Program Mission Statement

To deliver cost-effective energy services and advance innovative energy solutions for the benefit of all Coloradans. To help Coloradans live more prosperous and healthy lives by promoting innovative energy production and efficient energy consumption practices that are beneficial to the economic and environmental health of the state.

With an overarching goal to maximize energy cost savings for each client, the Colorado state Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provides free energy efficiency services to low-income residents across the state to reduce wasted energy and lower costs while improving the comfort and safety of a home.

Low-income Community Definition & Eligibility

Defined as 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and below.

Measures of Program Success

- Number of individual homes receiving three or more major measures each year; major measures include air sealing, attic insulation, furnace replacement, wall insulation and rooftop solar photovoltaics (PV)
- Number of homes receiving a rooftop PV system each year
- High levels of energy cost savings for each home resulting from energy efficiency measures and/or rooftop PV

Program Type

Low-income residential homes (mostly single family), including centrally-heated multifamily homes and manufactured housing.

Objective # 1: Add Solar to Colorado's State Weatherization Program

Objective Summary

The ultimate objective of Colorado WAP's rooftop PV initiative is for rooftop PV to be treated just like any other WAP measure. In order for this to occur, a number of WAP evolutions need to happen:

1. Lead Colorado's WAP subgrantees, state administrators, and other stakeholders to perceive rooftop PV as "just another WAP measure" rather than something new and different
2. Develop WAP policy and procedure around rooftop PV so it can be installed to identified standards
3. Launch a pilot program to test offering rooftop PV to WAP clients
4. Engage with utilities in order make the process of planning for, installing, and operating a rooftop PV system as easy and streamlined as possible
5. Identify flexible funding sources to fill in the gap between the U.S. Department of Energy cap for solar (about $3,700) and the full cost of the rooftop PV systems (about $10,000)
6. Identify innovative financing arrangements—i.e. leasing models, partnership flips, etc.— for use by WAP governmental and non-profit entities to help reduce the cost of rooftop PV systems via tax incentives
7. Identify funding sources and rehab programs for improving electrical systems and replacing/repairing roofs on low-income homes so rooftop PV can be installed on those homes
8. Streamline inspections and codes around solar and reduce/eliminate associated fees for low-income rooftop PV installations

Key Partners and Roles

Ryan Harry, Colorado Energy Office (CEO), WAP Senior Program Manager

Action Steps to Reach Objective

Action Step	Date Start and End	Resources Needed	Resource Provider	Status	Success Indicators
1. Work with the WAP network to install rooftop PV on homes in order to increase acceptance of rooftop PV as a measure	January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021	Program analysis around solar feasibility, state/subgrantee meetings	WAP subgrantees, state administrators, solar contractors	In progress	• The WAP network familiar with solar and does not treat it as a new measure
2. Create policy and procedure for WAP rooftop PV	January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017	Colorado WAP policy and procedure for solar, NREL P&P review,	WAP subgrantees, state administrators, solar contractors	Complete	• Completed policy and procedure addressing rooftop solar within WAP
3. Launch a pilot program for WAP rooftop PV	January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019	Solar training and certification, procurement documents, regulatory settlement, rebate recovery agreement	WAP subgrantees, state administrators, Xcel Energy	In progress	• Install 300 rooftop PV systems in Xcel Energy territory

Action Step	Date Start and End	Resources Needed	Resource Provider	Status	Success Indicators
		with utility, regular meetings between utility and WAP, regular meetings between state and subgrantees, annual report			
4. Work with utilities and stakeholder groups to develop best practices for rooftop PV at utilities	January 1, 2017 to unknown	Regular meetings between utility and WAP, regular meetings between state and subgrantees, annual report, process improvement controls at state, formal and informal solar process reviews, meetings with low-income stakeholder groups	State administrators, state legal counsel, utilities, public utility commission, utility stakeholder groups, solar stakeholder groups, low-income stakeholder groups	In progress	• Reduced time from install to interconnection • Straightforward billing • Straightforward rebate recovery
5. Identify and use funding sources to bridge the gap between Department of Energy caps and full cost of rooftop PV	January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020	Budget analysis, funding source rules analysis, discussions with subgrantees, discussions with project officers and funding partners	WAP subgrantees, state administrators, state legislators	In progress	• WAP rooftop solar can be installed without the use of utility incentives because other funding exists

Action Step	Date Start and End	Resources Needed	Resource Provider	Status	Success Indicators
6. Identify innovative financing arrangements to provide access to rooftop PV tax incentives for government agencies and non-profits	July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020	Meet with solar leasing businesses, banks, financial organizations, and other state programs, meet with subgrantees to discuss procurement rules, determine justification for program participation by private entities	WAP subgrantees, state administrators, solar leasing businesses, banks, financial organizations, other state programs	In progress	• WAP rooftop solar has access to the ITC and depreciation tax incentives to reduce costs
7. Identify funding sources and other programs to provide money or services to upgrade electrical systems and repair roofs to enable rooftop PV installations on low-income homes	July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021	Energy Office strategic planning process (funding request), market research on repair costs, discussions with other state agencies around assistance programs and funding opportunities, creation of internal budget tracking process, on-going monitoring and tracking of upgrades and associated billing delays	WAP subgrantees, state administrators, other state programs, state legislators	In progress	• Rooftop solar can be installed on any WAP home that is a good candidate regardless of the condition of the electrical system or roof prior to weatherization

Action Step	Date Start and End	Resources Needed	Resource Provider	Status	Success Indicators
8. Streamline inspections and codes as well as reduce associated fees	Not started	Meetings with local jurisdictions to discuss codes, meetings with state regulatory agencies, discussions with solar installers about inspection landscape, coordination with other policy efforts on soft cost reduction	WAP subgrantees, state administrators, other state programs, state legislators, local jurisdictions	Not started	• A standardized set of inspection criteria for WAP rooftop PV • A standardized set of codes for WAP rooftop PV • Reduced or eliminated fees for WAP rooftop PV