

Low Income Efficiency Advisory Committee Memorandum

TO: Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group Participants
FROM: Annette Beitel, Senior Facilitator, EE SAG
DATE: April 6, 2017
RE: Soliciting Stakeholder Input on Low Income Efficiency Advisory Committee

I. Overview:

The Section 8-103(B)(c) of the recently-enacted Future Energy Jobs Bill (SB 2814) states that the electric utilities shall:

[C]onvene a low-income energy efficiency advisory committee to assist in the design and evaluation of the low-income energy efficiency programs. The committee shall be comprised of the electric utilities subject to the requirements of this Section, the gas utilities subject to the requirements of Section 8-104 of this Act, the utilities' low-income energy efficiency implementation contractors, and representatives of community-based organizations.

In a letter dated March 1, 2017, Craig Nelson, Senior Vice President of Ameren Illinois, and Val Jensen, Senior Vice President of Commonwealth Edison, made a request to Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder (“IL EE SAG” or “EE SAG”) Senior Facilitator, Annette Beitel, to convene the Low Income Advisory Committee as a subcommittee of the existing Illinois EE SAG. The letter noted the importance of convening the group prior to the filing of the 2018 energy efficiency plans. After receiving this letter, I have had preliminary discussions with Ameren IL and ComEd to get their thoughts on objectives, participation, and structure of the committee.

Through a kick-off meeting scheduled for April 11, 2017, I am seeking feedback from gas utilities, electric utilities, community based organizations (CBOs), implementation contractors and other interested parties on key issues associated with the Low-Income Advisory Committee, including:

- Objectives
- Participation
- Location
- Frequency
- Structure
- Coordination with the “Large Group” SAG
- Other topics of interest to stakeholders related the Low-Income Efficiency Advisory Committee

Given the short time between now and the filing of the 2018 – 2022 energy efficiency plans, the April 11 meeting will also include presentations by ComEd and Ameren IL on preliminary low-income program budgets, program objectives, and measure lists program categories for stakeholder review and feedback.

This memo describes various approaches, and some recommendations, for stakeholder review, discussion and feedback at the April 11 meeting.

II. Key Elements for Discussion

The enacting legislation provides guideposts for the Low-Income Advisory Committee, specifically that the committee shall:

- Assist in the design and evaluation of the low-income energy efficiency programs, and
- Be comprised of:
 - Electric Utilities (ComEd, Ameren Illinois)
 - Gas Utilities (Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas and Nicor Gas)
 - Low-Income EE Contractors
 - Representatives of Community-Based Organizations

SAG Facilitation will produce a draft Subcommittee Plan and Charter for review and comment. The Subcommittee Plan/Charter may extend the directives in the statute, but will not contravene the statute.

A. Objectives

The following statutory objectives must be met:

- Assist in the design and evaluation of the low-income advisory programs

Additional objectives that have been identified for consideration:

- Ensure collaborative design of best-in-class low income energy efficiency programs
- Ensure coordination of electric/gas programs and utility/state programs
- Monitor performance of the low-income energy efficiency programs
- Ensure coordination with the SAG, Technical Reference Manual (TRM), etc.
- Ensure flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances

Discussion Question(s):

1. Stakeholder input on key objectives
2. Stakeholder input on objectives listed above

B. Participation

The statute does not envision an “open participation” SAG subcommittee. Instead, it specifically identifies who may participate in this subcommittee:

- Electric Utilities (ComEd, Ameren Illinois)
- Gas Utilities (Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas and Nicor Gas)
- Low-Income EE Contractors
 - The statute does not define “Low-Income EE Contractors”
 - Proposed Definition: “EE Contractors who have recent history of providing services to low-income customers in Illinois.”
- Representatives of Community-Based Organizations
 - The statute does not define “Community-Based Organization.”
 - Proposed definition (based on federal definition in USCS Title 20)
 - “a public or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that (A) is representative of a community or significant segments of a

community; and (B) provides valuable services to individuals in the community.”

- NOTE: In addition to the parties listed above, ICC Staff will have a standing invitation to participate in the subcommittee, as they have responsibility for monitoring, on behalf of the ICC, responsible and prudent use of ratepayer funds.

Discussion Questions:

1. Definition and identity of the “Low-Income EE Contractors”
2. Definition and identity of “Community-Based Organizations”
3. How can other interested parties provide input/receive updates on low-income programs if they are not eligible for Low Income Advisory Committee participation?

C. Location

The kick-off meeting will be held in Chicago, which is typically where SAG meetings are held. However, as CBOs are most commonly non-profits, and may not have a travel budget, it will be important to consider meetings elsewhere in the state.

Discussion Questions:

1. How often should meetings be held outside of Chicago?
2. Where should the meetings be held when they are held outside of Chicago?

D. Frequency

Until the plans are filed, the meetings will be held as frequently as is needed during plan and program design. Thereafter, SAG facilitation will establish a schedule based on subcommittee objectives, deliverables, and input from participants.

Discussion Questions:

1. Frequency of meetings during 2017?
2. Frequency of meetings through the implementation period of 2018-2021?

E. Structure: Coordination with “Large Group” SAG

Low-income programs are integral to the entire energy efficiency portfolio. Thus, it will be important to coordinate activities of the committee with the activities of the “Large Group” SAG. Low income program topics that could be addressed through the “Large Group” SAG, as they are not specifically identified in the statute, include low-income policies, best practices, and reporting.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which low-income issues should be addressed by the “Large Group” SAG vs. the Low-Income Advisory Committee?
2. How should the work of the “Large Group” SAG be coordinated?

F. Other Issues

What other issues should be considered during the formation and initial implementation of the Low-Income Efficiency Advisory Committee?

III. Conclusion

SAG Facilitation looks forward to receiving stakeholder input on the Low-Income Efficiency Advisory Committee meeting on April 11. The feedback will be used to prepare a draft subcommittee plan and charter.