



Abigail Spanberger
Governor

Carrie Chenery
Secretary of
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Tamarah Holmes, PhD
Director

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

October 20, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

SUBJECT: Task Force Meeting – October 26, 2026

Enclosed is the agenda and information package for the Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force meeting to be held on **Monday, October 26 , 2026**. The Task Force will convene at 10:00 a.m. at the **Virginia Department of Social Services** located in Innsbrook at 5600 Cox Road in Glen Allen, Virginia. Lunch will be provided at the meeting.

Please contact DHCD staff as soon as possible to let us know if you will not be able to attend. We can be reached at andrew.malloy@dhcd.virginia.gov or at 804-836-5094. Please let us know if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do to be of assistance.

Enclosure



Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development | Partners for Better Communities
Main Street Centre | 600 East Main Street, Suite 300 Richmond, VA 23219
www.dhcd.virginia.gov | Phone (804) 371-7000 | Fax (804) 371-7090 | Virginia Relay 7-1-1

AGENDA
Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force
Monday, October 26, 2026
10:00 AM
Virginia Department of Social Services
5600 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

Public Comment before the Task Force will begin at 10:00 AM.

Each speaker will be limited to one minute of speaking time and there will be one half-hour total for public comment on a first come first served basis. Please contact andrew.malloy@dhcd.virginia.gov to sign up for public comment.

Electronic Meeting Access Information

Microsoft Teams Joining Information: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 254 500 219 381 952 | Passcode: Ug2nJ6RJ

Call in (audio only) +1 434-230-0065 | Phone Conference ID: 687 953 350#

- | | | |
|-------|--|--------------------|
| I. | OPENING | |
| | a. Call to Order | Chair |
| | b. Roll Call | DHCD Staff |
| | c. Public Comment | Chair |
| II. | Consent Agenda | Chair |
| | o <i>Approval of Minutes:</i> August 24, 2026 | |
| III. | UTILITY SPONSORED ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS UPDATE | Task Force Members |
| | o Dominion Energy | |
| | o Appalachian Power | |
| IV. | DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS | DHCD Staff |
| V. | WORKFORCE & CAPACITY BUILDING | Task Force Members |
| VI. | ELIGIBILITY / IMPLEMENTATION DISCUSSION | Task Force Members |
| VII. | UNFINISHED BUSINESS | Task Force Members |
| VIII. | NEW BUSINESS | Task Force Members |
| IX. | FUTURE TASK FORCE MEETING DATES | DHCD Staff |
| | o December 2026 (virtual) | |
| | o March 2027 (in-person SWVA) | |
| X. | ADJOURNMENT | Chair |

**Minutes of the
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND WEATHERIZATION TASK FORCE**

August 24, 2026

12:34 PM

Virginia Department of Social Services

5600 Cox Road

Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Task Force Members Present

Phil Agee (virtual)
Amy Bowen, Vice Chair (virtual)
Bryan Burris
Petrina Carter
Chase Counts (virtual)
Patrick Frere
Jamie Grant
Andrew Grigsby
Jacob Holmes (virtual)
Mark Jackson
Erik Johnston
Alison Kaufmann, Chair
Caetano de Campos Lopes
Tim Pettit
Denise Surber
Melissa Thomas
Anitra Watson
Dana Wiggins
Doug Wilkerson
Benjamin Woods

Task Force Members Absent

Carrie Hearne
John Farmer

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) staff present for all or part of the meeting:

Kenrick Cameron Jr., Policy Analyst
Jose Grivet, Technical Monitor/Inspector
Trisha Lindsey, Policy and Legislative Services Director
Andrew Malloy, Senior Policy Analyst
Cassidy Rasnick, Chief Operating Officer
Chase Sawyer, Policy and Legislative Services Manager
Aaron Shoemaker, Program Administrator
Michelle Tilton, Housing Program Manager

Call to Order

Mr. Malloy, Senior Policy Analyst at DHCD, called the meeting of the Task Force to order at 12:34 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Malloy. Mr. Malloy identified each Task Force member by the descriptions outlined in the authorizing legislation (HB3/SB5, 2026).

Representing the *Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development*, Mr. Tim Pettit, Associate Director of Energy Efficiency.

Representing the *Virginia Department of Energy*, Mr. Caetano de Campos Lopes, Associate Director of Energy Efficiency.

Representing the *Virginia Department of Social Services*, Ms. Denise Surber, Manager - Energy Assistance & Percentage of Income Payment Programs, Benefit Programs.

Representing the *Energy Commission of Virginia [Commission on Electric Utility Regulation]*, Ms. Carrie Hearne, Executive Director (absent).

