



SAG EE Ideas Process: IQ South EE Ideas

Dr. Deondre Rutues, Facilitator
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Annette Beitel, Senior Facilitator

On behalf of the IQ-S Leadership Team
Wednesday, April 17th, 2024

Agenda

- ▷ Brief Introduction and Background
- ▷ Discuss IQ-S Program Ideas
 - Increase Number of and Support for Diverse Contractors
 - Support Returning Citizens entering the Clean Energy Workforce
 - AC/High Heat Pilot Program to address High Heat Days
 - Support for CBOs, CAA, and Local Governments to Develop Clean Energy Plans and Secure Funding to Implement (Beyond utility funds)
 - Mobile Home Initiative to deliver EE Measures to Mobile Homes



Presentation Approach

- ▷ Describe work of the IQ-S Subcommittee that will **further refine recommendations presented to Ameren IL in September**
- ▷ Describe IQ-S Program Ideas submitted to EE SAG on **March 22**
- ▷ Reminder: IQ-S Subcommittees have multiple objectives and will continue through 2025 – this presentation **will focus on activities that will be used to refine recommendations for Ameren IL in September**



IQ-S Subcommittee Process

- ▶ IQ-S Subcommittees have met multiple times; the Portfolio Planning Recommendations will continue to be discussed in IQ-S Subcommittees
 - Ongoing input from CBOs, CAAs, Local Governments, & Other
- ▶ Per CEJA, ultimate recommendations delivered in September to *“directly inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of the low-income and public-housing energy efficiency programs.”*



Recommendation – Statewide Programs

- ▷ IQ-S Leadership Team recommends that the ideas described in this presentation are implemented statewide, not just in Ameren IL's service territory



IQ-S Subcommittees



IQ-S Committee Leadership Team



Roger Pavey

- ▷ Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies



Theresa Collins

- ▷ Senior Services Plus

Onboarding Soon:
Local Gov. Representative



Odette Watson

- ▷ East Central Illinois Community Action Agency



Active IQ-S Subcommittees – Chairs

- ▷ **Increase and Support Diverse Contractors**
 - Co-Chair: Odette Watson – East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
 - Co-Chair: Erika Dominick – Walker Miller Energy Services
 - Co-Chair: Jamey Neal – Ameren Illinois
- ▷ **Support Returning Citizens Entering the Clean Energy Workforce**
 - Co-Chair: Scott Alan Davis – Solutions for Energy Efficient Logistics (SEEL)
 - Co-Chair: Nikia Perry – Solutions for Energy Efficient Logistics (SEEL)
- ▷ **AC/High Heat Pilot Program to Address High Heat Days**
 - Co-Chair: Theresa Collins – Senior Services Plus
 - Co-Chair: Jamey Neal – Ameren Illinois
 - Co-Chair: John Carroll – Leidos



IQ-S Subcommittees – Expected to Resume in 2025

- ▷ **Clean Energy Plans “Framework” for CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments**
 - On hiatus for now due to funding constraints
 - Expect to start up again early 2025





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Increase Number of and Support for Diverse Contractors

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Diverse Contractors in Ameren IL Service Territory

