and
11 Linda Foreman.

12 This public hearing is being held today
13 in accordance with US Department of Energy
14 Regulations at Title 10 of the Code of Federal
15 Regulations, Part 440, Section 440.14. The
16 purpose of the hearing is to receive comments from
17 the public on Connecticut's plan to implement the
18 United States Department of Energy Weatherization
19 Assistance Program for low-income persons in
20 Connecticut during the Program Year 2019, which
21 begins July 1, 2019 and concludes June 30, 2020.
22 A notice of this hearing was issued on March 26,
23 2019.

24 Today, if you would like to speak,
25 please sign your name and put a check next to it

1 on the sign-in sheet in the front of the room, and
2 we'll proceed with comments based on the order
3 signed. Written comments are also welcome and may
4 be submitted through 4 p.m. April 24, 2019.

5 Written comments should be submitted to the
6 following email address, DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov.

7 This hearing is being transcribed. The
8 public notice contains information on how to order
9 a copy of the transcript. The transcript will
10 eventually also be available on DEEP's web site
11 and will be submitted with the state's application
12 to the US Department of Energy.

13 This year's state plan is based on the
14 budget provided by the US Department of Energy for
15 the program year.

16 Brian Biernat of our team and I will
17 now provide an overview of the grant's
18 application. All materials, including the
19 presentation overview, are available on the
20 Department's web site or available by request.
21 The presentation we're providing was also provided
22 to the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board at their
23 April 3, 2019 meeting. We provided a copy of the
24 state plan to the members of the Low-Income Energy
25 Advisory Board in advance of that meeting, and

1 this presentation served as the basis for the
2 discussion of the board on April 3rd.

3 So our overview of the program and the
4 application to the Department of Energy begins
5 with a review of the purpose and the scope of the
6 Weatherization Assistance Program. The purpose is
7 to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings
8 owned or occupied by low-income persons, or to
9 provide such persons renewable energy systems or
10 technologies, reduce their total residential
11 expenditures, and improve their health and safety,
12 especially low-income persons who are particularly
13 vulnerable, such as the elderly, persons with
14 disabilities, families with children, high
15 residential energy users, and households with a
16 high energy burden.

17 The key program components that we'd
18 like to highlight that are in the state plan
19 include the budget allocation, which is based on a
20 formula that's based on population, income levels,
21 percent of children and elderly, the climate in
22 different parts of the state, and energy burdens.
23 The average cost per unit is used to inform unit
24 production goals for the allocated budget. The
25 health and safety budget is provided to any

1 service provider coming from the Weatherization
2 Assistance Program funds. There are fixed budget
3 items that are provided for in accordance with the
4 Department of Energy guidance. We ensure that
5 initial allocations or advanced payments are
6 provided at the start of the contract. The
7 program requires each state to submit an
8 application on an annual basis in order to receive
9 the federal grant funds.

10 The state plan is a component of our
11 application to the US Department of Energy for
12 implementation of the Weatherization Assistance
13 Program for low-income persons, and the plan
14 documents how the Connecticut Weatherization
15 Assistance Program will ensure delivery of quality
16 effective services to households eligible for the
17 Weatherization Assistance Program. The state plan
18 notes how Connecticut will continually improve the
19 program's effectiveness, and it documents how
20 Connecticut complies with 10 CFR 440.

21 A key part of the plan is to summarize
22 how we'll ensure delivery of quality services.
23 Some of these components include providing
24 statewide training for subgrantees, and that means
25 specifically funds for training, taking care of

1 scheduling training courses, and focusing on
2 ensuring that we train and certify quality control
3 inspectors.

4 The plan also specifies the health and
5 safety budgets available in the program to support
6 unit production. We note that budgets have not
7 been fully expended in previous years.

8 We also note we have a dedicated
9 webpage on the Department's web site that provides
10 information for subgrantees, and that's a
11 consolidated resource for guidance, field manuals,
12 reporting forms, and it provides specific
13 information for people participating in the
14 program.

15 As part of the Department's commitment
16 to continuously improving service delivery, DEEP
17 will continuously evaluate whether improved
18 service delivery has occurred in PY18, and will
19 assess if changes are needed for Program Year '19.
20 The continuous improvement process that we've
21 implemented over the last three years will, we
22 believe, result in improved service delivery for
23 Program Year '19.

