

CAA Presentation for the Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG)

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IACAA's Mission

2

- The Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA) is the membership organization that provides a unified voice and support to the poverty fighting network of Community Action Agencies.
- Elevating health, education, and economic standards of low-income residents in Illinois is IACAA's focus



Overview of IACAA's role

3

- Facilitation
 - Statewide meetings
 - Regional meetings
 - Advisory groups
- Outreach
 - Agency recruitment for the utilities' weatherization programs
 - Agency contacts
 - Other state WX programs and associations



Overview of IACAA's role

4

- Coordination
 - ▣ Agencies, DCEO, Utilities/Resource Innovations
- Planning
 - ▣ Agreements
 - ▣ Incentive Awards

About Community Action Agencies

5

- ▣ Brief history of Community Action
- ▣ Mission statement (Self-sufficiency)
- ▣ Agency profiles (Each agency is unique)
- ▣ Client impact



Economic Opportunity Act of 1964

6

Economic Opportunity Act of 1964; Public Law 88-452
August 20, 1964
AN ACT

To mobilize the human and financial resources of the Nation to combat poverty in the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That this Act may be cited as the "Economic Opportunity Act of 1964".

FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

SEC. 2. Although the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States have progressed to a level surpassing any achieved in world history, and although these benefits are widely shared throughout the Nation, poverty continues to be the lot of a substantial number of our people. The United States can achieve its full economic and social potential as a nation only if every individual has the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of his capabilities and to participate in the workings of our society. It is, therefore, the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity. It is the purpose of this Act to strengthen, supplement, and coordinate efforts in furtherance of that policy.



A National Priority

7

It is, therefore, the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity.

A Local Focus

8

How do you define a movement? What is Community Action?

- ❑ **A concept**
- ❑ **A public or private organization**
- ❑ **A community process**
- ❑ **A vehicle to make change**
- ❑ **A vision for the future**

Governance

The organization's governing board is structured in compliance with the CSBG Act:

1. At least one third democratically-selected representatives of the low-income community;
2. One-third local elected officials (or their representatives); and
3. The remaining membership from major groups and interests in the community.

The Mission of the CAA

10

“...to stimulate a better focusing of all available local, State, private, and Federal resources upon the goal of enabling low-income families, and low-income individuals of all ages, in rural and urban areas, to attain the skills, knowledge, and motivation to secure the opportunities needed for them to become self-sufficient.”



Cross section of the community action network

11

- (Each agency is unique)
- Territory Size (small, medium, large)
- Designation (public, private)
- Offerings (most agencies have housing programs and a number of other programs)

Program Offerings

12

- ❑ Affordable Housing
- ❑ Community Services Block Grant
- ❑ Crisis Intervention
- ❑ CSBG Scholarships
- ❑ Emergency Food and Shelter
- ❑ Emergency Home Repair
- ❑ Emergency Services
- ❑ Family and Community Development
- ❑ Food Pantry
- ❑ Foreclosure Prevention Services
- ❑ Head Start/Early Head Start
- ❑ Health and Immunizations
- ❑ Homebuyer Assistance Program
- ❑ Homeless Prevention Services
- ❑ Housing Rehabilitation
- ❑ Literacy Program
- ❑ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program(LIHEAP)
- ❑ Outreach and Referrals
- ❑ Surplus Food Commodities Distribution
- ❑ Senior Citizens Nutrition Program
- ❑ Weatherization Services
- ❑ WIC
- ❑ Workforce Development (WIOA/workNet programs)



Population served

13

- Most Weatherization projects are for families under 150% FPL which is \$38,625 for a family of 4
- Older housing stock
- Significant deferred maintenance
- Unsafe indoor air quality/safety and health issues
- Unable to afford upgrades (One time opportunity)