Representing the *Division of Consumer Counsel of the Office of the Attorney General*, Mr. John Farmer (absent).

A *clean energy advocate*, Mr. Benjamin Wood representing the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council.

A member of the *residential construction industry*, Mr. Doug Wilkerson from TruTeam.

A member from a *firm specializing in residential and commercial building energy performance, building diagnostics, or energy code compliance*, Mr. Andrew Grigsby from Viridian.

An *energy burden advocate*, Mr. Chase Count representing the Association of Energy Conservation Professionals.

An *income-qualified ratepayer advocate*, Ms. Dana Wiggins representing the Virginia Poverty Law Center.

A representative from a *state institution of higher education*, Dr. Phil Agee from the Virginia Housing Research Center at Virginia Tech.

A utility provider, Ms. Anira Watson representing Dominion Energy.

A utility provider, Mr. Jacob Holmes representing Appalachian Power Company.

A utility provider, Ms. Alison Kaufmann representing Old Dominion Electric Cooperative.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Ms. Amy Bowen from Appalachian Community Action & Development Agency.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Mr. Mark Jackson from Community Housing Partners.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Mr. Pat Frere from Bay Aging.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Ms. Petrina Carter from Tri-County Community Action Agency.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Mr. Bryan Burris from project:HOMES.

An affordable housing advocate, Mr. Erik Johnston representing the Virginia Community Action Partnership.

A member deemed appropriate by DHCD, Ms. Melissa Thomas representing the Climate Equity Working Group.

A member deemed appropriate by DHCD, Ms. Jamie Grant representing the Rappahannock Tribe.

Mr. Malloy reported that a quorum was present.

Mr. Malloy noted that staff has yet to identify a Task Force member who is an *income-qualified ratepayer*. That position remains vacant and will be filled by the next meeting of the Task Force.

Election of Officers	Mr. Malloy opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Task Force. Mr. Johnston nominated Ms. Kaufmann. Mr. Jackson seconded this nomination. No other Task Force members were nominated. Ms. Kaufmann was elected Chair of the Task Force by acclamation. Ms. Kaufmann turned the meeting back to Mr. Malloy to facilitate the election of Vice Chair of the Task Force. Mr. Malloy opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Jackson nominated Ms. Bowen. Mr. Grigsby seconded this nomination. No other Task Force members were nominated. Ms. Bowen was elected Vice Chair of the Task Force by acclamation. Ms. Kaufmann agreed to allow Mr. Malloy to facilitate the remainder of the meeting.
Task Force By-Laws	Mr. Malloy presented draft by-laws for the Task Force. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Grigsby to approve the by-laws as presented. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Agee, Bowen, Burris, Carter, Counts, Frere, Grant, Grigsby, Holmes, Jackson, Johnston, Kaufmann, Lopes, Pettit, Surber, Thomas, Watson, Wiggins, Wilkerson, Woods; NAYS: None).
Electronic Meeting Policy	Mr. Malloy presented the Task Force’s all-virtual meeting policy. A motion was made by Mr. Lopes and seconded by Ms. Carter to approve the all-virtual meeting policy. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Agee, Bowen, Burris, Carter, Counts, Frere, Grant, Grigsby, Holmes, Jackson, Johnston, Kaufmann, Lopes, Pettit, Surber, Thomas, Watson, Wiggins, Wilkerson, Woods; NAYS: None). Mr. Malloy presented the Task Force’s remote participation policy. A motion was made by Mr. Lopes and seconded by Ms. Carter to approve the remote participation meeting policy. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Agee, Bowen, Burris, Carter, Counts, Frere, Grant, Grigsby, Holmes, Jackson, Johnston, Kaufmann, Lopes, Pettit, Surber, Thomas, Watson, Wiggins, Wilkerson, Woods; NAYS: None).
Overview of Legislation	Mr. Malloy provided an overview of the Task Force’s enabling legislation from the 2026 General Assembly Session (HB3/SB5). Mr. Malloy went over the purpose and purview of the Task Force, as well as the budget item authorizing DHCD to utilize \$25,000,000 of unobligated balances in the Low-Income Energy

Efficiency Program Fund to support the implementation of weatherization projects consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force.

Task Force members discussed the implementation funds tied to the findings and recommendations of the Task Force.

Task Force members discussed the approval process for the Task Force's report. Mr. Malloy shared that the legislation stipulates the report's approval requires a majority vote of the members at a meeting with a quorum.

Task Force members discussed the definition of "income-qualified" stated in the legislation. Task Force members discussed the feasibility of categorical eligibility for applicants/recipients across the varying grant and incentive programs.

