**Illinois Income Qualified South Energy Efficiency Committee**

**(“IL IQ-S EE Committee” or “LIEEAC”)**

**2023 Joint Committee Plan**

**Ver. 3.0**

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| **IQ-S Committee Category** | **IQ-S Committee Members and/or Participants** |
| **Facilitation Team** | Annette Beitel, Sr. Facilitator  Nelson May, Project Administration  Deondre Rutues – Sr. Policy Analyst  Alberto Rincon – Sr. Policy Analyst  Grant Administration – Hire in Progress |
| **2023 IQ-S Leadership Team** | Selection by IQ-S CBO Committee Members   * Up to five (5) LT Members * Resulting LT must be compliant with CEJA, below |
| **CEJA-Compliant Leadership Team** | CEJA States:  *There shall be one statewide leadership committee led by and composed of community-based organizations that are*  *representative of* ***BIPOC****[[1]](#footnote-1) and* ***environmental justice communities****[[2]](#footnote-2)and that includes* ***equitable representation from BIPOC******communities****.[[3]](#footnote-3) The leadership committee shall be composed of an equal number of representatives from the 2 subcommittees (representing North and South).*  Leadership Team Application: Individuals who are interested in the 2023 “CEJA-compliant” Leadership Team shall submit an IQ-S Committee Member application through the IQ-S Committee website. There is no separate “LT” application. Prospective interested LT members are encouraged to submit their Membership application to be considered for the 2023 IQ-S Leadership Team. |
| **Eligible Advisory IQ-S Committee Members** | The IQ-S committee shall be comprised of the   * Electric utilities subject to the requirements of this Section 8-103(B)(c) of the Public Utilities Act (220 ILCS 5/8-103(c)) * Gas utilities subject to the requirements of Section 8-104 of the Public Utilities Act (220 ILCS 5/8-103©) * The utility’s low-income energy efficiency implementation contractors, * Nonprofit organizations * Community action agencies, * Advocacy groups, * State and local governmental agencies * Public-housing organizations, and * Representatives of community-based organizations, especially those living in or working with environmental justice communities and BIPOC communities.     New IQ-S Committee Members: Eligible and Interested IQ-S Committee Members are encouraged to submit an application through the IQ-S Committee to be considered for the 2023 IQ-S Leadership Team. |
| **Eligible Community-Based Organizations** | *"*Community-based organizations" means an organization  that:  (1) provides employment, skill development, or related  services to members of the community;  (2) includes community  colleges, nonprofits, and local governments;  (3) has at least  one main operating office in the community or region it  serves; and  (4) demonstrates relationships with local  residents and other organizations serving the community. |
| **Meeting Frequency** | Leadership Team Meetings: Ten (10) regional Leadership Team Meetings, which may consist of IQ-S and/or Joint LT meetings. Leadership Team meetings shall be held approximately monthly. In addition, the Leadership Team will meet once in 2023 for an all-day in-person strategic planning meeting.  IQ-S Energy Efficiency (EE) Committee Meetings: Four (4) IQ-S Committee (Ameren IL) meetings.  Working Group (WG) Meetings: Working group meetings will be topic-specific. They will focus on characterizing and developing findings and/or recommendations on topics of interest to the IQ-S Committee.  Joint Meetings with Other Stakeholder Processes: Throughout the year, the IQ-S Committee will have joint meetings with the following stakeholder processes in Illinois – the Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group (EE SAG) – Equity Subcommittee and the Illinois Income Qualified Technical Reference Manual Working Group (IL IQ TRM WG). The Joint EE SAG – IQ-S EE Committee meetings are scheduled and included in Table 1, below. The Joint IL IQ-S TRM WG – IQ Meetings are not yet scheduled.  Meetings Regarding Other “Related Efforts” - Both nationally and in Illinois, significant interest, activities and funding opportunities exist for Income Qualified energy efficiency, solar, job/workforce development and local and diverse contractor support, all areas of interest to the IQ-S Committee. Select meetings about other “related efforts” will periodically be placed on the IQ-S Committee schedule and noticed to the IQ-S Committee distribution list. |
| **Commencement Date** | Monday, January 16, 2023 |
| **Conclusion Date** | Friday, December 15, 2023 |
| **Substantive Topics for 2023** | Topic-specific deliverables are summarized in Section II, Topics to Address. |
| **Key IQ-S Committee Documents**  NOTE: Key Committee documents are posted on the IQ-S Committee website | Key IQ-S Committee Documents   * Annual Plan for 2023 * Committee Process and Procedures Document * Membership Applications   + Stipend eligible   + Stipend ineligible * Marketing and Outreach Plan * RFP for Education and Outreach Grants, ver. 1.0 * Stipend Reimbursement Guidelines   IQ-S Committee Tracker for 2023 Open Issues |
| **IQ-S Committee Website**  IQadvisorycommittee.com | The IQ-S EE Committee (LIEEAC) website contains background information on the committee, past and current committee activities, and other important committee resources including:   * Statutory purpose and background * Key committee participants, including current leadership team members, IQ-S Committee members, the facilitation team, participating Illinois Commerce Commission Staff and utility liaisons for Ameren IL. * A calendar of past and future meetings * Agendas, meeting materials and meeting notes from past meetings * Energy Efficiency Highlights and Successes * Key Committee Documents |