Impact

14



Family profiles

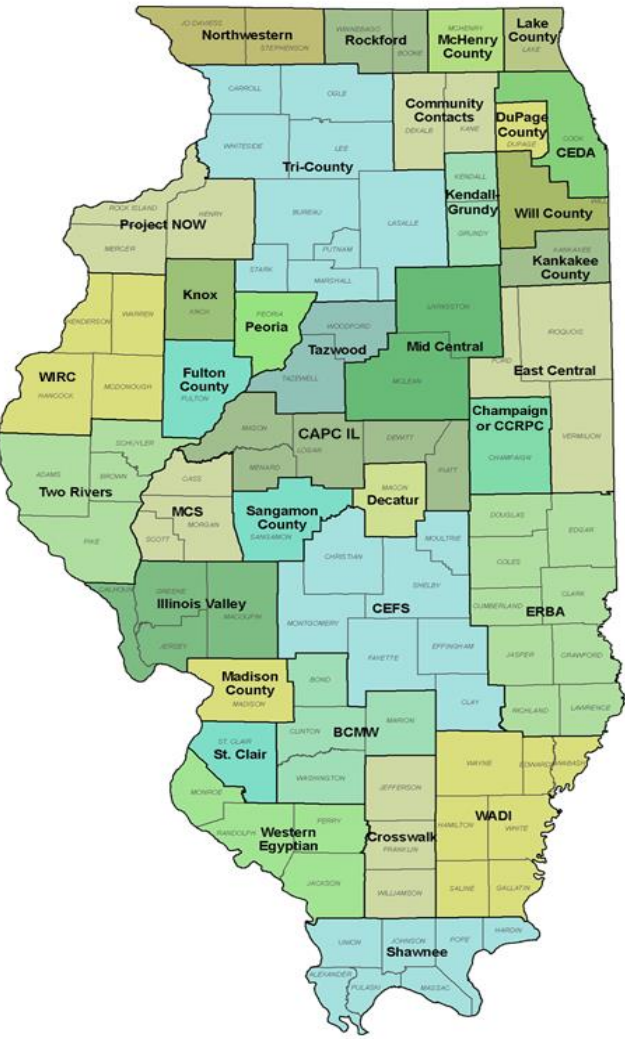
15

- Family of 2
 - ▣ Mom - F/T work but still destitute
 - ▣ Child – school age
- Home issues
 - ▣ Living w/o hot water for 6 months
 - ▣ Myriad
- Measures provided
 - ▣ Air sealing
 - ▣ Furnace replacement
 - ▣ Central A/C replacement
 - ▣ Refrigerator replacement
 - ▣ Oven replacement
 - ▣ Attic insulation
 - ▣ ASHRAE fan
 - ▣ Powered vented water heater
 - ▣ Hot water pipe installation
 - ▣ Dryer Vent kit installation
 - ▣ Low flow showerheads and aerators

Family profiles

16

- Family of 3
 - ▣ Husband - P/T work + unemployment
 - ▣ Wife – Homemaker
 - ▣ Adult son – unable to work
- Home issues
 - ▣ Boiler inoperable, rusted beyond repair
 - ▣ Water heater back-drafting carbon monoxide into home
- ▣ Measures provided
 - 90% boiler, power vented water heater
 - Drywall, insulated attic & crawlspace
 - LED bulbs
 - Air sealing
 - Faucet aerator
- ▣ Results
 - Safe indoor air
 - Utility bill dropped over \$200



- BCMW Community Services, Inc.
- Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
- Community Action Partnership of Lake County
- Mid Central Community Action, Inc.
- Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency
- Will County Center for Community Concerns
- C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation
- Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois
- Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA)
- Community Contacts, Inc.
- Crosswalk Community Action Agency
- Decatur Macon County Opportunities Corporation
- DuPage County Department of Human Services
- East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
- Embarras River Basin Agency, Inc.
- Fulton County Health Department
- Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation
- Kankakee County Community Services, Inc.
- Kendall County Health Department
- Knox County Health Department
- Madison County Community Development
- McHenry County Housing Authority
- MCS Community Services
- Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.
- Project NOW, Inc.
- Rockford Human Services Department
- Sangamon County Department of Community Resources
- Shawnee Development Council, Inc.
- St. Clair County Community Action Agency
- Tazwood Community Services, Inc.
- Tri-County Opportunities Council
- Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials
- Wabash Area Development, Inc.
- Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council
- Western Illinois Regional Council



Overview of regional approach to Agency coordination

19

PURPOSE

Re-institute regional work groups composed of on average 5-6 agencies per region to facilitate more collaboration among agencies faced with similar issues.

