

# Income Qualified EE Advisory Committee

2020 SAG Portfolio Planning Process  
Proposed Income Qualified 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 type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Program Approach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovative Idea

Check	Illinois Utility Impacted by Energy Efficiency Idea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central and Southern Illinois Utility (Ameren Illinois)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northern Illinois Utilities (ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas)
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Illinois Utilities

Check	Energy Efficiency Sector Targeted by Energy Efficiency Idea
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Single Family Income Qualified/Income Eligible
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Multifamily Income Qualified/Income Eligible

## 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?*

Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago has referral process with Nicor Gas and CEDA that allows our organizations to leverage individual expertise to protect the health & safety of homeowners while maximizing the energy efficiency of their homes. Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago provides health & safety repairs such as grab bars, electrical re-wiring, plumbing repairs, and other home improvements.

Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago performs our home repairs on the last Saturday in April with the aid of skilled & unskilled community volunteers. All services are provided free-of-charge to homeowners who qualify for our services (80% Area Median Income or less). In advance of the Saturday volunteer event, CEDA and Nicor perform energy audits & provide prescribed scopes of work for maximizing energy efficiency in the home, per Weatherization standards.

This partnership allows us to focus our limited financial resources on additional home repairs and provides significant added-value to our homeowners. The program leverages the financial & human resources of both organizations.

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

The program is delivered via our application process – homeowners complete an application, complete income verification process, and receive a site visit. We partner with local government (aldermen, village halls) and community organizations to distribute applications.

Once homeowners are selected for the program, they are required to attend orientation & community meetings. They hear presentations from Nicor Gas and CEDA and provide them an opportunity to fill out EE applications. The majority of clients end up applying for services through one of these partners.

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?*

Our partnership has been successfully implemented with CEDA for the past 8 years, and has served over 50 homes. Our partnership with Nicor is 5 years old, and served over 80 homes.

Currently we have a (delayed due to COVID-19) pilot partnership bringing together with CEDA, Nicor, and RTMC to work side by side in conjunction with Resource Innovations to provide energy efficiency repairs to 18 clients in south suburban Cook County.

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?*

If we are able to participate with additional partners in this process, with our organization alone, we could provide repair/Energy Efficiency services to an additional 70 households per year in the Chicago & Cook County areas. This could potentially be replicated in other Rebuilding Together affiliates throughout Illinois (Henry County, North Suburban Chicago, Aurora, East St Louis, Peoria, and Metropolis) as well as similar home repair/home modification service providers. We would also be interested in expanding our own partnerships to include Peoples Gas & ComEd.

5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan (2022-2025) or as a pilot measure or program? The idea could be offered for the duration or as a pilot program.

### **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.