

Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group

2020 SAG Portfolio Planning Process
Proposed Energy Efficiency Ideas Template

Submitter Contact Information

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Energy Efficiency Idea Questions

Please check the boxes below to identify 1) the type of idea; 2) which Illinois utility or utilities will be impacted by the idea; and 3) which EE sector the idea impacts.

Check	Type of Energy Efficiency Idea
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Measure or New Program Idea
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Program Approach
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovative Idea

Check	Illinois Utility Impacted by Energy Efficiency Idea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ameren Illinois
<input type="checkbox"/>	ComEd
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicor Gas
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Illinois Utilities

Check	Energy Efficiency Sector Targeted by Energy Efficiency Idea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Single Family (non-income qualified/income eligible)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Multifamily (non-income qualified/income eligible)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Single Family Income Qualified/Income Eligible
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Multifamily Income Qualified/Income Eligible
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Business Customers (commercial & industrial sector)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium/Large Business Customers (commercial & industrial sector)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (research & development, emerging technologies, market transformation)

Additional Questions

1. **Description of Idea:** Describe the proposed idea, including the purpose of the suggested idea and rationale. Describe whether this is an idea that could be implemented in an existing EE program, or whether the idea involves establishing a new measure or program. Please indicate whether additional research may be required before implementation.

Questions to consider: What issue will this proposed change resolve? Will the proposed change increase participation and result in increased energy savings? Will this reduce costs? Will this increase customer satisfaction? Will this help achieve statutory goals? Will this help increase program penetration?

Funding for income qualified energy efficiency programs should be increased significantly in the next four-year plan to serve those customers who need bill savings the most. The goal of increasing the affordability of utility service through energy efficiency programs has always been present, but never more so than now, as the country and state face the fallout of a global pandemic that has shutdown significant portions of the economy. In Illinois, through the five weeks from March 1 to April 4, Illinois received 513,173 initial unemployment claims. That is greater than the total number of initial claims for the entirety of 2019 (489,831) and five times greater than the claims filed in the first five weeks of the 2008 great recession. See <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069t000000AiYIGAA3?operationContext=S1>.

At a minimum, gas utilities are required under Section 8-104 of the Act to set low-income program funding proportionate to the share of total annual utility revenues in Illinois from households at or below 150% of the poverty level. Such programs shall be targeted to households with incomes at or below 80% of area median income. whose income falls at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). 220 ILCS 5/8-104(e-5). Under Section 8-103B(c) of the Act, Ameren is required to spend \$8.35 million and ComEd \$25 million on low income programs. 220 ILCS 5/8-103B(c). Ameren’s plan, approved in Docket No. 17-0311 nearly doubled that amount to \$15.6 million. ComEd agreed to spend \$42 million on low income programs and an additional \$6 million through third-party low-income programs in its settlement of its plan filed in Docket No. 17-0312. Nicor and Peoples Gas/NorthShore, too, agreed to low income program spends that approximated the ratio of low-income populations to revenues received from low income customers. These spending amounts, however,

should be viewed as spending minimums going forward, in light of the new economic post-pandemic and economic shutdown reality.

Today, following the economic tsunami triggered by the coronavirus outbreak, millions more Illinoisans have lost their incomes or have seen paychecks diminish as businesses struggle to remain open. The proportion of customers who would qualify as “low-income” has significantly increased in light of the new unemployment and reduced employment figures. Utility budget allocations for residential programs need to reflect this new reality.

To address these changed circumstances and fulfill the goal of ensuring the affordability of utility service, NCLC proposes that 85% of Residential program dollars be targeted toward low income customers in each utility service territory.

2. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

N/A

3. **Background:** Describe where the idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

Questions to consider: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

Ameren Illinois has, in the past, committed to providing residential programs that primarily focus on its low-income population in its service territory. This is not a new concept to Illinois utilities.

4. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

Questions to consider: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

A key mission of energy efficiency program delivery is ensuring that utility service is affordable for all customers. Prioritizing the needs of low-income customers will increase the affordability of utility service for *all* customers, reduce uncollectibles and promote the creation of more quality, affordable housing in the state.

5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

Yes.

6. **Estimated Budget:** Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

TBD, based on the Residential vs. Commercial/Industrial program budget split presented by the utilities in their proposed four-year plans.

7. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

TBD

Sources

If any sources will be useful to Illinois utilities in reviewing ideas, please either provide links within this template or send attachment(s) to the SAG Facilitator with the Energy Efficiency Idea submittal.

In order to get an idea of the changed circumstances Illinoisans face, See ICC Docket No. 20-0309, April 6, 2020 Response of Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI), which can be found here:

<https://www.icc.illinois.gov/docket/P2020-0309/documents/298279>