



IQ South Recommendations to Ameren IL

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On behalf of the IQ-S Leadership Team
and IQ-S Committees

Agenda

- ▷ Brief Introduction and Background
- ▷ IQ-S Recommendations to Ameren IL
 - Cross-Cutting
 - Program Specific



CEJA Directive to IQ-S EE Committee

Per CEJA, IQ-S Committee (LIEEAC) is directed to:

“directly inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of the low-income and public-housing energy efficiency programs.”



Background

- ▷ Initial EE SAG Recommendations presented to Ameren IL on April 17, 2024
- ▷ Further refined through regular meetings with IQ-S Leadership Team and Subcommittees
 - Subcommittees include
 - AC High Heat
 - Diverse Contractors
 - Returning Citizens
- ▷ Over 40 participants, including CBOs (Community-Based organizations), CAAs (Community Action Agencies), Diverse Contractors, Returning Citizens, IQ Implementers



IQ-S Committee Leadership Team



Mindy Browning

▷ Embarras River Basin Agency



Theresa Collins

▷ Senior Services Plus



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 Portfolio Goals and Budget

- ▷ Support increased **Income Qualified (IQ)** portfolio budget and **Market Development Initiative (MDI)** budget presented in Ameren IL 9/10/2024 Presentation to the EE SAG
 - Relative to the Ameren IL 2022 – 2025 IQ Portfolio Budget
 - Increased spent of 6% on IQ portfolio budget
 - Increased spend from 3 to 4% on MDI
- ▷ Support reduced goals (annual and long-term) given that Ameren IL is allocating more money to the IQ Portfolio/Programs than required by CEJA, has increased IQ portfolio budget and MDI spend, and in recognition that IQ customers are significantly more expensive to serve than market rate customers



Leverage IRA/Other Funds

- ▷ Support for leveraging **IRA funds**, public and private, to extend impact of utility IQ funds



“Braiding” Funds

- ▷ Support for “braiding” funds with the **Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)**, while recognizing that many Community Action Agencies (CAAs) do not have the capacity to braid utility funds given their existing state-allocated funds

However, barriers to braiding and support for increasing CAA capacity need to be addressed



Individual Measures: Lighting

- ▷ Support for continuation of including lighting in IQ kits and **IQ Direct Install** programs



Individual Measures: Furnaces

- ▷ Support offering 95% AFUE furnaces to IQ customers when:
 - Furnace not functioning
 - Furnace no longer safe
 - Furnace greater than 15 years old



Individual Measures: Electrification

- ▷ Support **electrifying propane customers**, including heat pumps (heating/cooling, water heating, ranges, clothes dryers)
- ▷ Support offering **ASHP, ductless mini-splits and other heat pump technologies** (which may include heat pump water heaters and heat pump clothes dryers) for customers who are using electric resistance heating (such as multi-family residents)



Individual Measures: Electrification

- ▷ **Critical Need to Educate** (both customers and market)
 - Heat Pump technologies do not provide same level of service as gas equivalent
- ▷ ASHP vs. Gas-Fired Furnaces
 - Need to install “Cold Weather Climate” ASHP
- ▷ Heat Pump Clothes Dryers vs. non-heat pump dryers
 - Smaller capacity; longer drying time



Individual Measures: Electrification

- ▶ Gas Ranges vs. Induction/Energy Star Electric Range
 - Need to think carefully about business case for induction cooktops in IQ setting
 - Also need to be prepared to purchase new cookware for installing induction range



Individual Measures: Electrification

- ▷ Gas Water Heaters vs. Heat Pump Water Heaters
 - Need to install **240V** not **120V** heat pump water heater
 - **240V** heat – MUST be given IQ customers to ensure same level of service that they would get from gas water heater EVEN THOUGH **240V** more expensive and may require additional panel upgrades



Health and Safety Measures

- ▷ Support adding the following “**health and safety**” measures to all programs where applicable:
 - Porch lights, where external lighting is dim or non-existent
 - Solar walkway lights
 - Interior “safety” lights – such as night lights and solar strips for steps or other locations that might be dangerous in darkness (such as dangerous to seniors who might trip absent light)
 - Air purifier