1. **Objectives**
2. Statutory Objectives for the IL IQ-S EE Committee (LIEEAC) are:

*to “directly inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of the low-income and public-housing energy efficiency programs.”*

The statute also references:

*Emphasiz[ing] opportunities to bundle and coordinate delivery of low-income energy efficiency with other programs that serve low-income communities, such as the Illinois Solar for All Program and bill payment assistance programs.*

1. IQ-S Committee Objectives for 2023 include:

* Engage As Active Participants IQ-S Committee Members who are broadly representative of BIPOC and EJ Communities, as well as representative of organizations identified in CEJA as eligible Committee Members.[[4]](#footnote-4) The goal is to engage between twenty (20) and twenty-five stipend-eligible IQ-S Committee Members, as well as a broad representation of non-stipend-eligible IQ-S Committee members.
* Recruiting and Onboarding a CEJA-Compliant IQ-S Committee Leadership Team
  + Per CEJA, the IQ-S Committee Leadership team shall be selected from the membership of the regional subcommittees.
  + The IQ-S Committee LT will be selected by CBOs who are members of the IQ-S Committee. The final Committee LT, per CEJA, *shall be led by and composed of community-based organizations that are representative of BIPOC and environmental justice communities and that includes equitable representation from BIPOC communities.*
* Select, Contract and Monitor Outcomes for Education and Outreach Grants
  + The first RFP for education and outreach grants was released on November 10, 2022. The deadline for submission has been extended to February 10, 2023.
  + Select and negotiate contracts with successful grantees.
  + Funded projects must conclude in 2023.
* Organize and Facilitate Four Full IQ Committee Meetings
  + Educate participating CBOs/CAAs about energy efficiency and related offerings and initiatives, including utility, state and federal initiatives, that can help disadvantaged customers and under-resourced communities better manage their energy costs.
  + Solicit input from CBOs/CAAs and other participating Committee members on how energy efficiency and related offerings can better meet the needs of their communities.
* Organize and Facilitate Up to Six (6) Working Groups on Specific Substantive Topics
  + Up to six Working Groups will develop findings and recommendations related to specific substantive topics selected through IQ-S Committee discussion. The initial list of substantive topics is below.
  + Working Groups will start with a high-level Working Group Plan that frames the issue/challenge for the Working Group, any background research, participants, meeting dates and expected deliverable(s).
  + The Working Groups will result in “Working Group Memoranda” that describe the topic, provide background and “current state,” including the statutory and regulatory framework (if any), current utility and non-utility practices, select best practices from other jurisdictions (if resources permit) and Working Group findings/recommendations.

1. **Initial Committee Key Substantive Issues**
2. **Background**

The IQ-S Committee’s initial list of “Key Substantives Issues” was developed and refined by the IQ Full Committee Interim (2022) Leadership Team at a joint all-day, in-person Strategic Planning meeting held on July 19th in Champaign. The list was developed after the LT considered a long list of issues that have been raised by CBOs, CAAs and others over the past two years through the prior IQ Advisory Committee (established under FEJA) and elsewhere. The list of “Key Substantive Issues” will be refined and, if possible, expanded as the Committee Members and CEJA-Compliant Leadership Team members are finalized. The Key Substantive Issues list of topics will need to be both scoped (through a Working Group Plan) and sequenced (they are too extensive to cover at one time).

To note, many of the issues below are also being addressed and developed through other organizations, initiatives and processes currently underway in IL. Several of the below topics are directly related to IQ-S initiatives that are underway at the utilities. The IQ-S Committee will seek to foster collaboration and leverage other efforts to avoid unnecessary and/or unproductive duplication of effort.

