Illinois EE Stakeholder Advisory Group
Equity Subcommittee

Thursday, December 15, 2022 Meeting
1:00 – 2:30 pm
Teleconference

Attendees and Meeting Notes

Meeting Materials
- SAG Equity Subcommittee Webpage
- Posted on the December 15 Meeting page:
  - Thursday, December 15 Equity Subcommittee Agenda
  - Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Presentation

Attendees (by webinar)
Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator
Greg Ehrendreich, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) – Meeting Support
Amber Anderson, Walker-Miller
Angie Ostaszewski, Ameren Illinois
Arlinda Bajrami, MEEA
Bridget Williams, Guidehouse
Cheryl Watson, Equitable Resilience & Sustainability LLC
Christian Koch, MEEA
David Weaver, Citizens Utility Board
Deb Perry, Ameren Illinois
Elizabeth Horne, ICC Staff
John Mansfield, Nicor Gas
Jonathan Skarzynski, Nicor Gas
Karen Lusson, National Consumer Law Center (NCLC)
LaShelle Newland, Resource Innovations
LaJuana Garret, Nicor Gas
Lisa Miranda, Rebuilding Together
Madalin How, Guidehouse
Mary Johnson, Resource Innovations
Matt Armstrong, Ameren Illinois
Mia Berrios. People for Community Recovery
Mike King, Nicor Gas
Nathan Seiler, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)
Odette Hyatt-Watson, East Central IL Community Action Agency
Rifat Hasan, CCRPC
Rita Morocoima-Black, CCRPC
Ryan Wall, Guidehouse
Seth Craigo-Snell, SCS Analytics
Stephen Robinson, Northwest Austin Council
Sy Lewis, Meadows Eastside Community Resource Org
Thomas Drea, Ameren Illinois
Tina Grebner, Ameren Illinois
Tisha Burnside, Resource Innovations

Tyler Rainey, CCRPC

Opening & Introductions
Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator

Purpose of meeting:
- To hold a follow-up workshop on the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission tool used for Ameren Illinois' energy efficiency programs, including discussing stakeholder questions and feedback. The first workshop to discuss the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission tool was held on June 6.

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) Tool Update
Angie Ostaszewski, Ameren Illinois; Rita Morocoima-Black, Tyler Rainey, and Rifat Hasan, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

Ameren Illinois Introduction
- CCRPC has been Ameren's data partner with census data. Eager to apply the feedback from the first meeting at the beginning of the year. Any suggestions or program needs, we'd love to have those conversations.

CCRPC Presentation
- Agenda
  1. CCRPC recommendations related to the Demographic Tool based on input received at previous SAG Subcommittee
  2. Integration of asthma rates and single/multifamily housing into the demographic tool
- New features – based on input from June meeting, completed extensive research on the indicators discussed. Summarized on the slide. Which were suitable for adding to the tool. Can be collected and implemented. Other unsuitable ones didn't have reliable data.
  - Housing Characteristics
    - Include house age, units per structure, percent of homes older than 1978, heating and cooling, single vs multifamily, etc.
    - House age and homes older than 1978 are established indicators of health issues – e.g., lead paint – affect disadvantaged and vulnerable populations and can be mitigated by EE measures. Readily available info from US Census Bureau. Good data availability. Recommending using the data shown in the slide. Have to be prudent on the number of indicators that are in the tool though.
    - Building Size – square footage or number of bedrooms – not enough information on affecting disadvantaged population or how EE can mitigate – so didn't recommend that data set for inclusion at this time.
  - Health
    - There are broad social-economic disparities about contaminated water and air pollution. Asthma is one of the consequences. Shortage of publicly available data on water and air pollution. There was mention of a Loyola University project; couldn't find tangible data there.
    - Asthma rates can be linked to health and disadvantaged populations, so recommended including that in the tool. Data is available at the census tract level and is easy to incorporate into the tool. Offers an