24 We want to make a special note that
25 former contractors or subgrantees who previously

1 participated in the program but currently are not
2 participating in this program year are not
3 precluded from seeking to provide services in
4 Program Year '19 or in the future.

5 We welcome comments on additional
6 performance metrics to use in evaluating program
7 effectiveness with respect to our application to
8 ensure quality services are delivered.

9 One note on regulatory compliance. The
10 Department of Energy regulations require
11 consideration of program effectiveness prior to
12 entering into new contracts with agencies, so we
13 use that to determine what array of subgrantees
14 will be available.

15 Our Operations and Training Manual
16 establish that if production falls below the
17 projected schedule of production, the state may
18 redistribute any or all of the portions allocated
19 to a subgrantee.

20 The same service areas will be used for
21 the Federal Program Year '19 that were used in the
22 current program year, and will continue to provide
23 services through the Community Action Agency
24 Network in Program Year '19.

25 We're going to pause now and highlight

1 a few of the sections of the state plan that you
2 may be interested in, in your review of the state
3 plan, and Brian Biernat will run through those.

4 MR. BIERNAT: So for the first section
5 we have V.1.1 of the state plan. That's the
6 eligibility section. That's going to be the same
7 as it has been the previous years.

8 For version V.2, we have areas to be
9 served. That will also be the same five regions
10 that we have typically used for weatherization.

11 We have Section V.3, which is
12 priorities. And again, that will be the same
13 priority groups we've used in past years.

14 We have Section V.7.2, which is
15 administrative expenditure limits, which will be
16 the typical split of 5 percent, 5 percent for both
17 the state and for the subgrantee network.

18 And then we have Section V.7.3,
19 monitoring activities, which will include 10
20 percent, at least 10 percent of the units
21 completed for this year.

22 And we have Section V.7.4, training and
23 technical assistance, which we intend on training
24 the subcontractor network this year. So that will
25 be a big change from previous years.

1 So for our current allocation for PY
2 2019 we have \$2,587,105.

3 The next slide we have, it's divided
4 out showing a unit goal of 480 statewide, and we
5 have it showing how many units and the amount of
6 funding per region.

7 For the next slide we have the current
8 allocation, again the \$2.587,105. Estimated carry
9 forward of \$3 million. Estimated funding for PY19
10 with carry forward would be \$5,587,105.

11 Again, we have it broken out from the
12 \$5,587,105 broken out amongst Regions 1, 2, 3, 4
13 and 5, with an estimated production goal of 1,115
14 units.

15 Then we welcome public comments through
16 the email DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov up until April
17 24, 2019. And all the information about the PY19
18 application process can be found on the DEEP
19 weatherization page at
20 www.ct.gov/deep/weatherization. And we have a
21 timeline also on the slide here available, and
22 it's a snapshot of what's available on our web
23 page. And each of the time points have documents
24 attached to them, so you can see the documents for
25 each of the presentations and the notices, as well

1 as the state plan and budget.

2 MS. DUVA: The links for the web pages
3 are here as well. And we want to note that at the
4 Low-Income Energy Advisory Board on April 3rd we
5 asked a series of questions of the members of the
6 board, and indicated that we welcome comments to
7 be received during this public comment period.
8 Specifically, we asked questions about best ways
9 to improve service delivery, how best to ensure
10 that local areas are receiving services, and
11 suggestions on what other service providers might
12 be interested in providing services in the next
13 program year.

14 That concludes our presentation just to
15 recount what the state plan contains and where to
16 find the information. Again, all the materials
17 are on our web page. And if you have any trouble
18 with the web page, you may also contact us, and we
19 can provide written versions of all of the
20 documents.

21 We'll proceed with the commenters in
22 accordance with the order that people signed in,
23 with the exception we'll start with elected
24 officials first.

25 And Representative Larry Butler has

1 joined us, so I welcome you to come to the
2 microphone in the front and provide your verbal
3 comments. And thank you also for providing
4 written comments for the record. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you and
6 good morning, members of DEEP. I am State
7 Representative Larry Butler from the
8 Seventy-second District representing parts of
9 Waterbury. And I'm here this morning to address
10 the concerns of recent performance of the state's
11 weatherization program.

