

# **IL Income Qualified Energy Efficiency Accountability Committee**

## **IQ Joint Full Committee Meeting**

Monday, September 28, 2022

1:00-3:00

## **Attendee List and Meeting Notes**

### **Attendee List**

Adam Fields, Ameren Illinois

Alan Elliott, Opinion Dynamics

Annette Beitel, Future Energy Enterprises (IQ Committee Facilitator)

Becky Wilson, BCMW Community Services

Celia Colón, Giving Others Dreams G.O.D

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator

Chad Kruse, Illinois EPA

Chet Kolodziej, Energy Efficiency and Solar System Advisor

Dalitso Sulamoyo, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

David Brightwell, ICC Staff

Denise Moore, MBDC Peoria

Elena Savona, Elevate Energy

Elizabeth Horne, ICC Staff

Eve Pytel, Franklin Energy

Philip Halliburton, ComEd

Jason Horwitz, DCEO's Policy Development, Planning, & Research Bureau

John Carroll, Ameren Illinois

Julie Hollensbe, ComEd

Karen Lusson, National Consumer Law Center

Kate Shonk, Citizens Utility Board

LaShelle Newland, Resource Innovations

Lawrence Kotewa, Elevate Energy

Leyah Williams, ICC Staff

Lisa Miranda, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago

Marissa Strassel, MUSE Community Design

Mary Hemmer, Senior Services Plus

Mary Johnson, Resource Innovations

MeLena Hessel, Elevate Energy

Naomi Davis, Blacks in Green

Nelson May, Future Energy Enterprises (IQ Committee Facilitation Team)

Paulette Hamlin, Western Egyptian

Richard Stubblefield, St. Claire County

Rochelle Phipps, ICC Staff

Sharon Lewis, Meadows Eastside Community Resource Organization

Theresa Collins, Senior Services Plus

Thomas Drea, Ameren Illinois

William Davis, Bronzeville Community Development Partnership

Zachary Ross, Opinion Dynamics

## **Welcome and Introductions:**

- Senior Facilitator Annette Beitel initiated the welcome and introductions, stated meeting agenda.
- Thanked and acknowledged members from different committees.
  - Introduced Naomi Davis, Executive Leader of Blacks in Green and Lead Energy Justice Initiative™.

## **Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Workforce Development Provisions – Jason Horwitz, DCEO's Policy Development, Planning, & Research Bureau: ([Presentation](#))**

- Introduction of Jason Horwitz, Deputy Director of Policy Development, Planning and Research.
- Overall Goal: Transition to carbon free power and transportation in the state of Illinois by the year 2045.
  - *Q: How Do We Get There?*
  - A: Requirements for utilities and generators: provide significant investments and credits to support renewable and nuclear generation, improved grid, adoption of electric vehicles and more.
  - *Q: How Do We Get There **Equitably**?*
  - A: Large expansion of targeted workforce development and entrepreneurial services for opportunities in growing clean energy sectors. Additional support for economic and workforce development in communities that relied on fossil fuel plants and coal mines.
- Introduction of CEJA Community Reinvestment Programs
  - These include community transition grants, scholarships for children of displaced workers pursuing higher education, and the displaced energy workers Bill of Rights.
- CEJA Workforce Development Programs
  - These include clean jobs workforce network, returning residents clean jobs program, CEJA qualified job training programs, and climate works pre-apprenticeship programs.
- CEJA Workforce Development Support Programs
  - Clean jobs curriculum, energy transition navigators, energy transition barrier reduction fund.
- CEJA Entrepreneur Support Programs
  - Introduction of energy contractor incubator program and clean energy primes contractor accelerator program.
- Overview of CEJA Trainee Population

- Programs should prioritize residents of equity investment eligible communities.
- These include R3 and environmental justice communities.
- For Clean Jobs Workforce Network and Contractor Incubator Program,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of employees should be residents of equity investment eligible communities.
- In remaining  $\frac{1}{3}$ , prioritize services for:
  - Displaced energy workers, current or former participants in foster care system, low educational attainment, involvement in criminal justice system, language barriers.
- Every program update is found on <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/pages/climateandequitablejobs.aspx>