Ameren IL Diverse Contractors



Woman-owned Business



Minority-owned Business

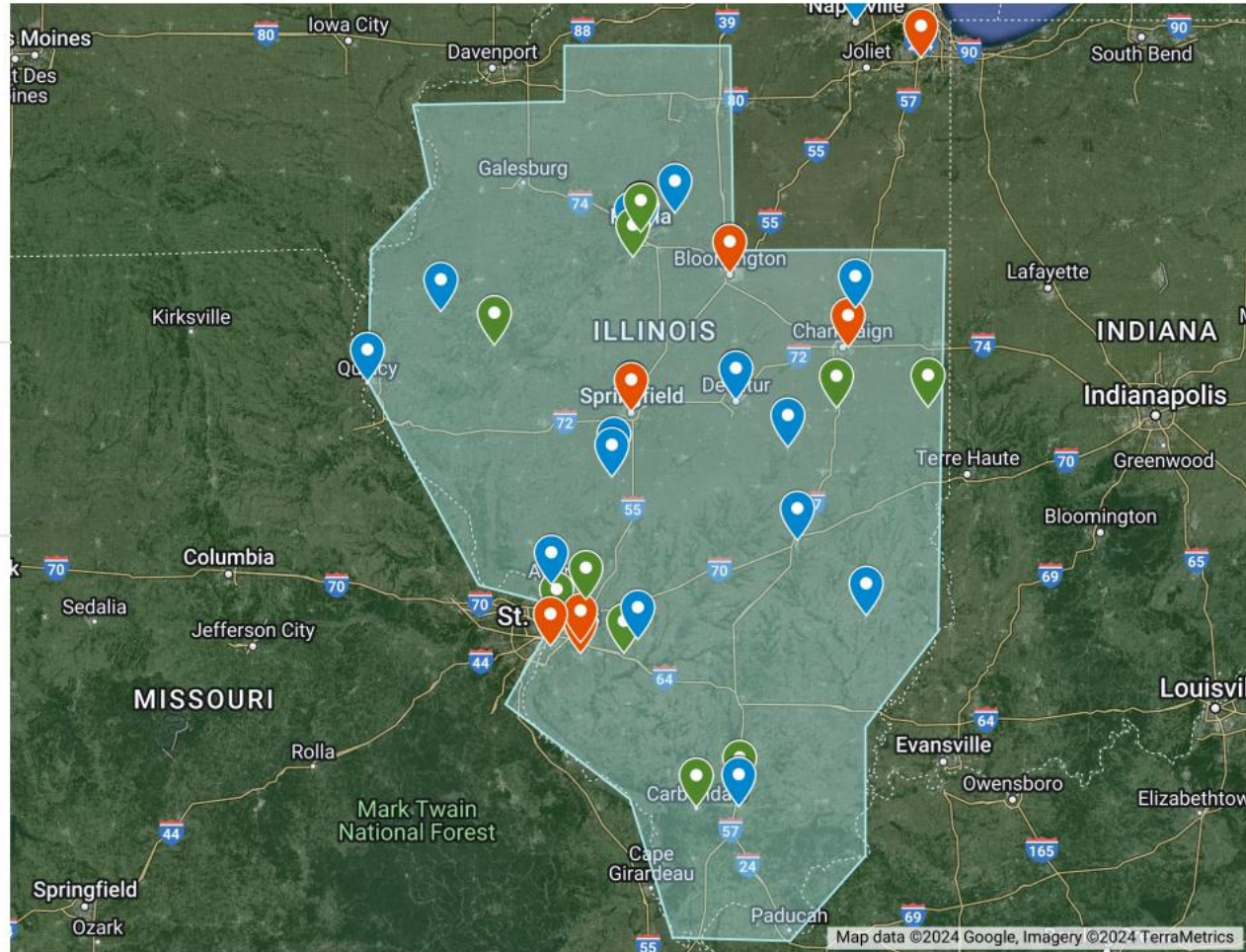


Veteran-owned Business

Ameren Electric Service Territory



Ameren Illinois Electric Service Territory



Diverse Contractors Subcommittee Members

- ▷ Odette Watson, East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
- ▷ Denise Moore, Black Business Alliance Peoria Chapter
- ▷ Erika Dominick, Walker Miller Energy Services
- ▷ Amber Anderson, Walker Miller Energy Services
- ▷ Suskin Lockett, Jr., Reasonable Heating Cooling and Insulation
- ▷ Jose Lockett, Reasonable Heating Cooling and Insulation
- ▷ Peter Pasholk, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
- ▷ Jamey Neal & Tim Dickison, Ameren Illinois Staff



Diverse Contractors Subcommittee Objectives

- ▶ Identify and recruit ten (10) additional diverse contractors who are interested in supporting Ameren Illinois' energy efficiency portfolio by the end of 2024
 - Develop additional recommendations for identifying, assisting and providing ongoing support for **new and existing** diverse contractors to compliment existing Ameren IL initiatives



Identifying Additional Diverse Contractors

- ▷ **Contractors Identified** who may have relevant weatherization skills (operating in underserved areas)
 - Effingham – 136 Contractors
 - Decatur – 91 Contractors
 - St. Clair/Madison County – 123 Contractors
- ▷ Of the above, at least six are diverse
- ▷ **Additional outreach underway** to identify diverse contractors, as well as researching contractors in areas lacking diverse contractors



Interviews – Input from Newly-Identified Diverse Contractors – Illustrative Questions

▷ Awareness

- Are you familiar with the Ameren IL and state weatherization programs?