Weatherization Assistance
Program
(WAP)/Weatherization
Deferral Repair (WDR)
Overview

Mr. Pettit, Associate Director of Energy Efficiency, Ms. Michelle Tilton, Housing Program Manager, and Mr. Aaron Shoemaker, Program Administrator at DHCD presented on the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) as well as the pre weatherization funding sources, Weatherization Readiness Funds (WRF) and Weatherization Deferral Repair (WDR) programs. Program staff noted that WAP, administered by DHCD and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, helps reduce energy consumption and utility costs for eligible low-income households (up to 200% of federal poverty guidelines or 60% of state median), with priority for families with children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Program staff added that the program has a network of nonprofit and community action agencies to assess homes and install energy-efficient measures such as air sealing, insulation, HVAC repairs or replacements, ventilation, and energy-efficient lighting. Program staff explained that WRF and WDR complements WAP by funding necessary home repairs that previously prevented a property from qualifying for weatherization, such as roof fixes, structural, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, moisture problems, mold, and other health and safety issues. Program staff added that WDR is funded through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and requires clients to meet WAP eligibility. Program staff continued that repairs must be completed before weatherization measures are installed and clients must agree to receive both services.

Virginia Energy Program
Overview

Mr. Lopes, Associate Director of Energy Efficiency at Virginia Energy, presented on two federal energy rebate programs, the Home Owner Managing Energy Savings (HOMES) and High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (HEEEHR), and Virginia's proposed allocation approach. Mr. Lopes also spoke about Virginia Energy Connect, a platform helping residents navigate the funding landscape by providing simplified information on available energy incentives.

Task Force members discussed funding related to Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC). Mr. Lopes responded that he had not yet heard that TREC funding was negatively impacted and is unclear on budgetary implications concerning workforce funding for home energy rebate programs.

Task Force members discussed the income levels tied to the proposed Virginia programs. Mr. Lopes shared low-and moderate-income households are defined as below 80% AMI and 80-150% AMI, respectively.

Task Force members discussed Virginia Energy Connect and its benefits including locating programs and understanding eligibility components. Task Force members inquired about a funding allowance for technological upgrades to Virginia Energy Connect. Mr. Lopes shared Virginia Energy Connect received appropriation in the state budget along with other funding sources.

Task Force members discussed the party responsible for the money for weatherization, repair, and/or rebates. Mr. Lopes responded that the beneficiary is responsible, unless maximized by locality or utility provider.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

Task Force members discussed braided/stacked funding approaches to shift the responsibility away from the beneficiary. Task Force members shared instances of clientele being turned away as they could not cover co-funding responsibilities. Task Force members proposed that it may be beneficial for there to be a program or funds available to income-qualified persons to cover the costs associated with funding requirements for the available programs. Task Force members added that smaller providers and contractors performing weatherization services often have cash-flow issues as they wait to be reimbursed for work.

Task Force members considered making a recommendation to authorize DHCD to use \$5 million of the budget item associated with the Task Force to support capacity building across the provider network. Mr. Malloy reminded Task Force members that final action cannot be taken on items not on the meeting's agenda pursuant to public meeting requirements. Task Force members emphasized the time-sensitive nature of the funding capacity in the provider network in light of the new resources and funding streams.

Public Comment

Mr. Malloy opened the floor for public comment.

After seeing no speakers in-person or virtually, Mr. Malloy closed the public comment period.

Future Task Force
Meeting Dates

Mr. Malloy stated that the next meeting of the Task Force will be scheduled for October 2026, and DHCD staff will share the time and location ahead of the meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Burris and seconded by Mr. Lopes to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Agee, Bowen, Burris, Carter, Counts, Frere, Grant, Grigsby, Holmes, Jackson, Johnston, Kaufmann, Lopes, Pettit, Surber, Thomas, Watson, Wiggins, Wilkerson, Woods; NAYS: None). The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Memorandum

To: Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force Members

From: DHCD Staff

Subject: Data Collection & Analysis

Date: October 20, 2026

Chapters 540 and 541 of the 2026 Acts of Assembly (HB3/SB5) directs the Task Force to collect certain data points for its report. These data elements include:

1. An estimate and analysis of the total number of income-qualified individuals and households by geography and housing type in the Commonwealth.
2. The number of income-qualified individuals and households that remain in need of energy efficiency and weatherization improvements by geography and housing type in the Commonwealth.
3. The total number of income-qualified individuals and households who were made weatherization-ready through pre-weatherization repair.
4. The number of households by geography and housing type who have applied for weatherization and been deferred and the number of households that have applied for weatherization but are still on a service provider's waitlist, including how long they have been on the waitlist.
5. The number of income-qualified individuals or households that received energy efficiency upgrades, weatherization assistance, or deferral repairs from government-sponsored or utility-sponsored programs to date, and the corresponding bill and total cumulative energy savings achieved.