1. **Key Initial Committee Substantive Issues**
2. **Increase and Support Minority Contractors:** Recruit 10 minority contractors and develop a roadmap for contractor success.
3. **Streamline Application and Renewal Processes for IQ Customers** including EE IQ program + LIHEAP + IHWAP application process; sign up for one – get option to sign up for others without having to provide essentially duplicative paperwork. Ensure cross promotion of related programs to help customers manage bills   Learn about one program, get offered all for which customer might be eligible. Make the annual renewal process easier, particularly if information hasn’t changed.
4. **Develop Framework for Developing Integrated Clean Energy Plans for Disadvantaged/Under-Resourced Communities; Identify Available Resources to Implement Plans**: Develop framework for developing plans for how under-resourced/disadvantaged communities could develop integrated Clean Energy Plans, including educating customers, training local contractors, increasing local employment, and increasing clean energy resources including EE, Solar, EV Vehicles and EV charging.  Identify available resources that could be leveraged to develop and implement such plans in disadvantaged communities.
5. **Improve Messaging and Education to Disadvantaged Communities and Customers.**This includes messages to help overcome “distrust” barrier (customers who view any energy offering with distrust, even if the offering could provide significant value), how to read bills/understand usage and educating customers about options, including energy efficiency, conservation, bill payment options/programs to help disadvantaged customers pay and manage their bills.
6. **Develop Air Conditioning Pilot and Longer-Term Plan for Protecting Customers During “High Heat” Days –** When should A/C be paid for by EE funds?  Who should be eligible?  Should the program be modeled on emergency furnace replacement program?   Long term, how do we address the cooling needs of vulnerable customers (elderly, young, disabled) as “high heat” days increase, including more tree canopies, cool roofs, eliminating disconnections in summer for those who could have serious health impacts if their electricity gets turned off and heat rises, identifying residential “heat spots” that need particular attention.

**Additional Topics Added by Sr. Facilitator Based on Subsequent Discussion with CBOs/CAAs**

1. **Returning Citizens –** Review current approaches in IL and elsewhere to help identify and support system-impacted individuals to effectively be trained and join the EE workforce.
2. **Young Adults from Foster Care –** Review current approaches in IL and elsewhere to help identify and support young adults who are either currently in the foster care system or graduates of the foster care system to effectively be trained and join the EE workforce.
3. **Schedule**

Table 1 below summarizes the IQ-S EE Committee Meetings currently scheduled for 2023, including the Joint IQ EE Committee – EE SAG Equity Subcommittee meetings.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Only those meetings in RED (Joint EE SAG Equity Subcommittee - IQ Committee Meetings) or** **Blue (IQ Committee Meetings and one Working Group per organization)** **are eligible for stipends. The remaining meetings are listed for information purposes only. Designated Joint IQ Technical Reference Manual (TRM) – IQ Committee Meetings will also be Stipend-eligible (up to three). Throughout the year, funding available, additional meetings may be added that are stipend-eligible.**

Generally, IQ-S Committee meetings will not exceed two (2) hours, and they generally will be scheduled on Mondays and/or Wednesdays in the afternoon (from 1 – 3 or 3 – 5).

