

QuikFACTS

A quick legislative update provided by the National Community Action Foundation.

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Status of EPA Lead Safety Rule Enforcement, C.O.B. April 21

As all Weatherizers know, new Lead Safe work regulations become effective on Thursday, April 22. We have won a little flexibility for Weatherizers regarding implementation, but other concerns remain.

Last night, EPA wrote its regional offices to say that any 'firm' that has applied for certification by today may continue to operate in pre-1978 homes while waiting for the confirmation of certification by EPA. DOE will soon be circulating the EPA announcement to federal and state managers. The letter is not yet posted at the EPA site.

On April 8, a new EPA answer to its on-line FAQ's clarified that W.A.P. subgrantees that have no crew workers and use only contractors do not need the "firm" designation. As you know, NCAF had urged all to apply before the guidance was clarified; in the current regulatory climate we feel we do not need to apologize for our excess of caution.

With the help of over 400 W.A.P. agencies responding to our survey last week we were able to make a strong case for additional flexibility in implementation. Thank you all. [See the full results on our site: www.ncaf.org under issues/energy] It showed the network needs more flexibility:

- thousands of individuals are waiting to receive certificates from their training. They should be accorded the same flexibility as the organizations that applied to be firms. However, until EPA gives different guidance - they may not work as Renovators.
- Many more will be applying after April 22, because training is not available until later. Also, new contractors may enter the program and apply for 'firm' status. EPA's 'grace period' so far applies only to

Quick Links

[NCAF Website](#)

[NCAF Blog](#)

Join us May 3-7, 2010 at the Renaissance Vinoy Hotel in St. Petersburg, Florida for the [2010 War on Poverty Workshop.](#)

This year's workshop will have a special focus on those interested in pursuing a long-term career in community action.

The workshop will focus on:

• Understanding key concepts of Community Action

• Examining who we are as professionals in Community Action, and why we possess this identity

• Exploring the

organizations and only to those with applications submitted through April 21.

NCAF is still seeking DOE and Hill support for persuading EPA to assure all those individuals and the future applicants to be firms are protected while there remain paperwork bottlenecks.

For CAA Directors and Other Leaders Who DO Not Work with Tools! *See a new movie and Understand Lead Safe Work Rules and Costs!* A new film from Montana Training Center's WX-TV channel (funded by the NCAF Exxon-Mobil partnership) has just been posted at <http://weatherization.org/wxtv/>. It's both the armchair way to understand what is involved for your workforce; and excellent training for Renovators.

Two other sources of confusion regarding the LRRP rule remain frustratingly unresolved.

1. EPA's FAQ reiterates that a rule change prohibiting the practice of having some units' residents sign an 'opt-out' form will be promulgated by tomorrow. It has not been posted.
2. Many have asked us to get clarification on the need for HVAC contractors to have 'firm' status where another 'firm' is the contractor, and that, too, is unanswered.

Final note: The most rewarding finding of our survey response is that hundreds of agencies and tens of thousands of individual weatherizers have been trained and prepared for meeting yet another new challenge while vaulting over many other ARRA ramp-up obstacles at the same time. Community Action with our local Weatherization partners will be one of the great Recovery Act success stories as the facts become known.

role(s) each one of us possesses in determining the identity of Community Action

- How we can change our local communities as Community Action professionals

- How we can make a national impact as members of the national Community Action movement.

[Register Today!](#)