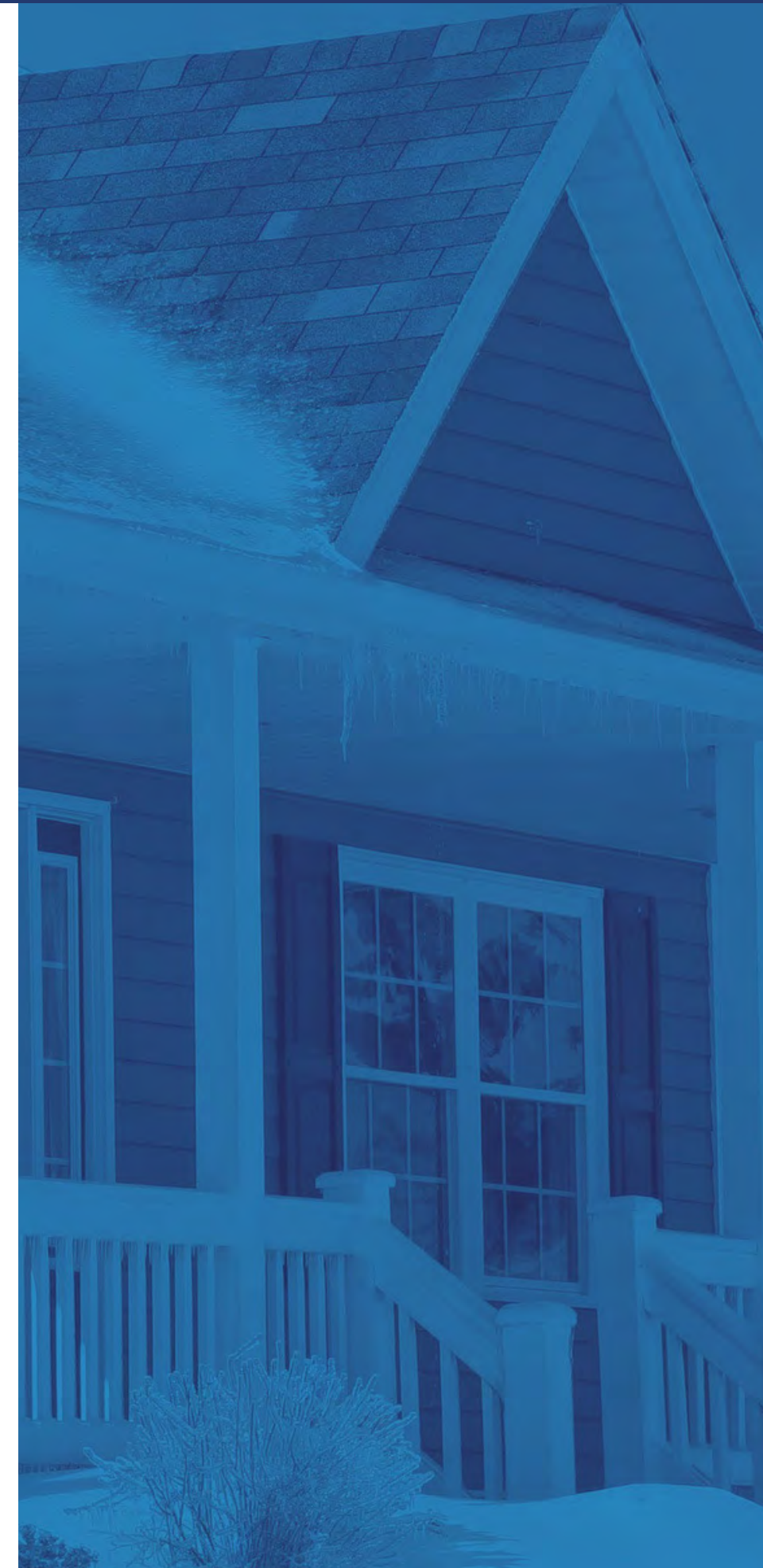


# **WEATHERIZATION BARRIER REMEDIATION PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

**Prepared for the LIEAB Subcommittee**

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 11:30 AM



# PURPOSE

- **23% of the homes serviced** by CT'S Home Energy Solutions Income-Eligible (HES-IE) program **contain health and safety barriers**
- These barriers defer home from the full suite of HES-IE services and prevent weatherization
- Remediating barriers improves a home's energy efficiency and reduces future energy bills, which in turn **reduces dependence LIHEAP and other programs.**
- Best estimate: **67,000 income-eligible homes** in CT have health and safety barriers preventing HES-IE access