DHCD staff will update the Task Force on its data collection efforts. Staff will present on which data points are known to the agency and discuss the known gaps. Task Force members are invited to share any data their organizations collect that may advance the data collection efforts.





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Memorandum

To: Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force Members

From: DHCD Staff

Subject: Workforce and Capacity Building

Date: October 20, 2026

At the August 24, 2026, meeting of the Task Force, Mr. Chase Counts, representing the Association of Energy Conservation Professionals (AECOP), presented a recommendation to utilize a portion of the funds in Item 102.S of Chapter 1 of the 2026 Acts of Assembly Special Session I (2026 Appropriation Act) for capacity-building to support Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) providers, weatherization contractors, and DHCD.

Enclosed for discussion is a brief from AECOP, as well as Budget Item 102.S from the 2026 Appropriation Act.

Enclosure



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ASSOCIATION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

AECP Advocacy Brief – Prepared for Weatherization Task Force Members – August 2026

Scaling Weatherization in Virginia: Time-Sensitive Needs of the Network

To: Income Qualifying Energy Efficiency & Weatherization Task Force Members
From: Chase Counts, Executive Director, AECP
Date: August 24, 2026
Re: Priorities for Virginia's weatherization network, and where we need support

Last week, AECP met with DHCD leadership to review where Virginia's weatherization network stands heading into 2027. The short version: federal funding, utility program growth, new private investment, and the coming Home Energy Rebate programs are all landing on the same provider network simultaneously. That is a good problem to have, but only if the network's support systems keep pace with the money. They currently aren't built to.

We're sharing this brief because several of the items below move faster and land better with coalition partners pushing alongside us. Below is the landscape, followed by three specific asks where your voice matters most in the next six months.

THE CONVERGENCE PROBLEM

Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy's income-qualifying efficiency programs are expected to nearly double in 2027. Utility programs are barred by rule from funding training and technical assistance (T&TA), which support the development and maintenance of the weatherization workforce. Utilities have historically relied on federal WAP T&TA funding to sustain the workforce that delivers their programs. Furthermore, utility program funding in Virginia has exceeded federal formula WAP funding since 2021, which makes that gap structural rather than incidental.

Virginia Energy has also engaged AECP about coordinating with the WAP network ahead of the Home Energy Rebate programs, expected late 2026 or early 2027. Those programs create real leverage opportunities with WAP and utility-sponsored efficiency programs, but they could also put new pressure on the same limited pool of trade contractors the WAP network depends on.

PRIVATE CAPITAL IS STARTING TO MOVE

AECP and VACAP have a joint proposal under review with Google's Virginia Energy Impact Fund, most of which would flow directly to WAP providers and contractors for weatherization and pre-weatherization gap funding, and limited funding for innovative workforce development initiatives to support capacity building. A second, unnamed hyperscaler is in early discussions with AECP about another \$5M for heat pump and heat pump water heater deployment in select communities. Both are early, but they reinforce the point that the binding constraint on this network is operational capacity, not funding availability.

ASK #1: ENCOURAGE THE TASK FORCE TO AUTHORIZE EARLY USE OF THE \$25M HIEE FUNDS

AECP's advocacy helped secure budget amendment [102#6c](#), directing DHCD to use \$25M in unobligated Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program Fund balances for weatherization projects consistent with the recommendations of the Income Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force, usable through June 30, 2030.

The problem: the Task Force isn't required to publish its full report until September 30, 2027. Waiting that long to utilize already-appropriated money leaves more than a year on the table, and the General Assembly tends to get restless about large allocations that aren't being drawn down.

AECP is asking the Task Force to issue a recommendation at its next meeting authorizing DHCD to begin deploying these funds now, rather than holding everything until the full report. Our proposed split was \$20M to offset any loss

or delay of federal funding volatility and \$5M for *flexible T&TA* to support capacity building for WAP providers, their contractor networks, and DHCD staff.

Recommended use of funds:

- **\$5M for *flexible T&TA*** – capacity-building support for WAP providers, weatherization contractors, and DHCD itself to help prepare for the Home Energy Rebate programs, expanded utility programs, and the potential of private investments from the hyperscalers described above.