12 Since I was last here, last, I guess,
13 in August of 2017, I believe DEEP decided to
14 implement a single source approach to deliver the
15 much-needed services of the program statewide. As
16 a result, New Opportunities, Incorporated was
17 removed from participating in the weatherization
18 program. At that time I, as well as others,
19 explained that using this approach would not get
20 the desired results because you can't establish
21 the contacts, hire the auditors, contractors, and
22 establish the working relationships with
23 organizations that have relationships with those
24 you expect to provide the services overnight.

25 New Opportunity's program under the

1 direction of Joanne Balaschak and John Ferguson
2 and their experienced staff from New
3 Opportunities -- I know, I didn't quite get that
4 name quite right.

5 JOANNE BALASCHAK: That's all right,
6 Larry.

7 (Laughter.)

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I promise to do
9 better next time.

10 Under their direction, their
11 experienced staff from New Opportunities did a
12 very good job in these areas while providing
13 services in years past. I will not get into great
14 detail about some of the shortcomings related to
15 the setbacks due to delays in providing contracts
16 and its impact on staffing and training, because
17 what's important is we do it better this time.

18 I really believe that the
19 weatherization program will be better served by at
20 least two or three agencies that have the ability
21 to run the program in regions. Certainly, New
22 Opportunities has both the will and experience to
23 do so. Most of the workers from the past program
24 were kept onboard in the agency because they were
25 good workers. And if granted participation, New

1 Opportunities could just reassign them to the
2 weatherization program and be up and running in no
3 time. They have demonstrated their ability by
4 their past performance through the years.

5 Since the program went to a single
6 source approach, only 14 units in my area were
7 serviced when the actual goal was 163 units. I
8 don't know about the performance in the rest of
9 the state, but if this is any indication of the
10 performance in those areas, it's time to recognize
11 the single sourcing approach that was adopted
12 didn't work, not in my area, and not in other
13 parts of the state.

14 While I'm here today to advocate for
15 better service for my constituents, I'm also here
16 to advocate for New Opportunities because they
17 have the contacts, networks, and experienced staff
18 to do a great job. I also hope you'll agree the
19 State of Connecticut will be better served as a
20 whole if you open the program to other agencies
21 that can help get better results. Please allow
22 New Opportunities to be one of those agencies
23 participating in the weatherization program so the
24 state can start meeting its goals of providing
25 this very important service.

1 And I will just state that while I
2 mentioned my concern about my constituents and New
3 Opportunities' participation in the program,
4 actually as a state official I'd like to see that
5 the whole state has the necessary agencies
6 performing the service for the entire State of
7 Connecticut.

8 So with that, I just want to thank you
9 for allowing me to testify this morning before
10 you. And while looking at your slides, it seems
11 like you have a pretty good plan in place. It's
12 just, you know, all of the resources you bring to
13 bear to roll it out. So when you do that, I hope
14 you keep my comments in mind. Thank you.

15 MS. DUVA: Thank you very much. We
16 will keep your comments in mind. And while the
17 purpose of today is a hearing, we want to hear
18 your comments, I just do want to clarify that the
19 current program year, the service provider is
20 providing services on a statewide basis, and we do
21 have current up-to-date information on all of the
22 work in progress, and we have that information
23 available. We can add that to the presentation.
24 We'll put it on the web page. We provided that to
25 the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board last week,

1 but we'll add that so you have that access.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you very
3 much.

4 MS. DUVA: Thank you. Thank you very
5 much for being here, Representative Butler.

6 We'll now proceed to the next speaker
7 who's indicated they would like to speak when they
8 signed in, and that's John Ferguson of New
9 Opportunities, Incorporated.

10 JOHN FERGUSON: Good morning, all. My
11 name is John Ferguson. I am director of
12 weatherization at New Opportunities, NOI. Our
13 mission statement at New Opportunities,
14 Incorporated is "Helping People Change Lives."
15 And in this statement our organization has
16 continued relationships with our communities and
17 areas we serve. With the statewide budget crisis
18 upon us, we have restructured our efforts to
19 continue to provide our residents with services
20 that are needed.

