



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Energy

Weatherization Assistance Program
Federal Perspectives



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Administration Changes

- Secretary Perry was confirmed on March 2, 2017.
- No Assistant Secretary has yet been appointed.
- An executive order charging the Office of Management and Budget to develop a government reorganization plan was issued on March 13, 2017.

Funding -- 2017

- PY 2017
 - Two Continuing Resolutions provided WAP with funding equal to 67% of the FY 2016 funding level.
 - FY 17 Omnibus provided a \$13.4 million increase to the formula grant program along with \$3 million in HQ T&TA – total funding is \$228 million.
 - Final allocation has been received and WPN 17-2 is being issued today – June 27th.
 - April 1 and July 1 states must modify their budget to reflect full appropriations within 30 days of the issuance of WPN 17-2.

Funding Outlook -- 2018

- FY 2018 President's Request

- The FY 2018 Administration Budget was released May 24, 2017.
 - WAP funding is eliminated.
 - LIHEAP funding is eliminated.

- A Civics Lesson

- President's Budget submitted to Congress
- Congress develops and adopts a Budget Resolution which establishes the allocations available to the Appropriations Committees
- Appropriations subcommittees are given allocation for spending.
- After hearings, the subcommittee moves a bill to full committee and thence to the House/Senate floor.
- A Continuing Resolution or an Omnibus Appropriations Bill is passed in the event appropriation bill(s) do not pass.

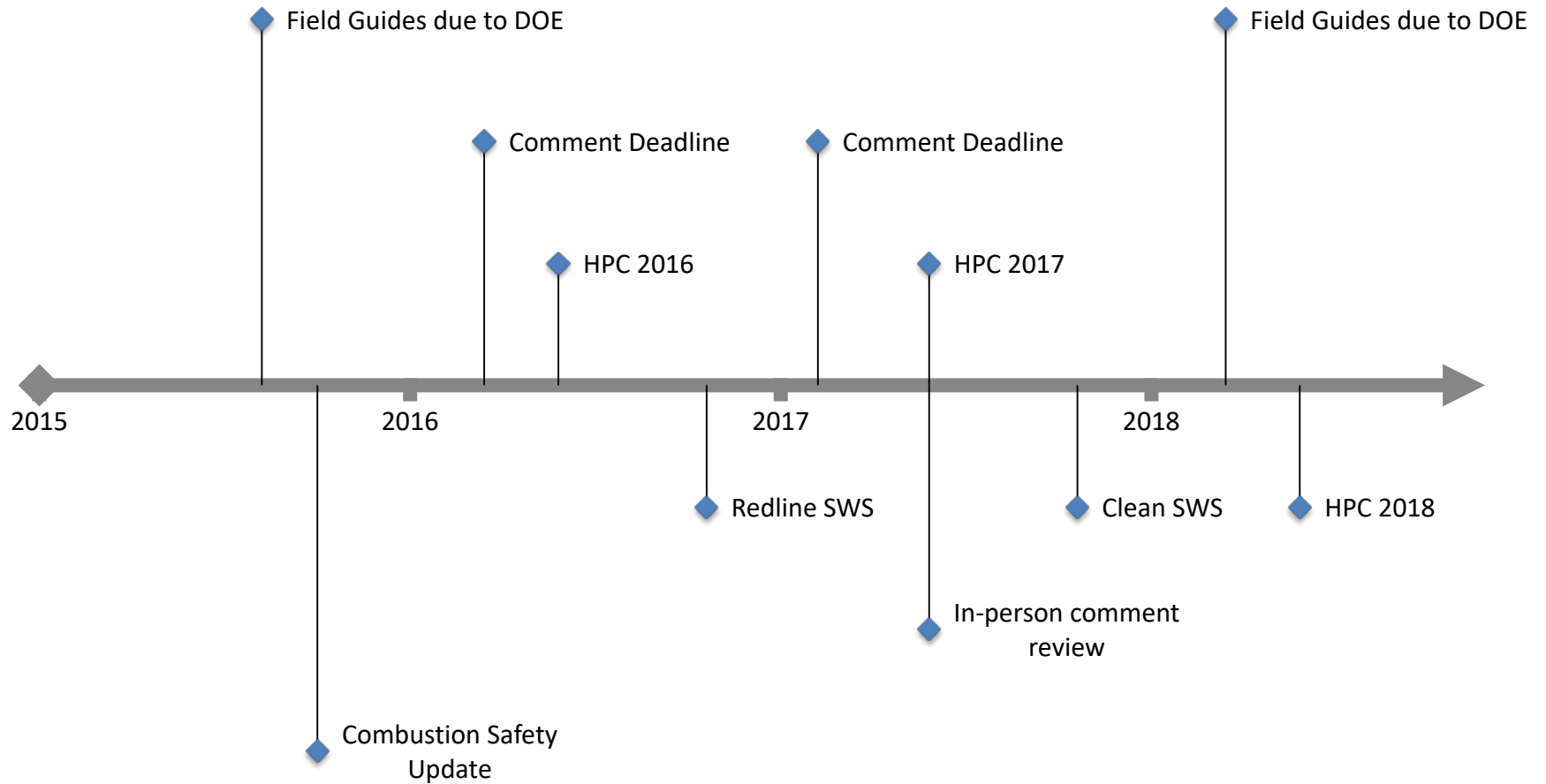
FY 2018 HQ Training and Technical Assistance Initiatives

