



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.

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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!

The Goal is Braided Funding Streams for a Larger Program with Greater Impact



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How Associations of Community Action or Weatherization Organize to Win BIG for Low Income Energy Consumers

Cynthia Zwick, Executive Director, Arizona Community Action Association

Keith Kueny, Energy Policy Coordinator, Community Action Partnership of Oregon

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ENERGY ADVOCACY

ARIZONA

WHY?

- A Voice for Low Income Before the Arizona Corporation Commission
- A Voice for Low Income Within the Utility Company
- Five major regulated utilities :
 - Arizona Public Service
 - SW Gas
 - Tucson Electric Power
 - Unisource Gas
 - Unisource Electric

- One Major Unregulated Electric Company – Salt River Project
- Many Electric Co-ops
- Many regional and local water companies
- If we are not present, there is no voice for our customers and they are neglected!

HOW!

- Relationship building
 - With utility staff
 - With other parties in the cases
 - With the Staff of the ACC as well as the Commissioners when appropriate
 - With the Staff of RUCO – the Residential Utility Consumer Organization

Learn as much as possible about the case and the impact on the customers we represent

Maintain our focus – low income customers

- In the 1970's, early 80's members of the ACAA Board wanted to fight a rate increase that APS was seeking
- Our engagement has continued, via intervention in rate proceedings, and development of relationships with utility staff
- Managed a bill assistance program and a small weatherization program for a major utility – has since grown to managing programs for every major utility, including a water company
- In 2008, we began the first warm weather fuel fund in the US – the Home Energy Assistance Fund
- El Paso Gas pipeline settlement

WHAT!

- Relationships with the various utility partners
- Partnerships with 32 providers throughout the state
- Relationships with staff within the utility – from CEO to community outreach staff to customer service representatives
- Relationships with other warm weather utility partners in order to advocate for LIHEAP funding
- Relationships with the customers affected and benefitting – telling their stories before the ACC and utility board

WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED?

- Increased funding for bill assistance and weatherization programs
- Introduction of a new weatherization program
- All utilities now support a bill assistance and weatherization program
- All utilities offer a discount rate
- Two utilities have auto-enrollment programs into their discount rate for customers receiving any form of assistance
- Utilities no longer send their customers to payday lenders/check cashers to make payments
- A community solar project that will focus on low income households

WHO!

- You.
- Me.
- Your board.
- Your members.
- The customers

THANK YOU!

Cynthia Zwick

Executive Director

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Community Action and Weatherization Associations Organize to Win BIG for Low Income Energy Consumers

Presented by
Keith Kueny

The Community Action Partnership Oregon

- 18 Organizations
 - Oregon Human Development Corporation
 - 3 county governments: Multnomah, Clackamas, and Lane County
 - 14 Non-profit Community Action Agencies
- 4 staff
 - Executive Director
 - Special Projects Coordinator
 - Administrative Project Assistant
 - Energy Policy Coordinator

History of the Position

- In 1999, a coalition of environmental and low-income advocacy groups created a bill that would decouple energy efficiency from the utilities SB 1149
- Funding was designated from three places: Oregon Housing and Community Services, CAPO (Previously CADO), and Oregon Energy Coordinators Association
- Created a full-time advocate at the OPUC and statewide stakeholder meetings

