Weatherization Leveraged Partnerships Project

The project offers training and assistance for all WAP subgrantees in designing private partnerships and programs that leverage their local WAP expertise.

Meg Power, Executive Director, EOS
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Natalie Kramer, Policy Associate, CAP
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• The WAP Network brings value to potential partnerships
• Success – increased impact of EE services for low-income households
• Our team can help with “start up” and new challenges in existing programs
  • Resources to share
  • Connection with experienced peers
  • Trainings and webinars like this one!
Protecting Utility Consumers in the Fast-Changing Markets: Community Action’s Role

Elizabeth Marx, Supervising Attorney
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project

Shawn Collins, Director
The Energy Project, a Program of Opportunity Council

Community Action Partnership
2017 Annual Convention
August 31, 2017
Why is Utility Affordability Important?

- Safety
- Economic Independence
- Financial Stability
- Health / Healthcare
- Child Custody / Dependency
- Retain Housing
- Ability to Afford Other Life Necessities
An “energy burden” is the percentage of annual income that goes toward paying energy bills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Level</th>
<th>2015 Pennsylvania Home Energy Burdens</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below 50%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>299,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-100%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>371,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-125%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>205,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125-150%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>215,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150-185%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>307,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185-200%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>131,879</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Middle to High Income Households = 3% to 5%
Electric / Gas Terminations: Price of Commodity (Pennsylvania)

Notes:
- Termination data as reported in annual PUC residential collections reports
- Average Pennsylvania residential price per kWh as reported by U.S. Energy Information Administration.
Electric / Gas Terminations: Price of Commodity (Pennsylvania)
In WA State, we generally estimate that 20%-25% of eligible households are served with energy assistance programs annually. Of those served, many are unable to access the assistance on a regular basis due to demand. With out changes to the utility’s rate design, program structure, or the household’s finances energy burdens remain extremely high among low and very low-income households.
Why engage in state utility commission proceedings?

- The low-income households are profoundly affected by state utility commission decisions.
- “If you aren’t at the table, you are on the menu.”
- Other interests may say they are acting in the interest of low-income consumers.
Different Types of Proceedings

- Adjudicatory
  - Litigated or Comment-Only Proceedings
- Rulemaking
- Generic / Statewide Investigations
- Informal
What is Involved with Intervention?

Different levels of engagement
- Track Issues
- Provide Informal Feedback
- Participate in Stakeholder Meetings
- Serve on Advisory Panels
- Submit Comments / Letters
- Intervene as a Party
- Work with a Coalition
### Factors to Consider

- What is the effect of this proceeding on low-income households?
- What is the likelihood of success?
- Resources
  - Staff Time
  - Funding
  - Attorney or experts needed?
- Opportunity to join coalition / share the load?
Building Partnerships

- Legal Services Programs
- AARP
- NAACP
- Local / Statewide Domestic Violence Coalitions
- Disability Rights Groups
- Area Aging Agencies
- Homeless Service Providers
- Veterans Groups
- Housing Providers
- Environmental Justice Advocates
Funding Opportunities

- LIHEAP & WAP Leveraging
- State Intervenor Funding
- Collaborative Projects with Legal Services Agencies
  - Access to Justice Funding
  - Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Funding
  - Class Action Settlements
  - Other fees (ex: Pro Hac Vice Fees / Filing Fees)
- Community & Economic Development Grants
Impacts to Funding as a Result of Intervening

- 2016 WA State LIHEAP Energy Assistance Award
  - $47.1 million

- Leveraged Funding from Investor Owned Utilities in 2016 for Energy Assistance in WA State:
  - $26,630,032

Before 2001, these investor owned utility dollars for energy assistance did not exist. Intervening in utility general rate cases on behalf of low-income households created these funds.
Common Issues

- Universal Service / Low Income Programs
  - Creation
  - Design
  - Implementation
  - Coordination

- Types of Programs
  - Percentage of Income Programs
  - Credit / Discount Based Programs
  - Arrearage Management
  - Energy Efficiency / Weatherization
Common Issues

- **Base Rate Proceedings**
  - Fixed Charge Proposals
  - Inclining / Declining Block Rates
  - Low Income Programming
  - Allocation of Ratepayer Funded Programming
  - Reconnection Costs
  - Identification Requirements
  - Payment Agreement Terms
  - Disconnection Terms
Common Issues

- **Deregulation Dockets**
  - Marketing Regulations
  - Customer Privacy
  - Notice Requirements
  - Cost-Control Measures
  - Low Income Shopping Protections
Common Issues

- Credit / Collections / Billing Standards
  - Security Deposit Standards
  - Payment Arrangement Standards
  - Termination Process / Procedures
  - Medical Certification
  - Winter Terminations
Common Issues

- Alternative Energy Issues
  - Cost of Solar / Net Metering
  - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
Common Issues

• Other Common Proceedings
  • Smart Meter Proceedings
    • prepay service, remote termination, etc.
  • Energy Procurement (Default Service) Plans
  • Mergers / Acquisitions
Next Steps

- Review Cases for Common / Recurring Utility-Related Issues
- Familiarize Yourself with Current Utility Laws / Policies
- Check out the Commission Website
  - Commissioners, hot topics, open proceedings, schedule
- Reach Out to Potential Partners
  - Locate Partners with Subject Matter Expertise
  - Discuss Shared Training Opportunities
  - Identify Pending Issues & Opportunities to Participate
Questions / Comments?
Thank you!

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EVALUATIONS

The Partnership Wants Your Feedback!

Please be sure to complete the evaluation for this session online, via the CAPCON17 Event App.
Thanks in Advance for your Cooperation!