understanding of the air quality and environmental conditions. Used by several federal and state EJ tools.
- Based on the research, found that Air and Water Quality and Healthy Homes pilot did not have good data.
- o Environment
  - Group discussed 5 indicators. Sites that had health hazards such as proximity to landfills, CAFO, industrial parks, generation – proximity to these sites can have important and complex effects on community stress and perception of risk, as well as windborne dust or groundwater contamination.
  - It is difficult to find data readily available at the ZIP level for these indicators. Based on research recommend to go with proximity to Freeways as an indicator. It is difficult to find consistent data for the whole state on the other indicators. Data is scattered and not-consistent. DOT data on daily traffic volume and location of freeways is available and useful. High traffic areas can have health impacts from AQ, crashes, noise, etc. High volume roads can be major hazards to communities. Emissions are a major air pollutant – ozone and particulate matters. Adverse birth outcomes and mortality issues, water runoff from roads depositing heavy metals, noise pollution associated with increased community stress and risk of CV disease. This impact falls often the hardest on disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. Useful coupled with the asthma rates data. Highly recommended data to use.
- o Access
  - In terms of access, the stakeholders talked about healthcare facilities, community service orgs, CAAs, etc. All these services provide professional care and treatment in the community – health, mental, community services.
  - Indicators recommended – Community Service Org and CAA service territory data is readily available and helpful for filtering candidate ZIP codes and areas without coverage. Easy to implement and incorporate.
  - Internet availability also useful to help focus efforts on improved access to services and health outcomes. Customer Specific information from Ameren as well.

[Odette Hyatt-Watson] Great data. Is the information that is being suggested to share with grant funders, do we use this data to develop grant opportunities? How is CCRPC using the information? How are we helping the families – especially interested in children and asthmatic people? Has it been shared with legislators? How is Champaign County using this information?

[Angie Ostaszewski] We use this data to look at EE programs in the portfolio. For example working on getting health homes offering up and running – to provide Wx and IAQ measures in households especially those with asthmatic children. We work with CCRPC to find areas of service territory to find the areas with low income households and high asthma rates so we can be successful in reaching as many as possible.

[Odette Hyatt-Watson] Can this increase the priority for these families – served quicker?

[Tyler Rainey] Asthma rates are part of the priority index in the system, so when you choose the demographics it weights the priorities on which areas are the highest priority for the datasets. That shows the area with higher rates having a higher priority.

[David Weaver] Did the measures of IAQ include any replacement of indoor cooking appliances?

[Angie Ostaszewski] Happy to follow up as we get closer to launching, can share in this Subcommittee or other follow up. Open ended right now though – in the planning phase.

- Demographic tool – developed to help prioritize areas for Ameren's services. The tool uses one or multiple combined data sets to give a weighted priority index. Has a slider to weight data sets and has pop ups with the information for the ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA).
- Incorporating new data. Asthma rates used CDC 2019 data set. For the SF/MF homes this hasn't been added yet because there are some questions about the data set
    - Three categories for SF, MF and mobile homes – not sure if that mobile is going to be included as its own category & have to discuss with Ameren data specialist. Also some conversion methods for the census data that might give us better accuracy and we also have to discuss that with Ameren.
- On-screen demonstration of the tool with the new asthma data:
    - 10 demographics with asthma the newest on the list. There is an index slider at the top. You can click any or all of them in the sidebar.
    - Demonstration of the map with just the asthma rates with low priority yellow and high priority blue. As you click more demographics, the priority slider is color coded for the selection and you can slide them to show the desired percentage weighting for the scenario.
    - You can search the map including anywhere in the territory.
    - Noting that the ZIP code is shown on the pop up as well, all the info is provided by ZIP.
    - The map is acting according to the choice of demographics – the colors change based on what we pick and the percentages. Showing the entire map and how the colors change as you click. Highly interactive. Another improvement besides Asthma Rate is the boundary lines – so you can see the white space inside the map shown. That is area that isn't in the Ameren service area, and we have optimized that now.
- We originally took the outermost boundary but there are a few places where Ameren doesn't serve either gas or electric and that is what that area is.
- Possible improvements if we can get approval and everything – adding the SF/MF data, and also could add a feature of a system that would help first time user to navigate the system. Second adding a CSV download button for the data. One more improvement is a customized zoom button to complement the mouse wheel scrolling. Also, will look at the next meeting to get Ameren feedback and we're ready to make those changes.
- Next steps for the tool:
    - CCRPC will meet with Ameren, especially their data users and the heavy users of the tool, to discuss how to incorporate the MF/SF data
    - Review the EJC list and how to incorporate those census tracts into our ZIP format

- o Also will be discussing new demographic conversion process recommended by the Census Bureau that should improve the data. We will be looking at how to include the CAA information, and that will need an annual workflow associated with it.

Closing & Next Steps
- There will be another workshop in 2023 to discuss updates on the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission tool.