▷ Interest in Participating

- If familiar, have you considered becoming a Program Ally? If not, why not?

▷ Support/Barriers

- What support would you need to become an Ameren IL Program Ally OR work in the state weatherization program?
- What barriers prevent you from becoming an Ameren IL Program Ally?

Interviews of prospective contractors will help inform refined September recommendations to Ameren IL



Interviews – Input from Existing Contractors – Illustrative Questions

▷ **Key Challenges/Barriers**

- What have been key challenges in participating in weatherization work?

▷ **Key Benefits**

- What key benefits have you received from participating in weatherization work?

▷ **Additional Support Needed**

- What additional support would you like to be successful in weatherization?

*Interviewing current contractors will help refine
Committee recommendations for September*



Subcommittee Work-to-Date

- ▷ **Literature Review:** Summarizing available research/lessons on developing and supporting diverse contractors, implementers, and professionals
- ▷ **Summary of Key Learnings:** Challenges/opportunities facing diverse contractors
- ▷ **Business Case:** Understanding the Business Case for increasing diverse contractors, implementers, and professionals in the Clean Energy ecosystem
- ▷ **Identifying and Geomapping Existing Diverse Contractors/Implementers:** Developing a comprehensive list of diverse contractors and implementers; geomapping the contractors/implementers to identify gaps in service areas

*Work completed will help IQ-S Subcommittee
refinement of recommendations*



EE Idea: Diverse Contractors – Goals

- ▷ **Funding:** Percent of funds allocated to diverse contractors should equal percent of diverse citizens in the service territory

Rationale: Equity

- ▷ **Geographic Coverage:** Increase geographic coverage of diverse contractors to build capacity across the state

Rationale: Representation



EE Idea: Diverse Contractors – Goals Cont.

- ▷ **Additional Support (Training and Hiring)**
 - Funding for Program Allies to train and hire under-employed residents in disadvantaged communities
- ▷ **Additional Support (Accessing Opportunities + Recertification)**
 - Continuing support for diverse contractors to help them succeed in utility and state weatherization and related programs
 - Funding for Program Allies to complete necessary certifications and recertification for weatherization

IQ-S Diverse Contractor Subcommittee will continue to refine recommendations through the summer



Questions for EE SAG

- ▷ **EE SAG Participant Feedback Requested** on IQ-S Committee recommendations (to date) on increasing diverse contractors.
- ▷ **Any other recommendations** that you think IQ-S Diverse Contractor Subcommittee should consider?
- ▷ Time Permitting, any other comments or questions?





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Support Returning Citizens entering the Clean Energy Workforce

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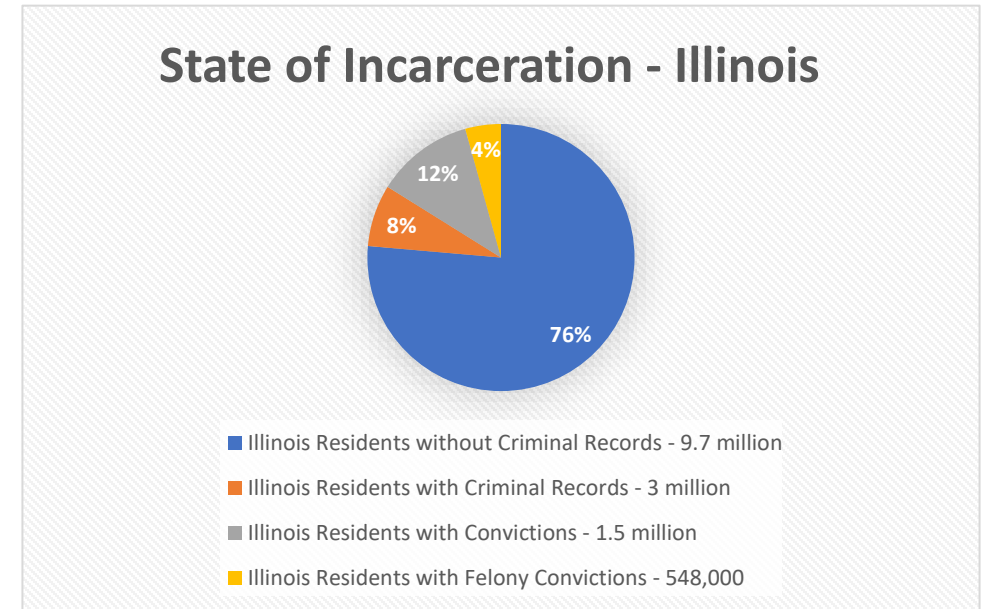
Returning Citizens – State of Illinois

▷ State of Incarceration in IL

- In Illinois, an estimated three million of the state's 12.7 million residents have criminal records; Half of them have convictions
- A total of 548,000 Illinois residents have felony convictions.

