The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Energy Resources

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Boston, MA 02114

<http://www.mass.gov/doer>



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**Notice of Intent to Contract with LIHEAP Coordinators**

**For**

**Solar Thermal Installation**

NOI-ENE-2014-033

Issued: April 25, 2014

**Department of Energy Resources**

**State Energy Program**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONTRACT**

**Notice of Funding to LIHEAP Coordinators**

**For Solar Thermal Installation**

The purpose of the program is to fund the installation of up to 35 solar thermal systems in Massachusetts for residents who receive fuel assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Specifically, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is targeting LIHEAP recipients that employ oil, electricity, or propane as their primary source of domestic hot water and space heating. Oil and electric heat are costly compared to other sources of heating, and fuel assistance may not cover all of a homeowner’s costs. DOER wants to help LIHEAP recipients supplement their oil and electric heating with renewable energy like solar thermal and provide homeowners with lower heating bills for many years. Solar thermal uses power from the sun to create the heat used for space heating and domestic hot water. Systems need minimal maintenance and provide a great way for owners to reduce their hot water and space heating costs.

The DOER is working with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to provide funding for solar thermal systems.

**Scope of grant performance to be achieved or funded under the grant**:

As part of the DOER’s renewable energy initiatives, New England Farm Workers, Community Action Greenfield, Worcester Community Action Council, and the Wampanoag tribe will provide services needed to administer the solar thermal program, including identifying eligible LIHEAP recipients and issuing reimbursements to solar thermal system installers.

**Award Amount:**

Total award is $500,000.

$450,000 will be evenly divided between New England Farm Workers, Worcester Community Action Council, and Community Action Greenfield. Each group will receive $150,000.

$50,000 will be granted to the Wampanoag tribes.

**Duration of Contract:** Contracts will run from contract execution date until September 1, 2014.

**Selection Criteria:**

DOER is targeting regions with a high use of electricity as a primary heating source for domestic water. DOER is also targeting areas where the program will make the most impact, specifically those areas where natural gas distribution infrastructure is lacking.

There are 22 LIHEAP coordinators throughout the state. In coordination with the state LIHEAP coordinator and upon analysis of the natural gas and oil consumption and distribution maps, the three groups below represent the best match for this program offering. The numbers following each name represent the number of people served in their fuel assistance program in FY12 as well as how many cities and towns are served under each coordinator.

* New England Farm Workers – 27 cities and towns in northern Worcester county serving 9,639 LIHEAP participants
* Worcester Community Action Council – 27 cities and towns serving 14,796 participants
* Community Action Greenfield – 47 towns serving 7,969 participants.

To ensure that all groups are given an equal chance to receive the funding, up to ten vouchers will be allotted for each coordinating group. Vouchers are available for owner occupied residences in these geographic areas whose homes have roofs with full exposure to sun. The first ten homeowners who receive three bids from contractors indicating that they are ideal candidates for solar thermal will be eligible to receive the voucher.

In addition, there will be up to five vouchers set aside for tribal participants. The Wampanoag tribe is federally recognized and receives its own LIHEAP funding.

Please direct any questions or comments related to this Notice of Award to:

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