Health and Safety Measures

- ▷ Support adding the following “**health and safety**” measures to all programs where applicable:
 - Cooling if a customer does not already have functioning cooling
 - Support cooling using an **EnergyStar window unit** to cool at least one room, unless a particular application will not permit a window unit (such as bars on the window), in which case another cooling measure should be considered
 - Support introduction of **air source heat pump window units** once they become commercially available
 - Supports **claiming savings for all IQ cooling measures**, regardless of whether a cooling unit exists prior to installation pursuant to the IL TRM, which includes a savings calculation approach for IQ customers who do not have existing cooling



Health and Safety Measures

- ▷ Support adding the following “**health and safety**” measures to all programs where applicable:
 - Indoor air quality monitors
 - CO detector
 - Vents for unvented cooking equipment (ranges)
 - Efficient room fan to assist with cooling



For all Program Recommendations

- ▷ Questions?
- ▷ Additional suggestions?
- ▷ Concerns?



High Heat

- ▷ **Program Offering:** Ameren Illinois should offer an **AC/High Heat Program** in the next 4-year portfolio
- ▷ **Measures Offering:** Measures should include room **AC units with the option of heat pump window unit technologies** as they become available in the market
- ▷ **Target Audience:** Program should prioritize serving **vulnerable populations**
- ▷ **Program Marketing:** Program and customer recruitment should be marketed through **CBO and CAA channels** to extent possible
- ▷ **Funding:** Program should **braid Utility and IRA funding** when IRA funding becomes available
- ▷ **Budget:** Budget for an AC/High Heat Program should be **proportionate to AC usage by low-income households** in Ameren Illinois Service Territory relative to total electric energy use for IQ customers.



AC/High Heat

- ▷ **Cooling (IQ Programs, Generally):** Cooling should be **offered to all IQ customers in existing comprehensive weatherization programs** or other programs where cooling would be appropriate to add if the customer does not already have cooling, or the cooling is:
 - Not functioning or poorly functioning
 - Existing cooling measure over 15 years old.
- ▷ **Stand-Alone Cooling Program:** A portion of the cooling budget shall be allocated to a stand-alone cooling program for targeting vulnerable populations (seniors, disabled, pregnant women, households with young children, medical needs).



AC/High Heat

Questions for group:

1. Do you agree with the general approach to developing a budget for cooling?
2. How would you recommend calculating?
3. What proposed IQ programs should have reduced budget to make room for the cooling measures and program?



Diverse Contractors

- ▷ **Spending:** Ensure that diverse contractor spend is **equal to the percentage of diverse population** in Ameren Illinois Service Territory
- ▷ **Expand Incubator Program:** Continue/Expand diverse contractor incubator program to **10 contractors per year**
 - **Engagement Tracking:** **Track diverse contractor engagement** and participation in EE jobs after incubator program to understand ongoing needs and challenges
- ▷ **Payment to Contractors:** Contractors must be paid no later than **2 weeks after job completion**. True up inspection fails afterwards
- ▷ **Additional Support:** Identify and seek to **support contractors with additional needs** such as equipment (equipment lending library), EE-specific training/certifications and EE-related back-office support to help contractors transition to the EE field and understand/be compliant with EE-specific requirements, such as reporting requirements



Diverse Contractors

- ▷ **Pathway to Prime Implementor:** Work to develop a pathway for small implementation contractors to become **full-service implementors** and support diverse contractors who demonstrate interest in becoming prime implementors
- ▷ **Pathway to Auditing/Quality Assurance (QA):** Offer training and support for diverse contractors who are interested in performing **EE audits and/or quality assurance** inspections



Returning Citizens

- ▷ **Collaboration:** Continue to work and **coordinate with industry experts** to support Returning Citizens entering the Clean Energy Workforce
- ▷ **Mentoring:** Mentor **10 Returning Citizens** each year and track impact of mentoring on success of Returning Citizens
- ▷ **Workforce Development:** Identify at least **five (5) employers** each year who are interested in hiring Returning Citizens and **track success** of placing Returning Citizens. Offer **more support and investment** to Program Allies who actively support second chance hiring.
- ▷ **Developmental Programs:** Coordinate with Illinois Department of Corrections to develop a BPI certification and other energy efficiency training programs within Illinois Prisons, with focus on incarcerated individuals who are nearing re-entry.



Mobile Homes

- ▷ **Furnaces:** Furnaces should **remain an important measure** for servicing mobile homes
- ▷ **Propane:** Propane customers should be identified and **targeted for electrification** efforts
- ▷ **Budget:** The IQ budget for programming servicing mobile homes should be **representative of the IQ population** living in mobile homes within Ameren Illinois Service Territory



Thank You for Listening!