21 DEEP especially noted that 10 CFR
22 440.15(a)(3) notes that "In selecting a
23 subgrantee, preference is given to any CAA or
24 other public or nonprofit entity which has, or is
25 currently administering, an effective program

1 under this part or under Title II of the Economic
2 Opportunity Act of 1964, with program
3 effectiveness evaluated by consideration of
4 factors including, but not limited to the
5 following:

6 "The extent to which the past or
7 current program achieved or is achieving
8 weatherization goals in a timely fashion.

9 "The quality of work performed by the
10 subgrantee.

11 "The number, qualifications, and
12 experience of the staff members of the subgrantee.

13 "And the ability of the subgrantee to
14 secure volunteers, training participants, public
15 service employment workers, and other federal or
16 state training programs."

17 NOI has continually maintained
18 established relationships with ABCD of Bridgeport,
19 CAAWC of Danbury, and CAANH of New Haven in
20 supporting weatherization energy assistance needs
21 for their customers in their region of the State
22 of Connecticut. NOI has qualified subcontractors
23 fully trained and capable of weatherization and
24 health and safety improvements on homes delivering
25 quality work. NOI has ensured that our

1 weatherization staff and contractors maintained
2 their level of training and certifications.

3 NOI remains capable of ensuring
4 equitable geographic distribution of services
5 throughout Regions 3, 4 and 5 with the following
6 staff available: We have a quality control
7 inspector on staff south. We have auditor and
8 inspectors, three, that were formally DOE NEAT
9 trained and certified. Administrative staff, two,
10 that were doing the DOE billing and monthly
11 reporting. Subcontractors, four, weatherization
12 and HVAC contractors.

13 DEEP published the Weatherization
14 Assistance Program, WAP, State Plan/Master File
15 Worksheet Program Year 2019 on page 3 states,
16 "Connecticut Deep will identify additional service
17 delivery resources for PY19 to achieve the
18 equitable delivery of services statewide."

19 With established partnerships and
20 cooperations throughout the regions, we here at
21 NOI feel that we have the capacity to provide
22 desperately needed services to our residents. NOI
23 would hope that DEEP would reconsider us for the
24 Program Year 2019.

25 Best regards John Ferguson,

1 Weatherization Director.

2 MR. BIERNAT: Thank you.

3 MS. DUVA: Thank you.

4 Next is Peter DeBiasi from The ACCESS
5 Agency.

6 PETER DeBIASI: Good afternoon. My
7 name is Peter DeBiasi. I am the president and CEO
8 of The ACCESS Agency. Our primary main office is
9 located in Willimantic, Connecticut. We serve
10 folks, low-income folks, in the Tolland, Windham
11 and New London County areas, which is similar to
12 Region 2 for the weatherization program.

13 I'm here today to provide testimony
14 regarding DEEP's Weatherization Assistance
15 Program, draft, a plan for Program Year 2019.

16 ACCESS is pleased to read that DEEP is
17 open to, once again, engaging qualified
18 subgrantees, other than CRT, to deliver WAP
19 services in Connecticut for the next program year.
20 ACCESS, the Community Action Agency that provided
21 the Weatherization Assistance Program in Windham,
22 Tolland and New London Counties for more than 20
23 years prior to DEEP's decision to use a single
24 subgrantee for the entire State of Connecticut for
25 Program Years 2017 and '18, stands ready to once

1 again deliver those services to Region 2.

2 The result of DEEP's decision to use a
3 single subgrantee to serve the entire state is
4 that the counties of Windham, Tolland and New
5 London have been underserved by WAP during the
6 past two program years. And this is consistent
7 with what ACCESS and many others repeatedly warned
8 DEEP would happen if they moved the program to a
9 single statewide subgrantee. So again, we're
10 pleased that DEEP has decided to at least consider
11 opening the program to other subgrantees. It's
12 clear that our belief that the WAP subgrantee
13 statewide delivery system model is flawed, and
14 that's supported now by two years of data.

15 I want to make it clear that a lack of
16 success in weatherizing an adequate number of
17 homes in eastern Connecticut is in no way meant to
18 disparage the current subgrantee. We believe it
19 is a service delivery model that is the problem
20 and not the current subgrantee.

21 So with our deep roots in eastern
22 Connecticut, our 20-plus years of WAP experience
23 in the region, we believe designating ACCESS as
24 the subgrantee for Region 2 is the state's best
25 option to significantly increase the number of

1 dwellings weatherized in that part of the state.

