



# Affordable Energy, Today and Tomorrow

*National hub for the 1,000 Community Action Agencies*

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# Energy Innovation: Building Capacity

Keith Kueny

# What is CAPO?

- ▶ State Association of 17 member agencies
  - ▶ 3 County governments
  - ▶ Human development corporation
  - ▶ Rest are traditional nonprofit caps

# Funding for Advocacy

- ▶ Public Utilities Commission
- ▶ Assurance 16 dollars
- ▶ Group admin agreement (CAPO's funding model)
- ▶ Raise private money

# Funding Increases

- ▶ Energy Assistance in Oregon \$15 million to \$20 million
  - ▶ Increased gas funding \$1.2 million to \$2.5
- ▶ Weatherization funding has tripled in gas-delivered homes
- ▶ Wx Funding
  - ▶ 3 million from DOE
  - ▶ 8.8 million Oregon IOUs
  - ▶ 3 million BPA
  - ▶ 1.5 million direct partnership (EWEB)
- ▶ CAPO has been involved in cap and trade discussion that would redirect funds to low-income projects

# Public Utility Commission

- ▶ Every person attending the meetings are getting paid from ratepayers, except low-income advocates
  - ▶ Included a funding bill that agencies can use as a model
  - ▶ Attending and advocating low-income issue protects funding streams
  - ▶ Commissions need to pay for low-income expertise
  - ▶ Rate cases are the leverage point for all utilities

# Consumer Protections

- ▶ Represent Low-income ratepayers against utility and environmental interests
  - ▶ Environmental issues take priority in Oregon
- ▶ both the clients and the agency
  - ▶ Winter Moratorium
  - ▶ Payment Plans
  - ▶ Crisis management
    - ▶ PGE Disconnection issue

# State Liaison

- ▶ Attend Administrative rule hearings
- ▶ Run policy committee with input from coordinators from EA and Wx and the State of Oregon
- ▶ Review state decisions relating to the programs
- ▶ Pushback on state funders



# Legislative Capacity

- ▶ Don't need to pay a lobbyist to attend every meeting relating to legislation
  - ▶ While I cannot lobby for or against a bill, I can attend meetings and help design legislation as it is being constructed
- ▶ Can build network that lead to funding streams in nontraditional avenues
- ▶ Builds

# Flexibility for pilots

- ▶ Healthy Homes
  - ▶ Received \$700,000 in funding for a pilot
- ▶ Community Solar
  - ▶ Attached to affordable housing
- ▶ Oil to gas conversion
  - ▶ Used several funding streams to remove oil furnaces and switch the heat source to natural gas

CAPO serves as the focal point for special projects and pilots. We target higher functioning agencies and run pilots administratively through CAPO. CAPO charges admin fees, which better support network-wide goals

# Future Concepts

- ▶ Public Purpose Charge
- ▶ Full-time healthy homes funding through legislation
- ▶ Rural Development fund from Cap and Trade
- ▶ Statewide Public Purpose Charge
- ▶ Categorical Eligibility



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# LEADERS IN ENERGY INNOVATION

JANUARY 8, 2020



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# MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

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## **Mission**

EOC leads a network of industry, state and local partners to Support, Stabilize, and Sustain Coloradans to afford their energy needs.

## **Vision**

All Coloradans can afford their home energy needs.

## **Values**

Collaborative – Advocate – Impactful – Reliable – Effective - Trustworthy



# COLORADO SPECIFICS

## Energy Assistance Programs

### LIHEAP (November – April)

- Heat only; county administered; 3<sup>rd</sup> party income qualifies 47 of 64 counties
- Credit on utility bill
- Provides access to utility rate discounts and other programs
- Online application available in 2018; phone applications in 2019

### Energy Outreach Colorado (Year-round)

- Emergency Assistance – electric and natural gas support
- Homeless to Home Program
- Percent of Income Payment Programs in place



# COLORADO SPECIFICS

## Energy Efficiency Programs

### Weatherization

- Administered by Colorado Energy Office
- Funded by LIHEAP, DOE and occasionally State funds
- Coordinates with utility DSM programs
- Has prioritized rooftop solar integration into program

### Energy Outreach Colorado

- Administers majority of utility DSM Programs; coordinates with CEO
- Administers Multi-family Weatherization Program statewide
- Has contracts with municipalities, REAs and municipal utilities