▷ Structural Inequity

- An estimated 14% of Black adults in Illinois were currently or formerly incarcerated as of 2010, compared to 3% of adults overall. Illinois has the third highest percentage of Black adults who are formerly incarcerated in the nation.



Returning Citizens Subcommittee Members

- ▷ Scott Alan Davis, Solutions for Energy Efficient Logistics (SEEL)
- ▷ Nikia Perry, Solutions for Energy Efficient Logistics (SEEL)
- ▷ Tisha Burnside, Resource Innovations
- ▷ Terry Burnside, House of Hope Peoria, INC
- ▷ Joe Joe Mapp, Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR)
- ▷ Raphel Jackson, Stateville C.C.
- ▷ Kameron Huckleby, Access Living
- ▷ Remel Rutledge, Chicago School of Professional Psychology
- ▷ Dirk Nauman, Nauman Innovation Group
- ▷ Jamey Neal & Tim Dickison, Ameren Illinois Staff



Returning Citizens Subcommittee Objectives

Main Objective #1: Support Returning Citizens Entering Clean Energy Workforce

- ▷ Develop strategies and tactics to further support successful identification, training, hiring and retention of “Returning Citizens” in the EE, solar and related efforts workforce

Main Objective #2: Support Employers Hiring Returning Citizens for Clean Energy Workforce

- ▷ Develop business case and toolkit for employers and employees



Subcommittee Work-to-date

- ▷ **Background Research Summary:** Summary of available background information
- ▷ **Literature Review:** Analysis of State Clean Energy Programs for Returning Citizens
- ▷ **Business Case:** Understanding the Business Case for hiring Returning Citizens in the Clean Energy ecosystem
- ▷ **7 Interviews with Returning Citizens:** Understanding challenges faced when re-entering the workforce to inform a toolkit
- ▷ **Recruited 7 Returning Citizens for Subcommittee**



Interviews – Returning Citizens – Illustrative Questions

- ▷ **7 Interviews to Date; 3 Additional Planned**
- ▷ **Structured Questionnaire – Illustrative Questions**
 - Transition Back to Workforce
 - Building Trust and Rapport in Workplace
 - Overcoming Workplace Biases
 - Challenging Integrating into Workplace Culture
 - Ongoing Support Needs

*Interviews will be used to refine Committee recommendations
provided in September*



Interviews – Prospective Employers – Illustrative Questions

- ▷ **Structured Questionnaire:** Employers who are **unwilling** to hire Returning Citizens & Employers who **have** hired Returning Citizens
 - Perceived/Actual barriers and challenges
 - Legal considerations and concerns
 - Changing corporate culture around Returning Citizens
 - Internal discussion about hiring Returning Citizens
 - Training, support and development of Returning Citizens
 - Needed tools and support to be successful
 - Desired ongoing support for employers

Interviewing current contractors will help refine

Committee recommendations in September



EE Idea: Returning Citizens – Proposal

- ▷ **Returning Citizen Engagement in Clean Energy Workforce:** Identify, engage, support and connect at least ten (10) **Returning Citizens/per service territory/each year** with clean energy jobs in the utility service territory
- ▷ **Reduce Recidivism:** (employment = lower recidivism)
- ▷ **Business Engagement:** Identify at least ten (10) **Employers/per service territory/each year** who are willing to hire Returning Citizens in Clean Energy Jobs.



EE Idea: Returning Citizens – Final Thought

IL has been “leader” in incarceration

INSTEAD

*Let’s establish IL as Nationwide Leader in
Engaging Returning Citizens in Clean Energy
Workforce*

To help Remedy Structural Inequity in Incarceration



Questions for EE SAG Participants

- ▷ **EE SAG Participant Feedback Requested** on IQ-S Committee recommendations (to date) on Engaging Returning Citizens in Clean Energy Workforce
- ▷ **Any other recommendations**, information, considerations that you think Engaging Returning Citizens Subcommittee should consider?
- ▷ Time Permitting, any other comments or questions?





