Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group

2020 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Feedback Template

Submitter Contact Information

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<u>Feedback Topic Area</u>: Please check the box (or boxes) below to identify what type of feedback will be shared.

Check	Feedback Topic Areas
\boxtimes	Income Qualified / Income Eligible Programs
	Residential Programs (Not Income Qualified or Income Eligible)
	Business Programs
	Other Feedback – Research and Development, Portfolio Diversity, Policy Issues, Etc.

<u>Instructions</u>: Please briefly respond to the questions below, for topics areas where you have feedback to share. Please focus your feedback on preliminary draft 2022-2025 utility EE Portfolios.

Feedback on Income Qualified / Income Eligible Programs

- 1. For which utility will you be sharing feedback (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas, or all Illinois utilities)?
 - a. ComEd, Nicor Gas, People Gas & North Shore Gas
- 2. Do you have feedback to share for multi-family or single-family initiatives (or both)?
 - a. **Both**
- 3. Briefly describe the feedback.
 - a. When targeting and designing IE programs, municipalities can offer impactful communication channels to reach target communities. In Plan 6, there is no mention or use of municipalities in facilitating outreach to communities in most need. However, municipalities should be considered when targeting and designing these IE programs since there are ubiquitous communication channels to reach IE residents.

When discussing the optimization impact of EE dollars in IE programing, it would be helpful to receive data on where these gaps in delivery are now and how ComEd is tracking them. When gaps are identified, it is likely that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus has resources to reach these communities, as there is a formal connection to local government officials as well as municipal sustainability/environmental commissions.

- 4. Briefly describe the rationale for feedback.
 - a. Every community targeted for IQ programing is a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, a network of 275 municipalities in the Chicago region. The Mayors Caucus also leads the largest regional sustainability collaborative for municipalities in the country called the <u>Greenest Region Compact</u> (GRC). One hundred thirty-two local governments have formally endorsed GRC goal, including a specific goal to engage the community in clean energy practices, and a specific objective to partner with utility energy efficiency programs. The Mayors Caucus has also had experience in delivering EE programs to the public sector and is now ready to expand its reach to its IQ/residential communities.

As mentioned the Mayors Caucus has resources to reach local government officials as well as municipal commissions. Often time, municipal commissions act in a similar capacity to CBOs by engaging with residents. Commissions offer additional transparency and accountability as they have a formal statutory arrangement with the municipality. For example, the City of Elgin has a <u>Sustainability Commission</u> which is involved in initiatives such as overseeing the Sustainability Action Plan, <u>a knowledge center</u>, and hosting other sustainability related events. Through these channels, there presents a great opportunity to engage residents, especially in the suburbs. When looking through the IQ North's list of CBOs with active participation, there is a strong majority of CBOs based in the city. The Mayors Caucus can provide communicative channels to suburbs where CBOs are not typically present or may not have capacity. Some municipalities with a concentration of suburban income qualified populations may be in Elgin, Aurora, Park Forest, Waukegan, Hazel Crest, Round Lake Beach, and more.