- Solar and WAP
- SWS Maintenance and Revision – will be finalized in March
- Health and Safety Guidance –New template will be used for PY18 state plans and will be issued in conjunction with Guidance.
- Home Energy Professional (HEP) certification revision
- Research
- NEAT update including move to online format
- Pilots:
 - Smart Grid
 - EM&V
 - Health Impacts

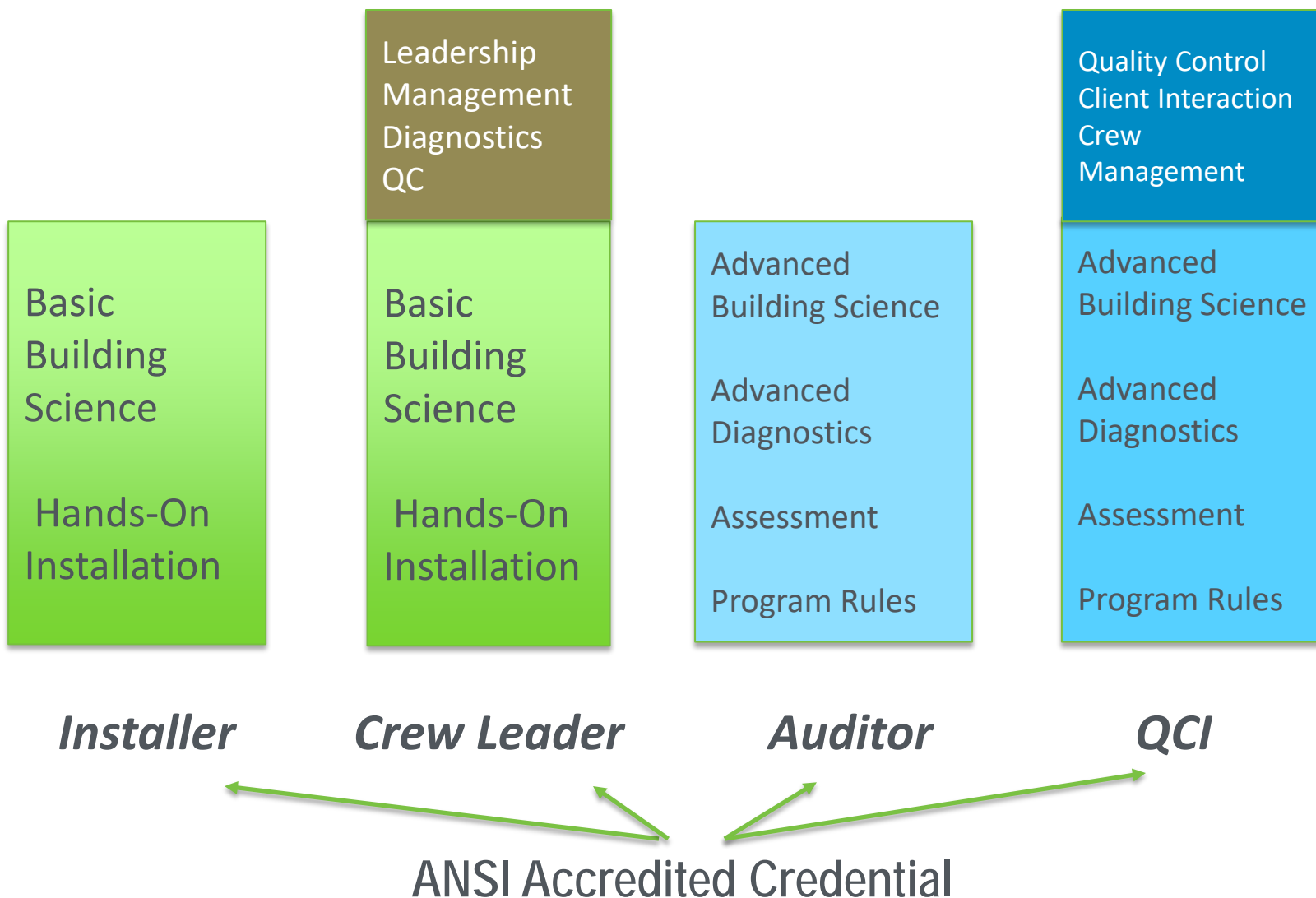
Solar and WAP

- Grantee must submit a request to the DOE project officer.
 - Request must include a description of the proposed deployment pilot and demonstrate cost effectiveness.
 - Analysis must be based on accurate inputs for your state.
 - The DOE Solar SIR tool can be used for this analysis.
- Include Solar PV as a measure in your energy modeling software and submit sample analyses to DOE for review and approval
- Incorporate the inclusion of a Solar Pilot Program in your Annual Plan Submission to DOE