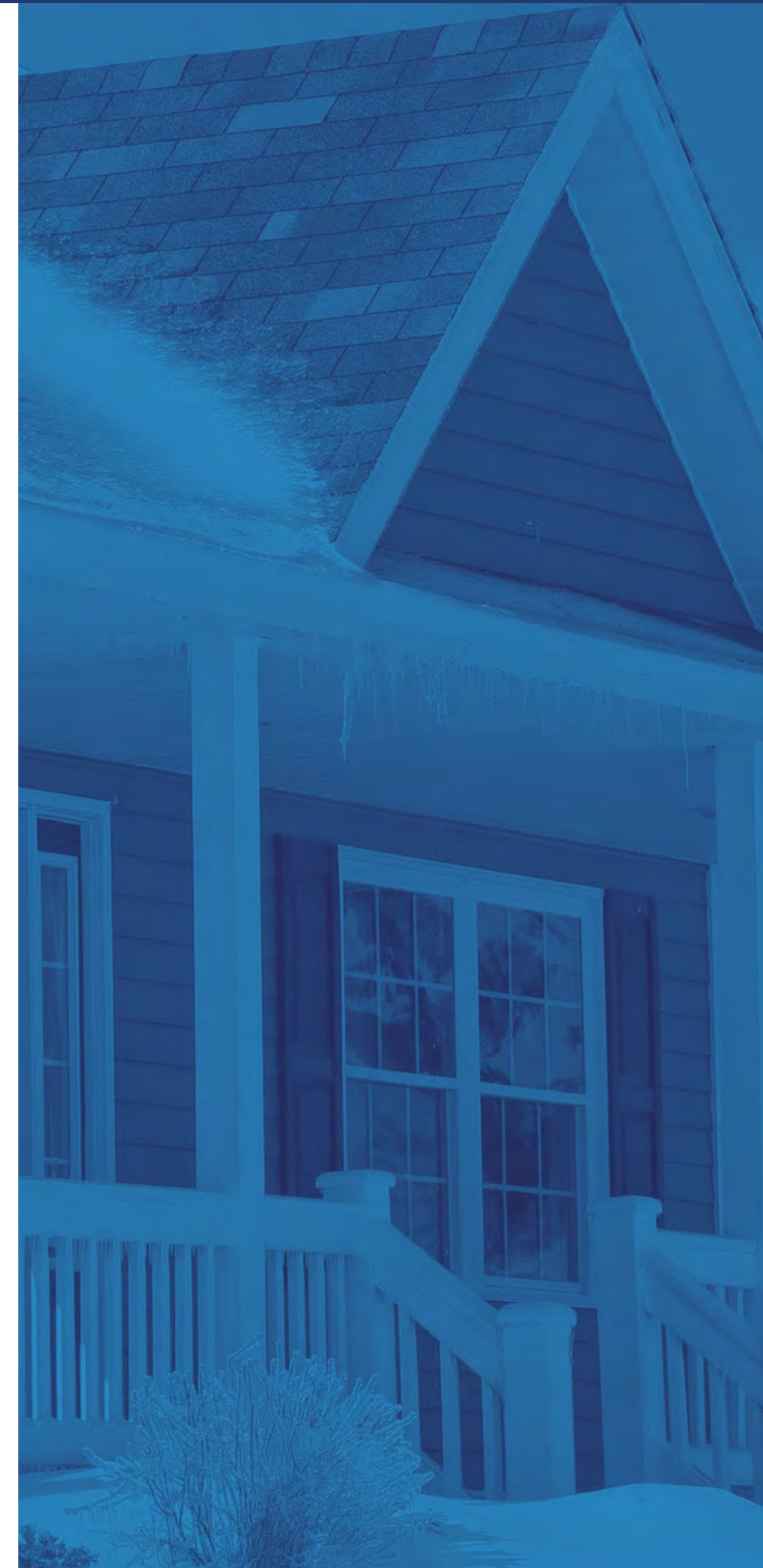


# ALLOCATION PROPOSAL

- Allocate an additional amount, up to \$2.0 million, to LIHEAP weatherization, for the purpose of creating a weatherization barrier remediation program