# EOC PROGRAMS



# WHO DO WE HELP?

## Low Income Energy Consumers

- Coloradans statewide (urban, rural, resort)
- Residential homes in critical need of energy related home improvements
- Multi-family affordable housing
- Seniors, families with children, disabled, veterans, teachers, neighbors
- Nonprofit facilities serving vulnerable households
- All residential ratepayers through advocacy work



# HOW DO WE HELP?

## EOC Programs

- In 2019, EOC provided 16,000 homes with energy bill payment assistance - \$7 million statewide – partner with LIHEAP
- Subscribed households in Community Solar Gardens – by end of 2019, 700 participants will save average of \$750/yr. – over 20 years = \$10.5 M
- Energy efficiency improvements to more than 6,000 multi-family units in 84 properties – more than \$500,000 in annual savings
- 64 nonprofits received energy efficiency upgrades and will save \$250,000/yr.
- 500 single family homes served in addition to WX
- 1,600 families received emergency furnace repair and replacement
- Reduced service and facilities charges for multiple utilities
- 1,500 households received energy behavior change workshops



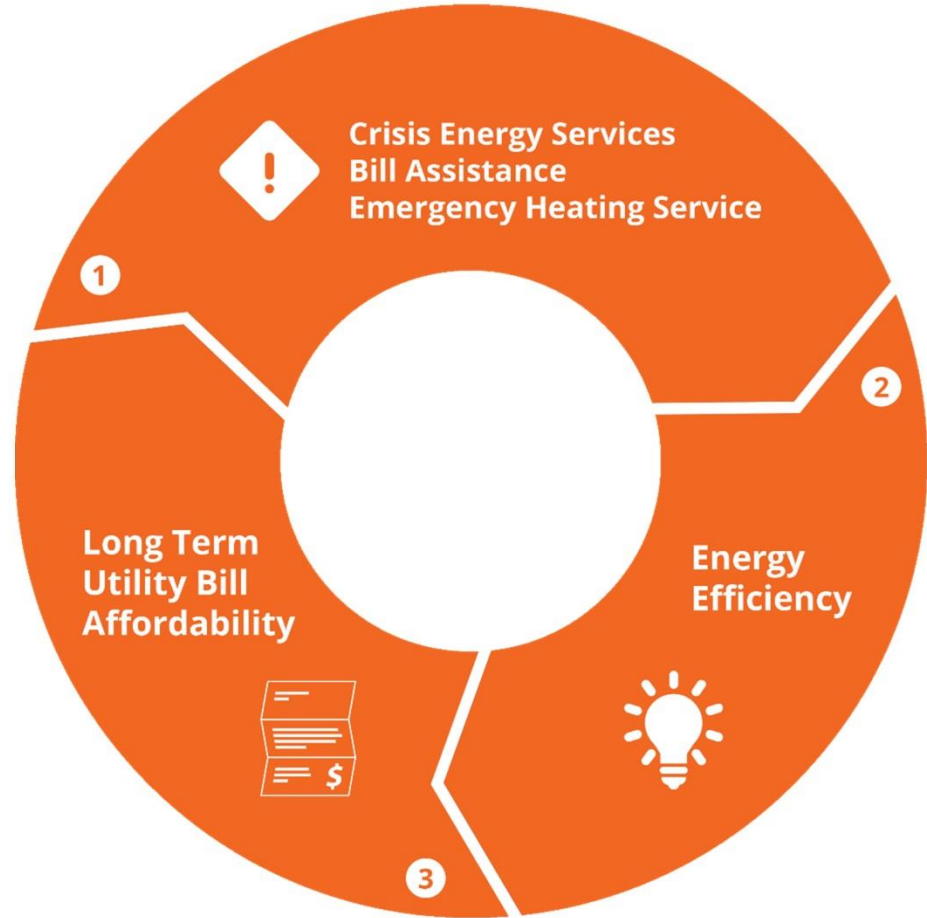
# PROGRAMS

## What We Do to Integrate Programs

- Energy bill payment assistance, weatherization, residential and multi-family home energy efficiency enhancements, non-profit facility energy-saving upgrades, energy efficiency education, solar garden subscriptions
- Fill the resource gap:
  - Colorado's Affordable Residential Energy (CARE)
  - Crisis Intervention Program (CIP)
  - Homeless to Home
  - Renewable energy options