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AC/High Heat Pilot Program to Address High Heat Days

Nelson May, Project Manager; Facilitator
On behalf of the IQ-S Leadership Team
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AC/High Heat Subcommittee Members

- ▷ Theresa Collins, Senior Services Plus
- ▷ Kevin Bushur, C.E.F.S Economic Opportunity Corporation
- ▷ Kathy Walk, C.E.F.S Economic Opportunity Corporation
- ▷ Joy Paeth, Age Smart Community Resources
- ▷ Nicole Popejoy, Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies
- ▷ Dawn Rear, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
- ▷ Becky Salazar, Egyptian Area Agency on Aging
- ▷ Jamey Neal, John Carroll, & Tim Dickison, Ameren Illinois Staff



AC/High Heat Subcommittee Objectives

- ▶ **Business Case:** Create a business case for High-Heat Energy Efficiency Programs for vulnerable customers/communities
- ▶ **Pilot:** Create, implement, oversee and evaluate pilot programs to help vulnerable customers/communities manage high heat
- ▶ **Education Materials on Danger of High Heat:** Create education materials for customers explaining the dangers of high heat and cooling resources available to them



Subcommittee Work-to-date

- ▷ **Review of Funding Sources:** Comprehensive review of available funding resources (private, state and federal) to consider leveraging
- ▷ **High Level Measure Table:** Measure table detailing proposed cooling measures (costs, installation requirements, pros, and cons)
- ▷ **Literature Review:** Review of existing research on high heat days and their impact on at-risk populations
- ▷ **Review of Federal Initiatives:** Key takeaways from federal initiatives to educate the public on the risk of high heat and education tactics



EE Idea: AC/High Heat Program – Overview & Rationale

The IQ-S AC/High Heat Subcommittee is proposing a statewide program that would offer:

- ▷ **Emergency Cooling Resources** to at-risk, eligible IQ households via one or more energy efficient measure package(s), depending on the customer and residential dwelling type.
- ▷ **Expected Outcomes**
 - Generating savings
 - Providing bill relief to IQ customers
 - Protecting IQ customers against life-threatening high heat episodes



EE Idea: AC/High Heat Program – Goals

- ▷ **Inclusion of AC in Weatherization:** Comprehensive weatherization should include AC if there is no AC present, or if the AC is functioning below 50% capacity. Typically, equipment older than 15 years old should be replaced.
- ▷ **Addressing the Risk to Seniors:** 11 – 13% of seniors do not have working AC (underreported). Seniors also struggle to access publicly available cooling resources.
- ▷ **Proposed Number of People Served:** Proposing to serve 1/10th of the vulnerable population, per year, in the next 4-year plan.



EE Idea: AC/High Heat Program – Funding

- ▶ **Seek Supplemental funding for AC Resources**
 - **One Possibility might be IRA Funding:** To help finance the AC/High Heat Program, IRA funding could be leveraged for customers with a source of income in the form of a tax credit
- ▶ IRA funds are expected to become available in 2025 through the Illinois EPA
 - The Subcommittee recognizes that the effort would be challenging to conduct with available IQ Utility Funding



Key Challenges to be Addressed

- ▷ **Vulnerable populations** are afraid to use cooling resources because it will increase their bills
 - Can we pair cooling resources with small solar?
 - Deploy portable ASHP to provide cooling and heating to a single room
- ▷ **Utilities' perception of cooling resources:** generates fewer savings than other types of efficiency measures
 - Can we think critically about how to value cooling resources?
 - Maybe new paradigm needed for valuing cooling needed

Plan to refine proposal to address challenges in September recommendations



Questions for EE SAG Participants

- ▷ **EE SAG Participant Feedback Requested on:**
 - Addressing fear of using cooling resources because of increased bill
 - Perception that cooling resources are not “affordable” to utilities as an energy savings measure
- ▷ **Any other recommendations**, information, considerations that EE SAG believes should be considered as we refine recommendations?
- ▷ Time Permitting, any other comments or questions?