The remaining \$20M was intended to offset potential elimination or delays in federal formula funding, keeping production levels stable regardless of what happens at the federal level. The OMB Uniform Guidance overhaul that made this urgent this Spring was blocked by the Senate in early August, which eases some pressure to offset federal formula funding. AECP still believes Virginia should join the growing list of states making direct state investments in WAP, not only to hedge against changes at the federal level, but to build a system that is less dependent on it.

Flexible T&TA could support, among other things:

- Staffing and workforce planning
- Training and technical assistance
- Operations consulting
- Technology and data system upgrades
- Zero interest loans supporting program delivery
- Contractor pipeline development

Drawing down some of these funds for capacity-building support would not only help the WAP network prepare for the influx of funding, but also signal to legislators that these funds are being put to use ahead of the 2027 legislative session.

ASK #2: BACK WDR MODERNIZATION

Two changes to the Weatherization Deferral Repair (WDR) program would meaningfully speed up service delivery:

Proportional monitoring.

AECP members have asked whether DHCD would consider monitoring WDR the way it monitors federal WAP or WRF – an annual review of 10% of a provider's total production. We understand monitoring intensity is tied to dollars at risk, which is reasonable given some historical WDR expenditures exceeded \$60,000 per home before the \$40,000 cap was adopted. Given that cap is now in place, we have asked DHCD if there room to reduce monitoring on WDR submissions under \$10,000, where the exposure is proportionally much smaller, to accelerate delivery of WDR services to qualifying households.

Eligibility for utility-served households.

Because utility programs move faster than federal WAP, providers increasingly serve a household through a utility program first and federal WAP later, and often utility-only. WAP providers find these households typically need comparable home repairs before receiving energy affordability services, but utility programs offer limited health and safety repair funding, leaving deferral issues unresolved in the interim. We're asking DHCD to make WDR available to income-qualifying utility-sponsored weatherization participants, including utility-only clients.

We believe the two concerns DHCD has raised about this – income verification rigor and confirming a client actually received utility-sponsored weatherization – are valid, but also solvable.

- Utilities often want to avoid collecting and storing personally identifiable information from customers, like income or bank statements, and instead rely on self-attestation. The collection of these documents – often by post – also consumes valuable time that the utilities would rather have providers delivering services. Weatherization service providers could request to view these documents during the in-home assessment, eliminating the need to mail forms and store them securely, and complete an attestation on the client's behalf to submit to DHCD for its records.
- Separately, utility programs have adopted income thresholds that combine the HUD, HHS, and DOE standards (below 80% AMI, below 60% state median income, or below 200% FPL, adjusted for occupancy). If DHCD adopted the same thresholds for WDR eligibility, verification would align with utility programs, and low-income Virginians could be served more comprehensively. One caveat: Dominion Energy also permits up to 120% of state median income for households with an occupant over the age of 60, though this is used infrequently.
- Service confirmation is a data and process question. A WAP provider could create a record in Hancock for these clients, and provide notes and photos allowing DHCD to confirm utility-sponsored weatherization occurred without adding a new administrative layer for providers.

ASK #3: HELP US TRACK DELIVERED FUEL ELECTRIFICATION IMPLEMENTATION

AECP worked with the legislation's champion on [HB 2](#) / [SB 72](#), which requires Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy to include delivered-fuel appliance electrification measures for income-qualifying households in their next DSM filings.

The implementation detail that matters: electrifying a delivered-fuel appliance is rarely a simple swap. Most of these homes need panel upgrades, some of which require relocation and new electric service lines, before electrification can proceed, and that non-energy-saving repair work has to happen first. Section 3 of the bill directs DHCD to make its low-income programs available to support the implementation of these delivered fuel electrification programs, and we read that as pointing to WDR, or a future HIEE-funded program, as the vehicle for that pre-electrification repair work. AECP is seeking DHCD's confirmation of that reading.

BOTTOM LINE

Virginia's weatherization network is heading into a period where funding is converging faster than the systems built to absorb it. AECP is doing what we can to represent the weatherization network's interests, but the new Task Force has a role to play in this ask now, and a narrow window to act, so coalition support matters.

Chase Counts

Executive Director, Association of Energy Conservation Professionals

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Chapter 1 of the 2026 Acts of Assembly Special Session I

2026 Appropriation Act

[H 30]

Approved June 29, 2026

§ 1-41. Department of Housing and Community Development (165)

Item 102.

S. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 10.1 - 1330, Code of Virginia, the Department shall utilize \$25,000,000 of unobligated balances in the Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program Fund (02017) to support the implementation of weatherization projects consistent with the recommendations of the Income Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force. It is the intent of the General Assembly that funds authorized for this purpose can be used until June 30, 2030.