ISSUE

- ❑ Prices may vary wildly by agency, even in the same region
- ❑ There is an acute need for more contractors, particularly DBEs
- ❑ Current duplication in contractor qualification and procurement
- ❑ Smaller agencies sometimes have difficulty attracting talent



Overview of regional approach to Agency coordination

20

METHOD

- Create 6 regions with a mix of private and public non-profits in close geographical proximity
- Establish each regional work group as an outgrowth of the IACAA Board Energy Committee
- Ensure each of the 3 predominantly Ameren regions have crew-based agency representation
- Co-develop agendas based on survey results from agencies for topics in addition to topics driven by the utility program
- Rotate meeting locations among agencies within the region
- Establish quarterly meetings



Overview of regional approach to Agency coordination

21

PLANNED OUTCOME

Provide agencies with space to share best practices, common issues and mobilize to address regional program and policy objectives

Overview of regional approach to Agency coordination

22

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- Collaborative procurement to reduce duplicative efforts in market analysis
- Combine buying power to attain better price points for procured items
- Establish consistent regional pricing on labor and materials for weatherization
- Establish shared contractor pool, including DBEs
- Develop shared services model to provide higher pay for key roles



Agency waiting lists

23

- No CAA has sufficient funds to serve all eligible households in their communities
- Waiting lists are handled differently at each agency
- In addition, each applicant for weatherization is scored on several criteria, per DCEO rules, that determines their priority and ultimately if or when the household can be served.
- When the number of applicants exceeds the available funding for the year, a waiting list is created.

Agency waiting lists

24

Most Weatherization clients come from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which shares a joint application with Weatherization.

1. Household expresses interest in weatherization services
2. Agency determines whether to take a weatherization application or waitlist the household due to available funding
3. Application is taken and priority is determined if funding is available
4. Priority score (0-5) determines whether the applicant is scheduled for a home assessment right away or later in the program year
5. Agency staff explain the program services and expected wait time for all applicants



Agency waiting lists

25

6. Applicants that are not able to receive services during that program year are “rolled” to the next year but must have their income re-determined to ensure eligibility if the application is not acted upon within a year.
7. In some agencies, all interested parties are first placed on a waitlist, then contacted to submit an application when funding is available to assist the household.
8. Some agencies pre-screen interested parties to ensure that homes are eligible for weatherization services
9. Any household that cannot immediately be assisted is referred to available community resources for assistance until weatherization services can be provided
10. Waitlisted applicants are contacted annually to ensure the household is still eligible and interested in services



Agency waiting lists

26

11. Some agencies will complete an application for anyone asking to apply for weatherization
12. Some agencies will not accept any applicants after the maximum number of applications that can be assisted that year has been reached, therefore minimal wait listing occurs.
13. The opening and closing of application windows helps to manage expectations of service timeframes, but does not reveal the true local demand for the services.

Agency waiting lists

27

14. The size of the waiting list can be affected by several factors:
 - ❑ Source of applicants (LIHEAP, PIPP, or weatherization specific application)
 - ❑ Funding level for the agency
 - ❑ Energy source of the household (some homes are ineligible for certain funding sources)
 - ❑ Agency approach to waiting lists (Identify actual community demand for service vs. accept applicants proportional to funding level)
 - ❑ Waiting list sizes can vary from none to hundreds.
 - ❑ Some wait listed households have submitted full applications, while others have submitted only basic demographic and contact information to be notified when they are closer to being served

Training survey overview

28

IHWAP Training Requirement

Purpose for Training Survey

Survey Recommendation Highlights

Training survey overview

29

IHWAP Training Requirement:

“Weatherization Coordinators, Assessors, and Final Inspectors must be TCP certified within one year of their employment unless written approval is granted by DCEO/OCA for an extension.”¹

The Training and Certification Program (*TCP*) is a Weatherization Assessment Course consisting of ten one-week sessions. The TCP training takes approximately 6 months to complete.

¹ PY20 IHWAP Operations Manual Pg. 88



Training survey overview

30

Purpose for Training Survey:

- The survey was conceived to identify ways that the training of both agencies' IHWAP staff and contractors could be improved to produce the highest quality weatherization work in Illinois in the most time and resource efficient way possible.

Training survey overview

31

All respondents expressed an overwhelmingly positive view of the quality of the trainers and state of the art facility provided by the Indoor Climate Research & Training Center (ICRT).

Training survey overview

32

Survey Recommendation Highlights:

- ❑ Offer test out capability for candidates with significant experience and/or similar certifications
- ❑ Offer HVAC training during the slow business period for contractors
- ❑ Offer more training opportunities throughout the state rather than mainly in Champaign to be closer to agencies
- ❑ Offer conceptual or classroom-based training courses online
- ❑ Offer training courses on implementing renewables

Thank you

33

Questions??

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Resources

34

- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Weatherization website
- John Wilson of Progress Resources Inc. presentation on the history of community action