



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2021
1:00pm – 2:30pm

Facilitator:	Susan Cervantes, Monica Light		
Meeting Attendees:	Aaron Estrada, Brianne Robach, Emily Madsen, John Mitchell, Jonathan Wilson, Kacey Ramones, Maddie Strom, Monica Light, Sherrie Gillespie, Susan Cervantes, Erin Donnelly, Brett Little, Nick Grinwis, Sam Giffel, Kymie Spring <i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianne if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i>		
Time Convened:	1:03	Time Adjourned:	2:35
Introductions			
Review of Minutes		From April 22, 2021	
Discussion	None.		
Amendments	None.		
Subcommittee Leadership: Welcome, Monica!			
Discussion			
Monica is at Flat River Outreach Ministries and will soon be serving as the Program Manager. She is excited to come on board as a co-chair!			
Review of Process Flow			
Discussion			
<p>Brianne overviewed the draft for the process flow for accessing utility assistance. COVID Relief funds are currently available through December 31, 2021, though this may change. This document can be updated if needed. To provide clarity, a revision date will be included on the bottom of the document. Also, ENTF staff will schedule a review of this document at each September meeting moving forward to update any changes. (funding cycles begin 10/1)</p> <p>Brianne will remove the draft mark and the document can be shares internally with those in your organization who help clients navigate resources.</p>			
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Review the process flow document and update as needed		ENTF staff	Each Sept.
2020 Utility Assistance Data Draft			
Discussion			
<p>Brianne overviewed the draft of the Utility Assistance Report. The draft will be provided for all subcommittee members to review and provide feedback following the meeting. The final report will be posted on ENTF’s website and social media. KCCA can print copies to share.</p> <p>The dollar amount in the weatherization data includes the materials and installation of measures. Susan shared that in 2020, KCCA could not go into houses for 6 months and then were limited to vulnerable households due to COVID-19. They are also running into barriers with getting materials needed to perform weatherization jobs in a timely manner. At this point, it is not clear whether funding that has not been able to be utilized will rollover. Weatherization agencies across the country had similar issues this year.</p> <p>KCCA should be able to provide data on weatherization services by race/ethnicity and zip codes. Brianne will get this data from Sherrie and include the next draft of this report.</p>			



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Susan shared that additional weatherization funds and new funding (LIWAP) for water services will be coming. KCCA is not aware of their allocations or how many employees they will need to hire as of yet, but they are looking at several avenues to prepare for funding. Depending on program regulations, they may use subcontract to fill openings. KCCA has connected with Home Repair Services to see if they would like to have a crew. It is difficult to advocate with contractors given the strength of the construction industry. Kymie suggested a paid training for registered contractors to raise awareness of program, this may be an option depending on regulation with the incoming funds. The per unit average has increased for next year which will allow KCCA to do more for each house.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Utility Assistance CERA Funds

Discussion

Susan shared that the CERA program is up and running. KCCA has filled most of the positions for these funds.

Susan developed and shared a chart with the utility amounts that are eligible based on household size and area median income. If arrearages payments do not reach the maximum amount and households are under 50% AMI, CERA can pay \$300 for future utility payment. There is also a broadband stipend for \$300.

Weatherization Process Update

Discussion

Much of this conversation was covered in report draft. KCCA are still doing intakes for weatherization and can do about 6-8 applications a week due to limited staff capacity.

Brett shared a Consumers Energy solar pilot program for Community Action Agencies that allows to deliver solar energy to clients. More here: <https://www.consumersenergy.com/business/renewable-energy/solar-gardens/sunrise>

Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm Updates

Discussion

MEAP Updates

Discussion

- North Kent Connect: they still have funding and things are going smoothly
- KCCA – they are out of MEAP funds
- The Salvation Army – still has funding and is still assisting with deliverable fuels through July 31. The subsidy cap increased to \$800 and is available twice a year.

Community Partner Updates

Discussion

Consumers – have been approved to go back out in the field to do events and information tables on their Home Energy Analysis program. Let Erin know if you have an event coming up/

Salvation Army – participating with the CERA program, contact 877-ERA-KENT for assistance or apply at ceraapp@michigan.gov. When applicants are on an affordable payment plan, prefer to leave the household on the MEAP program if possible. Also, if folks are coming with only utility needs are referred to the TSA MEAP program so they do not use up their assistance if they may need rental



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assistance in the future. If someone receives CERA funds but maximum cannot cover the arrearages, the difference will be due when payment is made

City of Grand Rapids - The City of Grand Rapids is set to resume water shutoffs on delinquent accounts beginning July 1st. Sam will update the group if this changes.

Vaccines – 211 able to schedule transportation to and from vaccine appointments

Meeting slides: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1heE4X1nn0lfX-Z0Y4dcgszDxihLCXQuc27taUwwROmA/edit?usp=sharing>