



# 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

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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!

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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

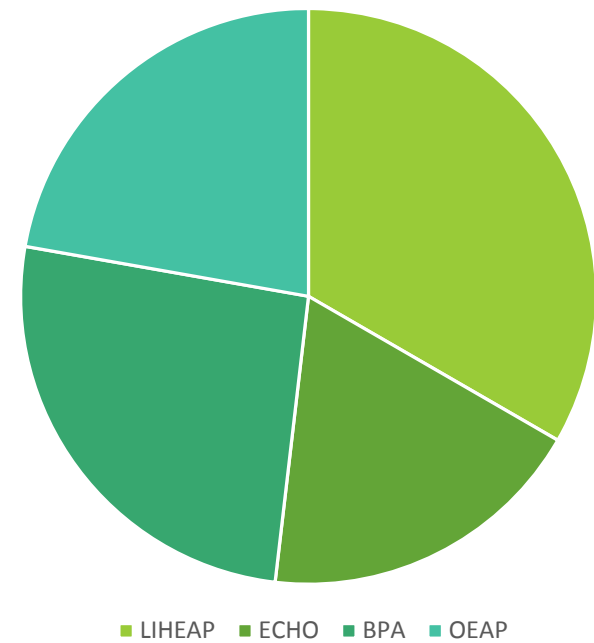
- Known as the Oregon Energy Project, the project was to provide education to Community Action Directors and low-income Oregonians in order to ensure clean reliable and affordable energy to all homes
- Provided stakeholders and CADO with information that will results in maintaining and creating sound 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!