- NEPA Review (WAP is exploring a blanket approval)
- All approvals are being issued on a “pilot” basis so DOE can work with NASCSP to provide guidance on best practices.

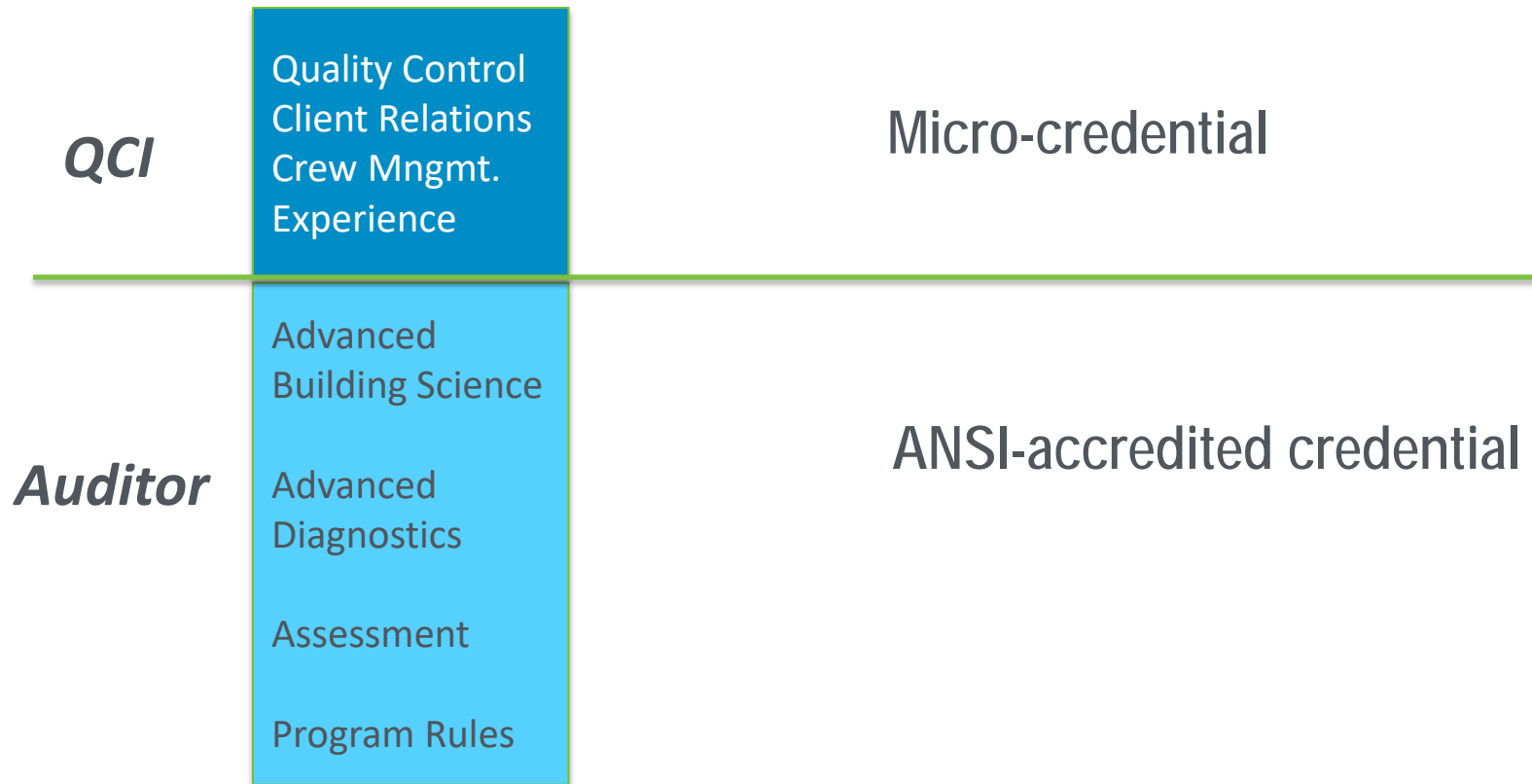
SWS Update Timeline



Streamlining the Resources - HEP Certifications



Streamlining the Resources- Proposed Structure



Key Points for the Home Energy Professional Revision

- Intended to improve the certifications and make them more relevant to the actual work.
- Improves testing framework.
- WILL NOT invalidate existing credentials.
- Training process and relevant skills should remain very similar to the existing JTAs.
- No more “soft skills”!
- Timeline:
 - QCI/EA JTA revision complete.
 - Industry validation process beginning soon.
 - New QCI/EA will be available in 2019.
 - Installer/Crew Leader process will begin next year.