2 Now, unlike New Opportunities, we were
3 not able to maintain a certified staff since we
4 were eliminated from the program a couple years
5 ago, so we -- although we still maintain the
6 similar administrative in-house staff, we have a
7 robust property management division. We manage
8 almost 200 affordable housing units with another
9 37 coming on in Tolland by the summer. We're
10 overseeing the construction of that project now.
11 It's a conversion of an elementary school. So we
12 have relationships with many contractors in the
13 region who could do the kind of work that's
14 needed. We have the administrative staff that
15 oversaw the program previously. And we believe we
16 would need some ramp-up time to work with DEEP to
17 ensure that we were able to secure the qualified
18 certified staff that's needed.

19 We support DEEP's intention to do
20 subgrantee training. We think that was a missing
21 element in the program in the past. Depending on
22 others to do that made it difficult. So with that
23 part of the program, we think that it's reasonable
24 to be able to get the program up and running.
25 Depending on if ACCESS was designated prior to

1 July 1 or not, we think a period of three months
2 is probably reasonable for us to get there. We
3 would need to discuss that in more detail with
4 DEEP staff, and it really depends on that working
5 relationship and that partnership as to how
6 quickly we could do that.

7 We know that completing a
8 weatherization job takes time, sometimes months,
9 and that the ramp-up period, again, is an issue.
10 We have a track record of having delivered
11 services. DEEP has never questioned the quality
12 of our work or the qualifications of our staff or
13 our ability to work effectively with the
14 low-income population. Given the opportunity
15 again, we would continue this track record.

16 The start and stop of the program is
17 really what provided a challenge for us in the
18 past, and we did have a dip in our ability to
19 deliver completed jobs. But what we were
20 disappointed with, and clearly communicated to
21 DEEP, was that by the end of the program year the
22 program was churning, as it had in the past, and
23 we were well positioned to meet goals going
24 forward, but it was at that point that DEEP made
25 the decision to go with a single provider.

1 So in conclusion, I strongly urge that
2 in order to deliver an effective and efficient WAP
3 in Eastern Connecticut, DEEP restore The ACCESS
4 Agency as a subgrantee for Region 2 serving the
5 three counties of eastern Connecticut for Program
6 Year 2019. ACCESS is ready, willing and able to
7 meet this challenge and cooperate in partnership
8 with DEEP. I thank you for your time and
9 attention.

10 MS. DUVA: Thank you very much.

11 Next is Michael Frownfelter from New
12 Opportunities, Inc.

13 MICHAEL FROWNFELTER: How are you
14 doing? Thank you for allowing the public comment
15 section. It's nice to see your faces again after
16 a while.

17 New Opportunities has been a great
18 company for me to work for. And I tend to stay
19 out of the political arena because I'm just not
20 savvy that way, but I do know that when I do
21 weatherization audits for low-income people, they
22 are thrilled that finally something is being done
23 to their home.

24 And I've been -- I didn't move to
25 Connecticut till '88, and I started out living in

1 Stamford, and then I moved back and forth. I'm
2 very familiar with Fairfield County.

3 I just hope New Opportunities can get
4 back into the program. Besides the basic
5 qualifications, I'm also a Healthy Homes
6 evaluator, certification already. And the way I
7 first got into weatherization, I was unemployed at
8 the time, and the state through the workforce
9 offered for veterans a training program on
10 weatherization. I took that program. I was hired
11 by the company that did the training. They left
12 the program, and then I went to work for New
13 Opportunities.

14 And it's very satisfying work. The
15 best part is seeing people's faces like, wow, this
16 is amazing, you know. And it's something to be
17 able -- for the state and the Federal Government
18 to take care of those people because they're the
19 ones that, beyond circumstances of their own
20 control, most of them they just end up there,
21 whether it's a downsizing, mental illness, they
22 lost family members, hospital bills. They were
23 making three figures, and now they're down to
24 maybe 20,000 a year for a family of five. They
25 need that help.

1 And to be able to offer it consistently
2 in the areas and to the -- go from town to town to
3 town instead of concentrating, well, let's do 20
4 in town A, and we'll do one in town B, that's not
5 the way it's supposed to work. We're supposed to
6 spread out and get each town their quota of people
7 so the whole state is in -- not compliance, but
8 the whole state has all the residents involved
9 that need it.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 MS. DUVA: Thank you. Next is Joanne
12 Balaschak from New Opportunities, Inc.