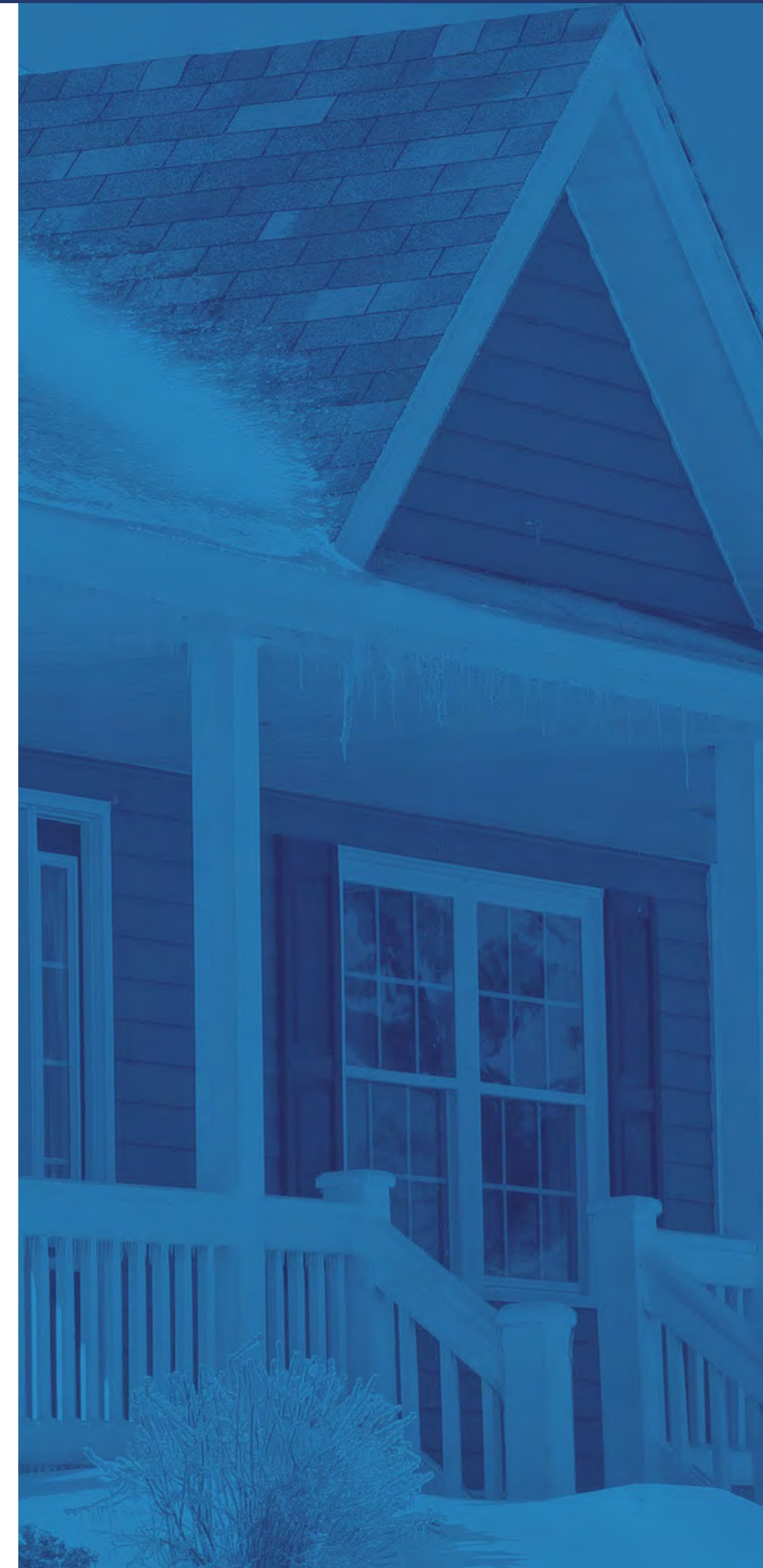
# EXPENDITURE PROPOSAL

- DEEP proposes an average expenditure of \$8,000 per home for weatherization barrier work
- Suggests maintaining the current maximum expenditure of \$15,000 established in Connecticut's 2021 LIHEAP Detailed Model Plan



# PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

- With Connecticut's Department of Social Services as the LIHEAP grantee, DEEP proposes serving as the subgrantee of the weatherization barrier remediation program
- DEEP will develop a process to contract with another entity to support the program



# PROPOSED FLOW OF FUNDING

## LIHEAP Funding for Health and Safety Barriers to Weatherization



# HEALTH AND SAFETY BARRIERS COVERED IN OTHER STATES

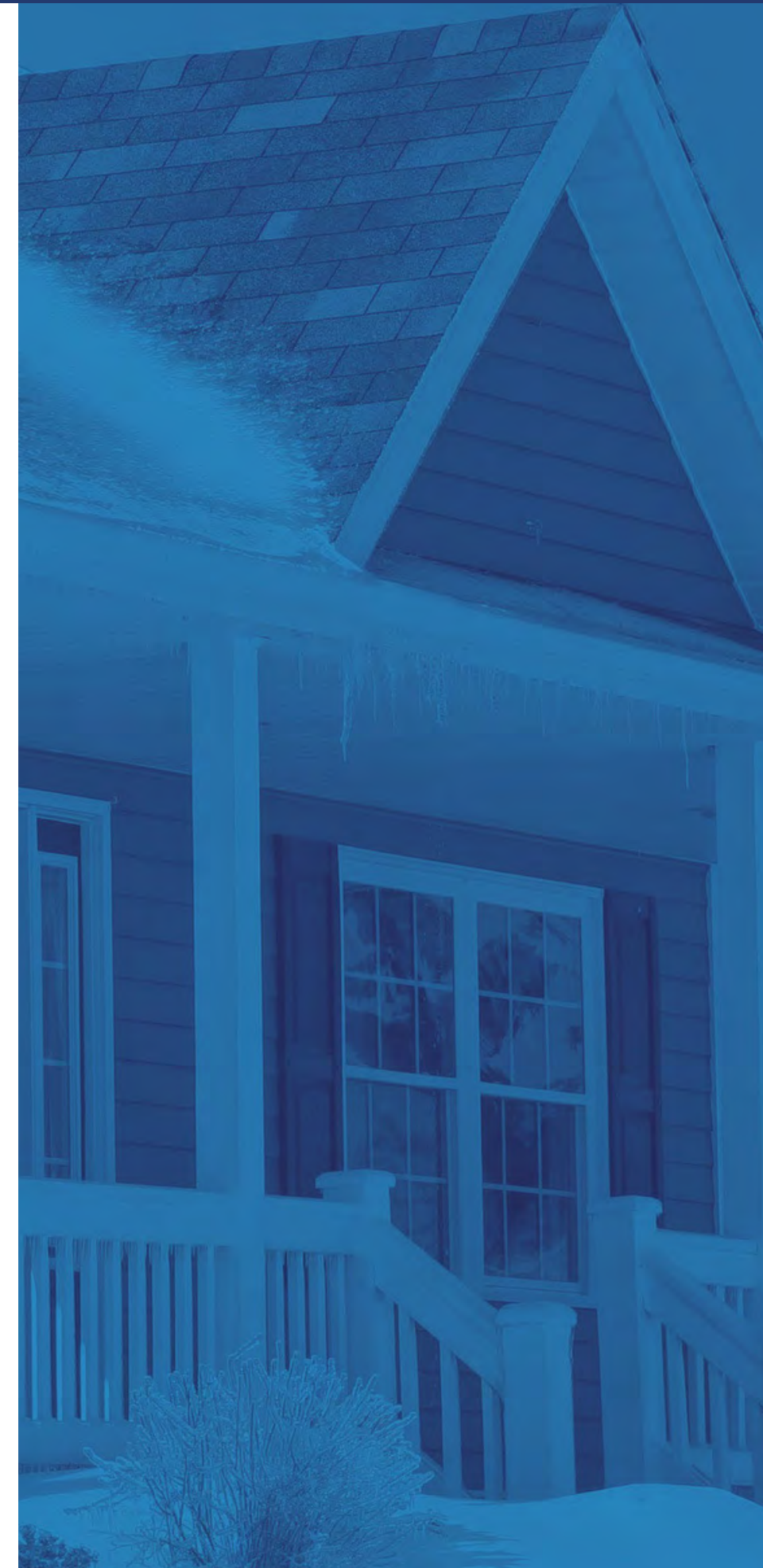
- Knob and tube wiring repairs (PA, VT)
- Exhaust ventilation installation and repair (VT)
- Energy related roof-repairs (with approval, no replacements)\* (AL, FL, NH, NY, PA)
- Smoke detectors, CO Detectors, and ventilation (FL, NE, NY, PA, VT, NH, WY)
- Fuel tank replacement (MA)
- Fuel line replacement (MA)
- Chimney liner (MA)
- Asbestos abatement when related to heating system replacement (MA)
- Mold remediation when related to heating system replacement (PA)
- Moisture control (PA)
- Grading\* (PA)
- Gutters and downspouts\* (FL, PA)
- Drainage system (FL, PA)
- Sump pump installation (PA)
- Pest control\* (PA)
- Air exchange issues, filtration, and air quality (KS, OR, PA)
- Radon testing and mitigation (PA)
- Code Compliance\* (AL, FL, PA)