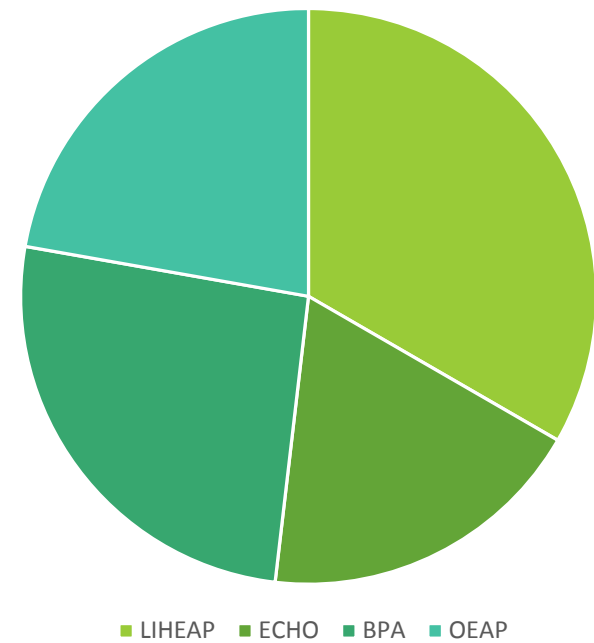
1999 Workplan: Objectives

- Known as the Oregon Energy Project, the project was to provide education to Community Action Directors and low-income Oregonians in order to ensure clean reliable and affordable energy to all homes
- Provided stakeholders and CADO with information that will results in maintaining and creating sound energy policies that provide safeguards for vulnerable citizens.
- The work is done was in partnership w/OHCS, CADO members and affiliates and various coalitions.
- Provide information to help ensure Public Purpose funds are used for eligible activities.
- Build strong relationships between CADO membership and legislators to ensure solid support of SB 1149 (\$8.8 million for wx; \$15 million for EA)

Current Workplan Funding

- Oregon Energy Assistance Training and Technical Assistance
- Bonneville Power Training and Technical Assistance
- Energy Conservation Helping Oregonians Training and Technical Assistance
- LIHEAP admin

Oregon Energy Partnership Funding



Current Workplan: Objectives

- Increase awareness of low-income energy issues through education of partners and stakeholders. This includes providing critical, relevant information to the legislature, the Public Utility Commission and other policy-making bodies (in compliance with federal lobbying restrictions).
- Assist OHCS and stakeholders in developing targeted data collection used to improve energy program's messaging and promote an increase in low-income resources.
- Work in partnership with OHCS and CAPO in protecting and expanding low-income programs and funding streams, safeguarding low-income interests in regulatory proceedings as necessary, providing education and providing information related to low-income utility programs

Workplan Continued

- Attend external stakeholder meetings, councils, and advisory groups to track upcoming changes in energy policy.
- Serve as liaison between OHCS, OECA/OTI, and the CAPO Board. OEP act as a neutral conduit of information between all parties. Assist in clarifying roles/responsibilities and lines of communication during OECA/OTI transition.
 - Becomes the mediatory between agencies and the state
 - Helps controls messaging and filters request that may harm the whole network

Workplan Objectives (special projects)

- Support OHCS in developing a workable solar model, and rules, that includes DOE-WAP program funds. B. Identify and target a Solar DOE-WAP pilot project to be initiated during 2017-2018 program year
- Collaborate with the OPUC, ETO, and other stakeholders for continued agency participation in low-income community solar workgroups and stakeholder meeting

Deliverables (monthly reporting)

- Attend meetings/workgroups as prescribed or as requested by OHCS.
- Provide to OHCS and CAPO meeting summary materials including agendas, prepared comments, position papers, and meeting minutes
- Report to OHCS and CAPO emerging energy policy issues, challenges, and trends

Deliverables

- Actively participate in relevant processes that may result in stable or increasing levels of energy assistance and weatherization funding for low-income Oregonians – and, provide meeting reports
- Effectively represent the interests of low-income Oregonians in policy forums: CUB, NWECA, BPA, ETO, and others as needed or requested
- Inform OHCS of individual CAA or statewide data requests related to energy/weatherization services
- Facilitate data exchange, compilation, reconciliation, and report formatting

Highlights

- Increased the gas utility rebates from \$5,000 to \$12,500
- Permanent \$5 million increase in energy assistance funding
- \$650,000 pledged for wx for oil conversion pilot
- Use of electric funds for bulk fuel furnace replacements
- Winter moratorium on shut-offs
- Regular data and reporting from utilities on disconnections
- Prevented a sweep of wx funding
- Low-income community solar carve-out, 10% of the overall program must be dedicated to low-income



Thank You

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The Energy Project



QUESTIONS?

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!