American Consumer Survey Index (ACSI) – WAP Grantees

- The ACSI is the weighted average of three questions that ask directly about customer satisfaction.
 - *How satisfied are you with the services provided by DOE WAP?*
 - *How well do the services from DOE WAP meet your expectations?*
 - *How do the services from DOE WAP compare to an ideal grant awarding agency?*
- Questionnaire measures Grantee satisfaction with DOE WAP.
 - Training and technical assistance
 - Grant monitoring
 - Plan review
 - Communication efforts
- 52 valid completes were collected for an overall response rate of 88%.

Grant Guidance

- Part of ACSI plan is to make it easier for Grantees to submit the State Plan Application.
 - Release guidance earlier.
 - Deliver a webinar on changes.
 - Conduct regional calls.
 - Work through issues among DOE staff to foster more consistency.
 - Work with NASCSP to assist new Grantee managers in submitting a plan.
- Working on PY18 Guidance now.
 - Stakeholder comments in August.
 - Grantee comments in September.
 - November 1 release.

American Consumer Survey Index -- Further Actions

- Plan has been finalized after feedback from stakeholder organizations and Staff.
- Implement the plan.
- **Some comments are already being addressed:**
 - Grant guidance came out earlier this year.
 - Held two webinars to highlight changes in PY17 guidance and new policies.
 - Project Officers are doing application pre-reviews and turning around comments more quickly.
 - Working with PAGE to address improvements to the system.
 - Preparation of PY18 guidance has started.

American Consumer Survey Index – WAP Subgrantees

In addition to the survey of WAP Grantees, ACSI conducted a study of Subgrantees.

- Like the Grantee survey, this focused on how satisfied Subgrantees are with the services provided by DOE and the Grantees.
- How well do the services from both DOE WAP and the Grantee meet the expectations.
- Questionnaire measures grantee satisfaction with:
 - Subgrantee involvement with the development of the WAP State Plan
 - Timing of the distribution of funds to Subgrantees
 - Technical Assistance provided by State WAP staff
 - Training provided by third parties
 - Monitoring and Quality Improvement Plans
 - Communications between DOE, the Grantee and Subgrantees

American Consumer Survey Index – WAP Subgrantees

- Overall customer satisfaction is 67, same as WAP Grantee Survey.
- Areas receiving the highest scores are: Technical Assistance Provided and Monitoring (both 70).
- Technical Assistance received the second highest impact (0.9) among components measured, so this is key to improving satisfaction.
- Monitoring and Corrective Action has a much lower impact (0.4) so it has a lower priority when building strategies to improve satisfaction.
- Based on impacts, Communication, Technical Assistance and Distribution of Funds should be viewed as priorities by the states as they develop strategies to improve CSI

American Consumer Survey Index – WAP Subgrantees

- While the impacts for Partnerships and Development of the WAP Plan are relatively moderate, the very low scores for those components make them items that should be reviewed. Through their survey responses sub-grantees are sending a clear message that these are areas of particular frustration.
- State level CSI scores point to dramatic differences in the way sub-grantees view State WAP Agencies. While scores for two states are in the 90's, there are several that came in below 50.
- DOE want states to engage with subgrantees to discuss the findings and, following DOE's lead, develop and action plan to address the issues raised.
- This is consistent with the emphasis DOE is placing on subgrantee involvement in the development of the state plan and other programmatic issues.

Other Initiatives of Note

- New multifamily guidance issued.
 - HUD lists expired the end of 2016.
 - New procedure was dictated by HUD and is fairly bureaucratic, plus it creates significant work for property managers.
 - Creativity will remain necessary if you want to do multifamily units.
- DOE will continue to emphasize keeping the existing provider networks – all agencies running effective programs stay in the program.
- DOE will continue to encourage states to invest in leveraging.
 - DOE is aggressively reaching out to utilities to ‘sell’ the network.
- DOE is working to enhance training opportunities.

On Behalf of the WAP Staff

and the Millions of Clients We Have Served...

Thanks for all you do!