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| **Table 1: 2023 IQ-S EE Committee Schedule – Monthly Calendar of Expected Activities** | | |
| **Date** | **Purpose** | **Comments** |
| Wednesday, January 18, 1:00 – 3:00 | **Overview of RFP: Grants and Stipends**  Overview and Participant Questions on Request for Proposal (RFP):  Education and Outreach Grants (RFP 22-01) | Prospective Submitters – come prepared with your questions! |
| Monday, January 23, 3:00 – 5:00 | **Overview of RFP: Grants and Stipends**  Overview and Participant Questions on Request for Proposal (RFP):  Education and Outreach Grants (RFP 22-01) | Prospective Submitters – come prepared with your questions! |
| Monday, January 30, 9:00 – 10:30 | **IQ-S Committee Meeting**  -Overview of Draft 2023 Joint Annual Plan  -Overview of Process Documents (including Reimbursement Guidelines)  -Overview of Proposed Substantive Topics  **-**Discuss 2023 Committee Leadership Team Selection |  |
| Wednesday, February 15th, 9:30 – 12:30 | **EE SAG Policy Manual Meetings**  IQ-Related Policy Manual Issues  -Reporting Principles  -Process items |  |
| Wednesday, March 15th, 9:30 – 12:30 | **EE SAG Policy Manual**   * IQ Issues |  |
| Wednesday, March 22  9:30 – 12:30 | **Q1 EE SAG meeting**   * American Counsel for an Energy Efficiency Environment “Leading with Equity” Project   University of Michigan Energy Equity Project |  |
| April | * **Working Group Meetings (WG) (#1-3) Kick-Off** | Initial Committee-Selected Working Groups Kick-Off |
| Wednesday, April 12, 3:00 – 5:00 | **IQ-S Q1 Committee Meeting**   * Ameren IL IQ Programs * Education and Outreach Grant Awardee * Energy Education Materials   Discussion: 2023 Leadership Team Selection Process | Other agenda items TBD |
| Wednesday, April 19, 9:30 – 12:30 | **EE SAG Policy Manual Meeting**   * Follow-Up on IQ Policies * Evaluation Policy * Program Administrative Policies |  |
| May | * **WG #1 - #3** | Date/Times tbd |
| Tuesday, May 2 – 3, 9:30 – 12:30 | * **EE SAG – Utility Report-Outs** | Utilities will present on IQ program results, but IQ results will be part of broader utility results report-out. |
| Wednesday, May 31, 9:00 – 12:00 | **Policy Manual Meeting**   * Follow-Up on Open Items from April Meeting   Comments from IQ Committee Participants |  |
| June | **WG #1 - #3** |  |
| Wednesday, June 21, 9:30 – 12:30 | **Final Policy Manual Meeting**   * Review full Policy Manual with redline edits   Discuss process next steps, including whether a nonconsensus Comparison Exhibit will be filed. |  |
| July | * **WG #1 - #3** |  |
| Wednesday, July 12, 9:00 – 12:00 | **Joint SAG EE Equity Sub- Committee – IQ Committee Meeting** |  |
| Wednesday, July 12, 3:00 – 5:00 | **IQ-S Q2 Committee Meeting**   * Working Group Report-Outs * Utility IQ Program Report-Out – Challenges/Opportunities |  |
| August | No Meetings |  |
| September | * **Working Group Meetings (#4 - 6) Kick-Off** | New Working Groups will be initiated if sufficient progress made on Working Groups #1 - #3 |
| Wednesday, October 11, 3:00 – 5:00 | **IQ-S Q3 Committee Meeting**   * Working Group Report-Outs   Other Topics TBD |  |
| October 18, 2023,  9:00 – 12:00 | **Joint SAG EE Equity Sub- Committee – IQ Committee Meeting** |  |
| November | **WG Mtg. #4 - #6** |  |
| Nov 14, 15, 9:30 – 12:30 | **EE SAG – Utility Report-Outs** | Utilities will present on IQ program results, but IQ results will be part of broader utility results report-out. |
| Wednesday, December 6, 3:00 – 5:00 | **IQ-S Q4 Committee Meeting**   * IQ Utility Report-Outs * Final Working Group Report-Outs * IQ Evaluations |  |
| Tuesday, Dec 5, 9:30 – 12:00, ComEd and Ameren IL  Wednesday, Dec 6, 10:00 – 12:00 Nicor, Peoples | * **EE SAG Evaluation Report-Outs** |  |
| Wednesday December 13 – 9:00 – 12:00 | **Joint SAG EE Equity Sub- Committee – IQ Committee Meeting**   * **Agenda TBD** |  |

**+ one additional two-hour Joint SAG – IQ Committee Meeting**

**\*Three Joint IQ TRM Working Group – IQ Committee Working Group Meetings (2 hours each) (Not yet scheduled, not mandatory attendance, but Stipend-Eligible)**

1. “BIPOC” or “Black, indigenous and people of color” means people who are members of the groups described in subparagraphs (a) through (e) of paragraph (A) of subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Woman and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01). As defined, BIPOC refers to citizens or lawful permanent residents of the US who is any of the following:

   (a) American Indian or Alaskan Native,

   (b) Asian (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian Subcontinent, including, but not limited to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Vietnam),

   (c) Black or African American (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa),

   (d) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or original, regardless of race), and

   (e) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands).

   NOTE: The above section is scheduled to be repealed on June 30, 2024. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Environmental Justice Communities are as defined in the Illinois Solar for All Program administered by the Illinois Power Agency. The IPA and the Illinois Solar for All implementer identified Environmental Justice Communities using the United State Environmental Protection Agencies Tool EJ Screen. EJ Screen is used to identify a higher risk of exposure to pollution-based environmental and socioeconomic factors. The list of current Environmental Justice Communities is: <https://www.illinoissfa.com/environmental-justice-communities>.

   “Environmental Justice Communities” as defined by the Illinois Power Agency include sections of East St. Louis, Normal, Bloomington, Decatur, Champaign and Danville, Peoria, Joliet, Aurora, Bolingbrook, Rockford, Waukegan and Chicago. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The largest ethnic groups in Illinois are: White (60%), Hispanic or Latino (18%), Black or African American (14.7%), Asian (6.1%), American Indian and Alaska Native (.6%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders (.1%) and Mixed Race (2.2%). <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/IL/AGE295221>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *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, nonprofit organizations, community action agencies, advocacy groups, State and local governmental agencies, public-housing organizations, and representatives of community-based organizations, especially those living in or working with environmental justice communities and BIPOC communities.* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)