

NASEO Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting  
June 3, 2020

**West Virginia Questionnaire Response**

1. How has your office's operations been impacted by COVID-19?  
As much as 90-95% of employees that make up the 10 agencies of our Department of Commerce has been working remotely since mid-March. This includes the entire energy office.
  - a. Have you been able to improve your office's programs or operations as a result of COVID-19?  
No, any program that is not an essential function has been put on hold.
  - b. What is your plan for returning to the workplace?  
The energy office is scheduled to officially reopen on June 15<sup>th</sup>. I will be in the office one week prior.
2. What are lessons learned so far regarding ESF 12 and responding to any energy impacts of COVID-19?  
WV has not seen any direct energy impact from COVID-19. We are assessing what any secondary or indirect impacts there may be.
3. What projects or programs are your office's SEP funds supporting this upcoming year and will you be considering changes due to COVID-19?  
All of our workforce development and education programs are continuing, with resiliency, benchmarking and performance contracting activities being higher priorities. With our training efforts in the built community, we are shifting focus on indoor air quality and healthy buildings. We are already planning to develop a webinar series with the WV ASHRAE Chapter. The small business energy efficiency loan program that we were planning to launch will now be a mini grant program. It will provide up to \$5000 for efficiency upgrades, with an audit and benchmark requirement. We have also been in discussion with the Homebuilders Association to provide training and job placement for those looking for jobs because of the pandemic.
4. If stimulus funds were to be provided, what energy program(s) would you focus on creating or supplementing?  
Primary focus would be on our job training and placement, in partnership with the trades and community and technical colleges. Also, we would ramp up the mini grant program to small businesses, as well as indoor air quality and safety programs.