

Community Development Commission Weatherization Assistance Briefing

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Topics

- Purpose / Status
- ARRA/TDHCA Guidelines
- Measures
- Teams
- Weatherization Programs
- Roadmap
- Questions

Purpose

- Assist lower-income households and homes with higher energy burden
- Reduce residential energy costs
- Increase the energy efficiency of dwellings
- Improve home health and safety for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and families with young children

Status

- June 24, 2009 Austin Energy submits Grant Application for \$5.8 million dollars in stimulus funds
- Contract award/notification expected September 1, 2009
 - DOE/TDHCA to release \$2.9 million up front
 - Balance to be released on demonstration of performance



ARRA/TDHCA Guidelines

- Serve households at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Income Guideline
- \$6,500 max cost per home
 - Labor, Material, Health/Safety, and Program Support
 - Health/Safety limited to 20%.
- Use only 5% for administration costs.
- Two Year Program – Ends July 31, 2011



Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

Persons in Family	Maximum Household Income (200% of Federal Poverty Level)
1	\$ 21,660
2	\$ 29,140
3	\$ 36,620
4	\$ 44,100
5	\$ 51,580
6	\$ 59,060
7	\$ 66,540



Measures

- Attic insulation
- Air infiltration
- Replacement of qualifying appliances (HVAC, window air conditioners, refrigerator)
- Doors
- Minor energy-related repairs (health and safety)
- Benefit/Cost ratio ≥ 1
- Priority list and DOE auditing software

Expanded Weatherization Work

- Current weatherization program spends \$1,500 per qualifying household
- New DOE Grant allows up to \$6,500 per household
- New additional weatherization measures:
 - Heating & cooling units
 - Health & safety up to \$1,300
 - Replacement of refrigerator & compact fluorescents
 - Allows work in multi-family complexes
- Sets opportunity to expand program in future.



Teams

- Stakeholders
 - Austin Energy: 11
 - Tx Dept of Housing and Community Affairs: 2
 - Travis County: 8
 - Austin Housing Finance: 2
 - Texas Gas Service: 2
- Sub-Committees Created
 - Legal/Purchasing
 - Program Offering / Program Development
 - Community Outreach
 - Executive



Additional Weatherization Programs

- Austin Energy Free Home Energy Improvement Program
 - Since 1982, weatherized over 14, 000 homes
 - Average 600 homes annually
 - Single family, duplexes, mobile homes
 - Measures: Attic insulation, repairing/sealing ducts, caulking/weather-stripping, solar screens, CFLs, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors
- Travis County
- Austin Housing Finance Corporation



Roadmap: Key Dates

- Continue Austin Energy Free Home Energy Improvement Program
- Briefings to EUC, RMC: Sept 14, 15
- Briefing to City Council October 22
- Budget amendment to City Council: Nov 5
- Inter-local agreement with Travis County: Nov 5
- Press announcement launching weatherization program: Nov 5



Roadmap: Contract Solicitations (Dec. 10)

- Commitment to local, under utilize workforce
- Contracting opportunities will increase significantly (from 3 to 24 contractors)
- Provide training ground for new “green collar” workforce
- 3rd party “test-in” energy auditors; “test out” final inspections; and weatherization work



Roadmap: Project Management Steps

- Establish budget for staffing, equipment, and program development
 - 3 to 4 administrative staff
 - 1 to 2 field personnel
- Input from sub-committees
- Identify targeted areas:
 - High energy usage/low income
 - Households with high energy burden
- Submit priority list of qualified measures to TDHCA for approval
- Mandatory training by TDHCA for selected contractors and staff



Roadmap: Identify eligible households in existing programs

- Program Projections
 - 425 to 500 homes/year X 2 years (850 to 1000 total)
- Potential Customers
 - Current back-log within Austin Energy: 250
 - City of Austin, Customer Assistance Program: 4,868
 - City of Austin, Plus One Program: 1,235
 - Austin Housing Finance Corporation: 900
 - Austin Housing Authority
 - Travis County
 - Customers within targeted neighborhoods



Roadmap: Marketing & Outreach

- Ensure inter-departmental cooperation to combine pre-existing lists of clients with established needs
- Identify social service providers to provide “feet on ground” outreach awareness
- Conduct grassroots marketing to civic and church groups in target zip codes and via neighborhood canvassing
- Develop overall universal agency/services brochure



Questions



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