\*Often limited in practice according to the CT WAP

# PROJECTED BENEFITS

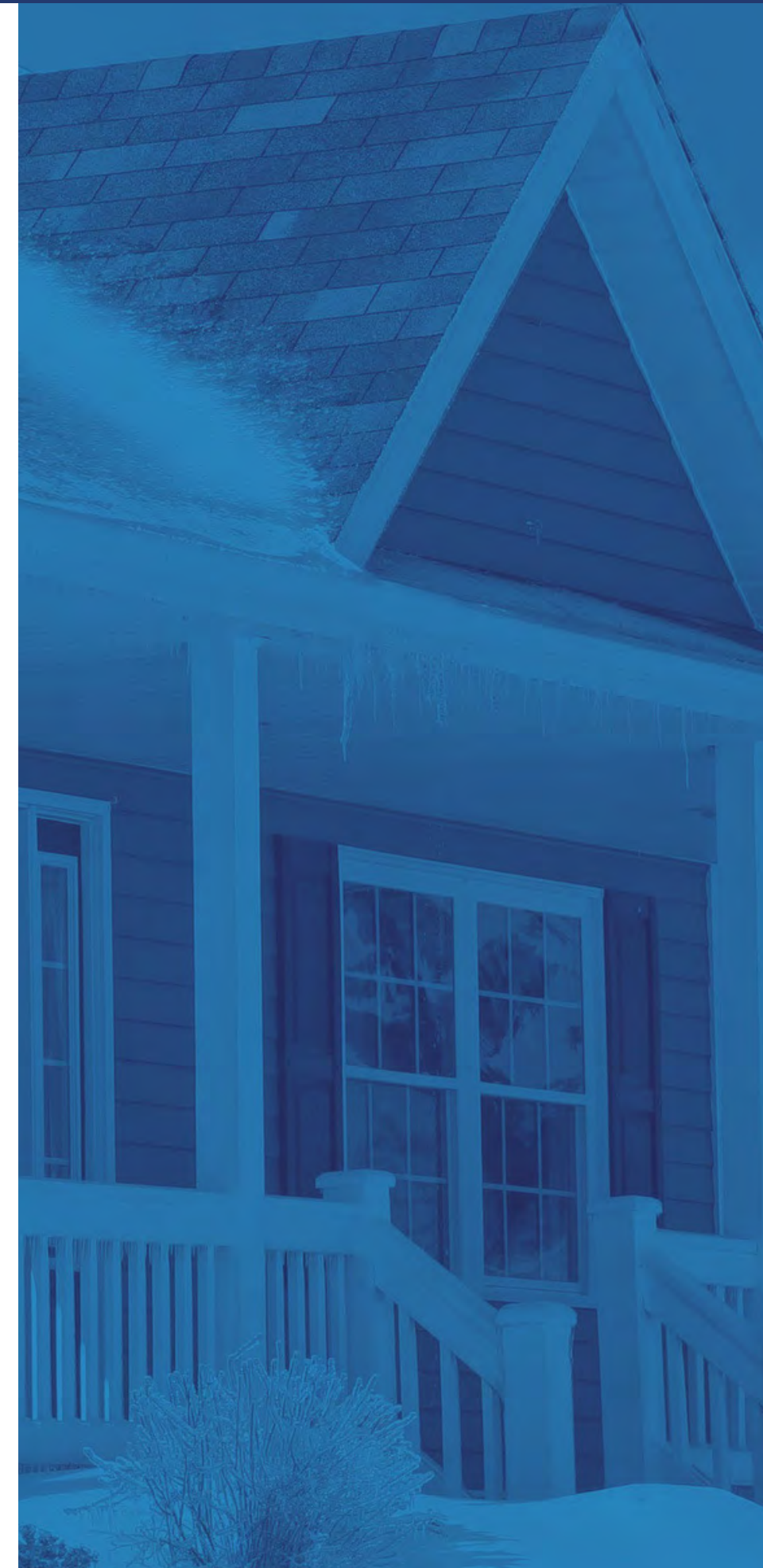
DEEP projects that a \$1.8 million investment in a barrier remediation program has the ability to:

- **Serve approximately 225 homes** in year one
- **Unlock \$1.131 million in HES-IE utility co-investment** for weatherization services including core weatherstripping and sealing services and add-on attic and wall insulation.
- **Generate \$1.680 million in lifetime customer energy cost savings** for income-eligible households
- **Produce an additional \$1.342 million in non-energy benefits** for income-eligible households



# ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- DOE's National Evaluation says weatherization returns \$2.78 in non-energy benefits for every \$1.00 invested in the Program, including improved housing conditions and participant health, decreased out-of-pocket medical expenses, and fewer missed days of work from illness and doctor visits
- Weatherized homes reduce extreme cold and heat related mortality and accrue "over \$122,000 and \$153,000 in benefits from reducing heat related and cold-related medical costs, respectfully."





# ADDRESSING ADDITIONAL BARRIERS

- Landlord willingness to participate in the program may be a barrier to participation for some renters
- A key benefit of the property owner agreement is its role obtaining landlord buy-in to the program
- DEEP is currently taking steps to better quantify the extent to which the landlord approval process impacts renter participation in HES and HES-IE and to minimize the impacts of this requirement such as:
  - directing the utilities to develop a data collection proposal regarding data collection on rental units that do not proceed due to lack of landlord approval
  - directing utilities to offer a series of roundtables with a variety of landlords on overcoming obstacles to weatherization
  - Directing the utilities to prioritize marketing to those with the largest arrearages and most frequent shutoffs and adding a new secondary metric for increasing participation among those enrolled in payment plan programs
  - Expanding community engagement by providing funding to community groups working with a municipality to increase energy efficiency program participation

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Will LIHEAP funds be used to supplement the budget of any utility programs?**

No, the sole purpose of the LIHEAP funds is to address health and safety barriers in income-eligible homes that would otherwise be deferred from certain weatherization services

## **What is a typical HES-IE visit and why do health and safety barriers pose an issue?**

Utility-approved technicians evaluate a home's energy performance and install basic weatherization and energy-saving measures

## **What are the most common health and safety barrier issues?**

Asbestos-like material, mold, failed combustion area zone, gas leak, vermiculite, carbon monoxide, failed worst case spillage, and unvented gas appliance



# DISCUSSION

30 MINS