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Clean Energy Plans and Grant Resources for CBOs, CAAs, and Local Governments

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Clean Energy Plans Subcommittee Objectives

- ▶ Create a **Framework for Community Energy Planning** to help local governments and CBOs/CAAs develop “Integrated Clean Energy Plans” for underserved communities
- ▶ **Identify available programs/funding sources** to help CBOs/CAAs and local governments implement



Subcommittee Work-to-Date

- ▷ **Background Research:** Identification of relevant clean energy programs & resources available in Illinois
- ▷ **Financing Review:** Analysis of available financial resources for CBOs/CAAs/Local Governments to develop Clean Energy Plans
- ▷ **Resources Review:** Review of tools and resources available to public sector leaders developing Clean Energy Plans
- ▷ **Interviews:** Stakeholder Interviews to understand the needs of local governments when developing Clean Energy Plans



EE Idea: Clean Energy Plans – Overview & Rationale

The Program would seek EE funding to:

- ▷ **Support** local governments, CBOs and CAAs to develop “Integrated Clean Energy Plans” for underserved communities (they can follow “Integrated Clean Energy Framework”)
- ▷ **Help identify and apply for utility and other sources of funding** to implement their plans



EE Idea: Clean Energy Plans – Goals

- ▷ Integrated Clean Energy Plans could include, but not be limited to:
 - **Identifying Data Sources** to understand a communities' energy needs
 - **Educating Customers** (individuals or businesses) about EE
 - **Plan and resources to train and foster local employment**
 - **Integrating Clean Energy Resources** such as Energy Efficiency, Solar, and other renewables, EV Vehicles, and EV Charging
 - **Ensuring resiliency of energy resources** to support effective climate adaptation and electrification



EE Idea: Clean Energy Plans – Goals Cont.

- ▷ **Identify Available Programs/Resources:** Identify available resources that could be leveraged to develop and implement such Clean Energy Plans in underserved communities, including:
 - Utility resources
 - State and federal programs/funding
 - Foundation funding
 - Private funding (community banks or IL Climate Bank)



Questions for EE SAG Participants

- ▶ **EE SAG Participant Feedback Requested on:**
 - Utility funding for helping CBOs/CAAs/Local governments prepare Clean Energy Plans
 - Utility funding to help with grant writing to secure funds
- ▶ **Any other recommendations**, information, considerations that EE SAG believes should be considered as we refine recommendations?
- ▶ Time Permitting, any other comments or questions?





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Mobile Home Initiative to deliver EE Measures to Mobile Homes

Annette Beitel, Senior Facilitator
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Background for Proposal

- ▷ Original Idea for Mobile Home Initiative proposed by Dalitso Sulamoyo, Executive Director of CCRPC
- ▷ Supported by Kristol Simms
- ▷ Rationale:
 - Mobiles homes very underserved throughout country in state weatherization programs (including IHWAP)
 - Highest per square foot energy use
 - Currently, lowest income populations relative to SF and MF



EE Idea: Mobile Home Initiative – Overview & Rationale

▷ Overall Proposal:

- **Statewide Mobile Home Program:** Number of mobile homes served in IHWAP weatherization plus utility weatherization efforts should be proportionate to population served for SF and MF homes served

▷ Key Elements:

- Comprehensive (with considerations of cost-effectiveness)
- Offered through CBOs/CAAs as much as possible
- Use to bolster employment of hard-to-employ through training and connecting local residents with Program Allies



Key Challenges Remain

- ▷ **Pairing Solar:** Can we pair solar with weatherization for mobile homeowners to reduce incredibly high bills?
- ▷ **Optimizations:** Which measures are most cost-effective?
- ▷ **Discussion:** Understanding the role of cooling?
- ▷ **Health & Safety:** H&S funding is essential to weatherize mobile homes
- ▷ **Time Commitment:** Considerable time to develop contractor network
 - Specialized skill set
 - Lots of reluctance in contractor base to serve mobile homes



Questions for EE SAG Participants

- ▷ **EE SAG Participant Feedback Requested on:**
 - Should proportion of mobile homes served equal number of SF and MF homes served relative to population living in these dwelling types EVEN if mobile homes more expensive to weatherize?
- ▷ Any thoughts on challenges we've identified?
- ▷ Time Permitting, any other comments or questions?



Closing



THANK YOU to our dedicated and knowledgeable Subcommittee Participants



THANK YOU to the IQ-S Leadership Team



THANK YOU, Ameren IL, for being a valued partner and extremely supportive of innovation in the IQ space