### Questions for Jason Horwitz:

- Introduction by Naomi Davis emphasizing the importance of rebuilding the relationship between DCEO and Black and Brown Communities.
- **Question 1:** *How Are We Doing Things Differently Right Now In Terms of Outreach and Engagement of the Community?*
  - There has been a stakeholder process that is focused on targeting community-based organizations.
- **Question 2:** *How Can We Be Working With State Weatherization Managers to Increase Job Rates and Opportunities to Black and Brown Communities?*
  - Horwitz admits he is not a weatherization expert. Adds that the CEJA workforce development includes funding for weatherization careers.
- **Question 3:** *Can You Give Us A Timeline For Investment Programs?*
  - It depends on the program, but we are likely to see grants being awarded early next year. Generally, however, it will be a few months from now.
- **Question 4:** *Are There Things You Can Recommend that Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or Community Action Agencies (CAA's) Be Doing To Prepare For the Upcoming CEJA initiatives and funding?*
  - Sign up for email updates. The CEJA job training hubs throughout communities will improve recruitment and cultural competency.
- **Question 5:** *Is There An Apparatus or Table In Which We Can Improve Involvement with the DCEO On An Advocacy or Financial Level?*
  - This is done via stakeholders.
- **Question 6:** *How Do We Effectively Get The Word Out? Are there Marketing Agencies Targeted Specifically for Black and Brown Communities?*
  - Unanswered due to sidetrack.
- **Question 7:** *It Sounds Like DCEO Is In the Process of Selecting A Third Party Contractor To Run Some/All These Programs. Is This True?*

- Yes. This will be run by grantees of DCEO.
- ***Question 8: Are There Still Opportunities To Become One Of These Contractors?***
  - The way we select contractors is a very competitive process during which we issue a NOFO (notice of funding opportunity) to apply to. Some questions we do ask are along the lines of “what are some things we should be sure to include to ensure that community based organizations have the opportunity to apply to us”. Brings up questions of how we can make it easier for people to get access to these funds.
- ***Question 9: What Are Some Available Resources To Make These Opportunities More Available To People?***
  - We have workshops and webinars around releasing new funding opportunities. We need to work intensively with our targets, though.

#### **Introduction of Chad Kruse, Illinois EPA Office of Energy ([Presentation](#))**

- Office of Energy Objectives and Programs
  - Invest in the public sector, advance energy equity, combine energy and environment, and support energy education.
  - Energy efficiency at the water/energy nexus, support for local governments and building trades with energy codes training and tech support, state energy security plan, low-income residential energy efficiency program at multifamily housing.
- Low Income Residential Energy Efficiency
  - Energy efficiency trust fund investment
  - First Round Grantees Located in Naperville, Effingham area, and Marion/Cario.
  - Projects include attic installation, HVAC, programmable thermostats, tankless water heaters, high efficiency windows, high efficiency appliances and lighting.
- Introduces Illinois Climate Working Group Members

#### **Introduction of Roshelle Phipps, Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Assistant Director of Financial Analysis Division**

- The ICC was created in 1921 through the Public Utilities Act.
- Created to balance the interest of consumer and public utilities to maximize efficient, reliable and cost-friendly utility services.
- CEJA granted the ICC permission to conduct a low-income discount study for natural gas and electric residential customers.
- The scope of the study has a statutory deadline of January 1, 2023.
- Section 9241 states that the study will assess generally whether cost reductions for low-income communities are appropriate, and upon

completion of the study, the results will allow the ICC to further explore discounted electric or natural gas utilities.

- Section 9241 provides the minimum requirements for topics to be required by the study. It shall assess, at minimum, the following seven topics.
  - Customer eligibility, appropriate rate structures, appropriate recovery mechanisms, appropriate verification mechanisms, customer confidentiality and data safeguards, outreach and consumer education, affordability and delivery services to customers.
- Solicited input from a variety of stakeholders, which included consumer advocates, electric utilities, gas utilities, sewer and water utilities, in order to get an insight to a variety of perspectives on this topic.
- Requested data from gas and electric utilities to aid in the study and recommendations.
- In the process of drafting a report with regards to recommendations.

#### **Questions for Roshelle Phipps:**

- *Are There Different Steps We Can Take to Maximize Our Outreach to Black and Brown Communities?*
  - We pay attention to stakeholder input and try to do so from a diverse group of voices.
- *Has the ICC reached out to DCEO?*
  - No, but I believe it is something we should consider.

#### **Low Income Evaluation Overview – Alan Elliott, Opinion Dynamics ([Presentation](#))**

- Importance of evaluation
- All ratepayer-funded utility programs in Illinois should be evaluated.
- Must be completed by an independent third party.
- Three types of evaluation:
  - Market evaluation
  - Process evaluation
  - Market research
- Introduction of 2021 Income Qualified Initiative Participant Survey
  - Ameren IL's low-and moderate-income home upgrade offering
  - Survey included 442 participants
  - Equipped to better understand customer satisfaction, gather feedback on new elements of the initiative, develop in-service rates for the new Safe and Virtual Energy Sufficiency (SAVE) Kits
  - Verify household characteristics for savings assumptions.
- 2021 Smart Savers Process Evaluation

- Free smart thermostats offering for IQ customers
- Developed a detailed process model
- In-depth interviews with 16 participants.
- Assess success of thermostat offering to better aid larger IQ initiatives.
- Overall, there needs to be more assessment in low-income communities.
- This will improve Ameren's understanding of its IQ customers.
- Ends with an open-ended question of how we can make evaluations more accessible to stakeholders and community-based organizations.

**Closing notes, emphasis of additional meetings.**