# OUR PROCESS



# WHY ARE THESE PROGRAMS IMPORTANT?

## Benefits of Strong Low Income Energy Programs

- Ensure energy affordability
- Preserve Existing Affordable Housing Stock
- Resiliency during extreme weather events
- Help people get back on their feet
  - Help provide financial stabilization
  - Reduce social service costs
  - Maintain health and safety
- Healthy, stable households are less likely to fall into homelessness



# EOC FINANCIALS

## FY 18-19 Funding

Revenue: \$27,500,000

- 66.6% utilities, foundations, corporate
- 25.6% state and federal funding
- 7.8% donations

Expenses: \$27,600,000

- 94.2% funding went directly to programs and services
- 1.9% administration
- 3.9% Fundraising
  
- \$20M in reserves – investment income used to fund programs



# KEYS TO PROGRAM SUCCESS

- Coordinating between energy efficiency and energy assistance programs
- Utilizing EOC's own private funding/capacity to initiate, develop and implement EE projects; ability to float/finance projects
- Leveraging Funds – public, utility and other private funds - \$3.5 M in 2018-19
- Getting support from both the electric AND gas utilities
- Offering a portfolio of programs - HOLISTIC
- Partnering with organizations and contractors statewide - RELATIONSHIPS
- **NEW INITIATIVES**
  - Subscribing Community Solar Gardens – 14 MW in next 5 years
  - Neighborhood Focused Programs – CDOT example
  - Healthy Homes Focus – Children's Hospital partnership
  - Water Assistance - current pilots





# SESSION FOCUS



# EOC ADVOCACY EFFORTS

## Client Focused

- Regulatory Activities

- Intervention in Rate Cases, Utility Mergers and Rule Making
- Initiated Percent of Income Program through rulemaking
- In the past, received fines from utility noncompliance

- Legislative Activities

- Unclaimed Utility Deposits and Refunds
- Low Income Energy Assistance Act – voluntary check off program for all investor owned utilities
- Severance tax funding - supports LIHEAP, EOC and Weatherization - \$13M/yr.
- Natural Gas Deregulation (not currently active in Colorado but EOC would benefit)



# ADVOCACY

## Investment and returns

- Full time lobbyists on retainer since 2002
- Director of Advocacy hired in 2017 – attorney with regulatory experience
- Executive Director devotes 20% of time to advocacy efforts
- Received \$250,000 from foundation over three year to fund efforts
- Since 1990 –
  - \$120M in direct revenue to EOC from efforts
  - \$350M in programs for low income generated, including PIPP
  - Bill savings to customers, difficult to measure but extensive



# ADVOCACY

## Recent success

- 50% of CO electric ratepayers pay less than \$5.50/month for fixed charges – FOCUS
- New suite of energy consumer protections being introduced in 2020
  - Improve medical exemption process for tiered rate
  - Standard practices for shut off notices (multiple languages, no holidays or weekends, limiting from 6:00 am and 2:00 pm; extreme weather limits without moratorium)
  - Standardize reconnection fee, disconnection fees, prohibition of remote disconnection
  - Increase referral process for assistance programs
- CO Senate President is prioritizing funding for energy assistance in 2020
- New funding for health and safety being developed
- EOC is on Denver's Climate Action Task Force – key role in ensuring equity is included
- EOC served on legislative interim committee on new energy policies



# ADVOCACY

## Increased efforts

- Carbon reduction strategies and what those mean for consumers
  - Coal plant closures – consequences; good and challenging
  - Attack on fossil fuel development; natural gas moratoriums
    - Natural gas in CO is primary heat source and affordable
  - Beneficial electrification
  - Electric vehicles; right to repair to protect secondary market
  - Access to renewable energy; distributed generation
- Healthy homes - new funding; expanded programs
- Manufactured housing/mobile home opportunities



# KEY POINTS

## Fundamental Issues

- Energy transition is coming and it is coming quickly.
- The transition will likely cost customers more money.
- Households are already struggling to pay energy bills
- New technology is required to participate – lags 5-7 years for many.
- Solutions are available but they require a new level of participation for advocates for consumer and vulnerable families.
- There are resources available to help communities participate.
- If not now, when?





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