

ATTACHMENT A: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND STAFF RESPONSE

The Department accepted public comment from April 26, 2024, through May 21, 2024, and conducted four public hearings between May 14 and May 16, 2024, in Austin, Fort Worth, Houston and Odessa. Comment was received from one individual representing one organization. That individual’s comment and the Department’s response is presented in the table below.

Commenter	Comment Summary	Staff Response	Proposed Changes to the Plan
<p>Sommer Harrison, Weatherization Assistance Program Director for BakerRipley</p>	<p>Commenter requests that their LIHEAP WAP contract term be 15 months rather than 12 months so they can leverage both Department of Energy (DOE) WAP and LIHEAP WAP funding for the full calendar year in order to install more comprehensive measures on a home. BakerRipley leverages funds from both DOE and LIHEAP so that all the weatherization measures a home qualifies for can be completed. However, due to the LIHEAP contract being a 12 month calendar year contract, BakerRipley can only leverage both DOE and LIHEAP funds from January to September in order to meet contract close out requirements by the end of the calendar year. Leveraging LIHEAP on top of DOE funding on a home allows BakerRipley to complete more of the weatherization measures needed on a home. To complete the weatherization work by end of the calendar year, the work must be assigned to contractors no later than September so that the project can be completed by December 31st and meet close out requirements. Weatherization work assigned between October and December cannot be leveraged with both LIHEAP and DOE funds because contractors may not be able to complete those projects until January or February of the next year. This limitation often results in clients whose</p>	<p>The Department appreciates the comment, but this comment relates to length of contract term and is outside the scope of the LIHEAP Plan. The LIHEAP Plan provides flexibility where it can and therefore does not set parameters for length of contract term. The Department recommends that requests to extend a contract be addressed through communication with the Department’s Community Affairs Contract Section in advance of contract expiration.</p>	<p>No change.</p>

	<p>homes are weatherized during the last quarter only receiving DOE funded measures and not LIHEAP funded measures. TDHCA usually grants extensions on LIHEAP contracts for 90 days; however, it would be helpful if the contract is originally a 15 month contract term. This would allow BakerRipley to release work orders allowing LIHEAP funds to be leveraged with DOE funds all year long, without an interruption in the last quarter of the calendar year thereby removing the possibility of a home not receiving the additional weatherization measures needed it would otherwise be able to receive.</p> <p>Another impact is that the weatherization on some homes is sometimes delayed until both DOE and LIHEAP can be utilized in the next calendar year which puts BakerRipley behind on meeting weatherization production and benchmarks required in the DOE contract.</p> <p>BakerRipley strives to provide homes with all the potential weatherization measures but can best be done when using both funding sources. Initiating LIHEAP WAP contracts for 15 months versus 12 months would allow us to do this.</p>		
--	---	--	--