

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



**RECIPIENT:** Neighborhood Housing Services of Toledo

**STATE:** OH

**PROJECT TITLE :** FY 22 E&I Recipients Individual Submission (Toledo Healthy Homes Training Center)

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002520		GFO-FY22E&I-003	GO28308

**Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:**

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

**A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination**

Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations**

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

**B2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation**

Installation of, or improvements to, building and equipment instrumentation (including, but not limited to, remote control panels, remote monitoring capability, alarm and surveillance systems, control systems to provide automatic shutdown, fire detection and protection systems, water consumption monitors and flow control systems, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).

**B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water**

(a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

**B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems**

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is authorized per Title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The goal of WAP is to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential expenditures, and improve their health and safety. DOE has approximately \$18.6 million available for the Enhancement and Innovation (E&I) Program under the 2021 appropriations for the WAP E&I Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0002520). This NEPA review is specific to Neighborhood Housing Services of Toledo, Inc. proposed project activities selected under DE-FOA-0002520.

DOE has determined the following "Allowable Activities" are categorically excluded from further NEPA review, absent extraordinary circumstances, cumulative impacts, or connected actions that may lead to significant impacts on the environment, or any inconsistency with "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) as they relate to a specific activity.

Allowable Activities:

1. Administrative activities associated with the creation and management of a Neighborhood Housing Services of Toledo, Inc, training facility including hiring and training staff.
2. Identify and lease space for a training facility for classroom weatherization training and hands-on training for the following skills: heating and cooling systems, electrical, plumbing, and insulation.
3. Purchasing of tools and equipment for weatherization training activities.
4. Renovations at the leased site would be restricted to non-ground disturbing and non-permanent activities limited to:
  - a. Addition of modular furniture and walls
  - b. Design and construction of a partial mock house inside the leased facility with the needed elements for training weatherization activities
5. Identify and recruit diverse trainees.
6. Classroom training at the leased facility would include:
  - a. Lead certifications
  - b. Electric partnership & baseload testing
  - c. National Energy Audit Tool (NEAT) and the Manufactured Home Energy Audit (MHEA ) training
  - d. Consumer energy education
  - e. Workplace safety (OSHA 10 & OSHA 30) training
7. A local community college and Ohio training facility would be identified to create partnerships and additional training programs.
8. All field training activities would occur on homes that were reviewed under the NEPA determination GFO-WAP-2022A. Trainees would accompany trainers to homes already identified for weatherization measures.

The recipient is required to participate in DOE led training on NEPA and Historic Preservation which would include the additional reporting requirements for the above activities prior to commencing work on the above activities. The training is available at [www.energy.gov/node/4816816](http://www.energy.gov/node/4816816). The recipient is responsible for contacting NEPA with any NEPA or historic preservation questions at [GONEPA@ee.doe.gov](mailto:GONEPA@ee.doe.gov).

The Recipient is responsible for identifying and promptly notifying DOE of extraordinary circumstances, cumulative impacts, or connected actions that may lead to significant impacts on the environment, or any inconsistency with the "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) relating to any proposed activities.

Activities that fit within the restrictions of the Allowable Activities, except those that involve structures 45 years or older, require the submission of a Historic Preservation Worksheet and approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to initiating the project. Recipients should contact their Project Officer or email [GONEPA@ee.doe.gov](mailto:GONEPA@ee.doe.gov) for information to complete a Historic Preservation Worksheet.

For activities requiring additional NEPA review, including any ground disturbing activities, the Recipient must complete the environmental questionnaire (found at <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA.aspx>) for review by DOE.

Most activities listed under "Allowable Activities" are more restrictive than the Categorical Exclusion. The restrictions must be followed for the Allowable Activities to be applicable.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

This NEPA Determination only applies to the Neighborhood Housing Services of Toledo listed non-ground disturbing “Allowable Activities”.

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

This NEPA Determination does NOT apply to any ground disturbing activities or activities not listed under “Allowable Activities”.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. This NEPA Determination only applies to the listed non-ground disturbing “Allowable Activities”.
2. The Recipient is responsible for completing the online NEPA and historic preservation training at [www.energy.gov/node/4816816](http://www.energy.gov/node/4816816) and contacting NEPA with any questions [GONEPA@ee.doe.gov](mailto:GONEPA@ee.doe.gov).

Notes:

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office – Weatherization Assistance Program  
This NEPA Determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.  
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 01/09/2023.

**FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS**

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

 Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 1/31/2023

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_