13 JOANNE BALASCHAK: Hello, my name is
14 Joanne Balaschak, and I'm the energy services
15 director at New Opportunities in Waterbury.

16 I'm here today to emphatically state
17 that our president, CEO, Dr. James H. Gatling,
18 myself, and our entire weatherization energy staff
19 wants to, once again, provide our customers with
20 the benefits of the federal weatherization
21 program.

22 When DEEP decided to change the entire
23 weatherization service network utilizing only one
24 Community Action Agency to complete the
25 weatherization programs statewide, we were very

1 concerned and quite disappointed. We felt that
2 only a very limited number of our customers would
3 receive the benefits of this very worthwhile
4 program. Our concerns were validated now knowing
5 that only 14 households have been served in our
6 target area to date having a unit goal of 163
7 units.

8 In order to address our capacity issue
9 of meeting the requirements of the program when
10 disqualified as a DOE weatherization subgrantee,
11 we continued and still continue today to provide
12 energy efficient services to those applying for
13 the Home Energy Solutions Income Eligible Program
14 through the utility companies. We held onto our
15 highly trained weatherization staff, never
16 relinquishing their certifications, and always
17 hoping to be able to get back into the DOE
18 program. Never would we want to underestimate the
19 sole benefits of the Home Energy Solutions IE
20 Program, but when you combine the two
21 weatherization programs in order to cost share the
22 measures, the saving benefits to the households
23 become even greater.

24 New Opportunities is an agency very
25 dedicated to our highly-trained and professional

1 weatherization staff, as well as those we serve,
2 hoping to better their lives in some small way.

3 Once again, we hope that DEEP will
4 reconsider the one agency subgrantee approach and
5 allow us back into a program we had previously run
6 successfully for over 30 years. Thank you.

7 MS. DUVA: Thank you.

8 Next is Edith Karsky, Connecticut
9 Association for Community Action, CAFCA.

10 EDITH KARSKY: Good afternoon. My name
11 is Edith Karsky, and I am the executive director
12 of the Connecticut Association for Community
13 Action, or CAFCA. CAFCA is the state association
14 for Connecticut's nine Community Action Agencies.
15 I am also a member of the Connecticut Low-Income
16 Energy Advisory Board.

17 I have worked directly and indirectly
18 with DEEP over the past several years around the
19 Connecticut Weatherization Assistance Program, and
20 I want to make sure some of my concerns around
21 this important program are officially part of the
22 public hearing record. When the weatherization
23 program was moved from the Department of Social
24 Services to the Department of Energy and
25 Environmental Protection, many community action

1 weatherization contractors were concerned since
2 there had been a strong and knowledgeable
3 connection at DSS around weatherization and the
4 Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, but we hoped
5 for the best with the transfer.

6 However, working with DEEP has been
7 very difficult, and Connecticut's low-income
8 energy assistance customers have been poorly
9 served by this department. Whether it has been
10 time in contracting and payments, getting accurate
11 weatherization information, or program integrity,
12 we have ongoing concerns.

13 We sincerely hope the state makes
14 significant corrections going forward because the
15 most vulnerable energy customers in Connecticut
16 are the ones who ultimately suffer the most by not
17 being served and by having to continue to pay the
18 highest energy costs in the country. Thank you.

19 MS. DUVA: Thank you. Is there anyone
20 else who would like to speak today?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. DUVA: We're going to pause and
23 turn off the record so you can speak freely, and
24 we're going to remain here until 1 o'clock in case
25 someone else arrives.

1 (Whereupon, a recess was taken from
2 12:15 p.m. until 12:45 p.m.)

3 MS. DUVA: We paused to see if anyone
4 else came late to the hearing. It is 12:45, and
5 we will now conclude the hearing. Thank you all
6 for your time, and thank you for your interest in
7 this important program. This concludes the
8 hearing.

9 (Whereupon, the above proceedings
10 concluded at 12:46 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 29 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken of the PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING in re: THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM YEAR 2019, which was held before DIANE W. DUVA, Director, Office of Energy Demand, at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut, on April 10, 2019.



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