

EAAC Meeting #3 Chat – 06/16/21

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - Welcome to the Energy Affordability and Accessibility Collaborative

ANTONETTE D. NOAKES - Good morning!

Rittenhouse, Amy (LARA) - Good morning as well!

Adkins, Angela (LARA) - Good Morning smile

Tamara Johnson - Good Morning All!

Briana Parker - briana.parker@elevatenp.org

Shama Mounzer-WMCAA, I will be happy to present on ensuring Inclusion

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - MEAP = Michigan Energy Assistance Program

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - LIHEAP = Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - MEAP grantees deliver energy assistance and often a variety of other services. To learn more about the grantees and the program go here:

https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,9535,7-395-93308_93327_93336---,00.html

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - APP = affordable payment plan

Gina Kostoff, I&M - I missed the final definition. Would someone please post that here, please?

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - MEAP Workgroup Subcommittee 3 proposed self-sufficiency definition:
"Household's basic needs are being met while minimizing reliance on public assistance."

Gina Kostoff, I&M - Thanks!

Hoesch, Karl - Sorry if i missed this, Was the LIHEAP insecurity scale reviewed during this process?

Rittenhouse, Amy (LARA) - Kristen Bolds Bio

Director of Energy Assistance Programs at St. Vincent de Paul

Kristen has over 15 years of experience as a non-profit professional leading programs aimed at providing basic needs and self-sufficiency services. Her experience includes leading teams in collaborating to bring life to ideas for solving social problems by designing user-centered solutions, and by taking them from concept through to

execution. She has been working in the utility assistance space since 2013. She presented some of her work at NEUAC in a presentation "Teaming Up to Provide Self-Sufficiency Services for Low-Income Customers" in 2016.

Kristen is a former director of 2-1-1, United Way for Southeastern Michigan and is the current director of Energy Assistance Programs at St. Vincent de Paul. •[LinkedIn](#)

Shama Mounzer -WMCAA - Great presentation, thanks Kristen!

Kristen Bolds - Thank you :-)

Martin Kushler - In view of the intended structural intersection of this group with Michigan's Low-Income EWR workgroup, as well as the Governor's overall objectives regarding reducing GHG to reduce climate damage, it would seem that Michigan's definition and objectives for 'self-sufficiency' should clearly include a component relating to reducing energy waste (through energy efficiency) in customer homes.

Hoesch, Karl - Thanks Kristen - great presentation. I plan to use the LIHEAP scale as part of my evaluation of Energy Services' CELICA III program (WAP + solar program) launching soon.

Kristen Bolds - Thanks Karl. Do you have a link to that scale?

Curtis, Jamie (LARA) - Survey #1: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6GYBKQD>
EAAC Poll - June 16, 2021

Curtis, Jamie (LARA) - curtisj14@michigan.gov

Annika Brindel - Can you re-post the link in the chat, please?

Curtis, Jamie (LARA) - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6GYBKQD>

Curtis, Jamie (LARA) - Results: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-LXWHK5LJ/>

Hoesch, Karl - Re: Kristen: Here's the link to the LIHEAP insecurity scale:
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocs/measuring_outcome_0.pdf

Kristen Bolds - Thank you, Karl!

Hoesch, Karl - Thank you. I'd be curious to hear your thoughts on it.

Annika Brindel - Who is not in the room today to take this poll?

Yvonne K. Lewis - o update.

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - The panelists bios will be posted in the chat

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - Could participants please turn off their cameras during the panel so we can highlight the panel?

Aimee Gendusa-English - Sure. Am I participant or a panelist?

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - You are a panelist.

Rittenhouse, Amy (LARA) - Monica Martinez Bio
Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm and Ruben Strategy Group

Ms. Martinez serves as principal of Ruben Strategy Group LLC. With Ruben Strategy, she works with major national associations, non-profits, coalitions, and businesses to help develop their markets, create strategic pathways to solutions, and empower their organizations. She specializes in limited income energy solutions, the utility of the future, and workforce development engagement. Monica served in key positions in state government - former Michigan Public Service Commissioner, Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs for the office of the Governor, and as Senior Policy Advisor in the Michigan Senate. In those capacities she helped formulate and implement Michigan's first renewable energy standard and Michigan's first fund designed for low-income energy customers. [LINKED IN](#)

Bethany Stutzman - We also have clients who are worried about their kids being taken away from them if their power is shut off and they are not able to figure out how to get it back on.

Rittenhouse, Amy (LARA) - Bethany Stutzman Bio
Community Solutions Director, United Way Jackson

Bethany has over 17 years of experience with United Way of Jackson County including managing the MEAP grant; system change advocacy; collaboration and program planning; community development; delivering trainings on topics such as outcome development and Collective Impact; and program evaluation.

Rittenhouse, Amy (LARA) - Shama Mounzer Bio
Executive Director at Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency

At the WMCAA, Shama is responsible for strategic leadership and operational oversight of integration and is focused on promoting mission and increasing effectiveness of key programs to service low-income families in Wayne County. She is consistently designing, leading and implementing social services programs to eliminate poverty and empowering communities to be strong, healthy and thriving. She envisions communities where all people have hope and opportunities to realize their full potential.

Rittenhouse, Amy (LARA) - Aimee Gendusa-English Bio

Project Director at National Community Action Partnership

Aimee is a project director for The Energy Partnerships Project. She is an experienced and dedicated advocate, speaker, trainer and advisor for any gas, electric or phone related concern, in particular those affecting at-risk populations.[LINKED IN PAGE](#)

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - later in the panel we will have an open discussion. Please think of questions or points you'd like to bring up.

Rittenhouse, Amy (LARA) - Roger Colton Bio

Principal at Fisher Sheehan & Colton

Roger Colton directs FSC's work in the firm's Boston office. Roger is an attorney and economist and specializes in regulatory economics, community planning, affordable housing, consumer protection, poverty economics, and fair housing. He is best known for providing assistance in the design, implementation and evaluation of cutting-edge poverty programs. Roger obtained his law degree from the University of Florida and his graduate economics degree from Antioch University. [RESUME](#)

Gulker, Benjamin (DHHS) - It's great to see the expertise of Community Action on the panel today. Thank you Shama and Aimee for representing our network!

Annika Brindel - That recommended 30% INCLUDES utilities

Martin Kushler - Question for panelists: Are there good examples you could point to of states/communities doing a good job of integrating energy efficiency improvements/weatherization into their energy assistance programs?

Aimee Gendusa-English - Excellent point, Annika!

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) – Marty we will get to your question in a minute.

Wende Randall - In our community there is a shortage of contractors who are qualified and willing to do the weatherization work, even though the funding is there. How do we encourage more contractors to this area?

Bethany Stutzman - Agreed Roger!

Aimee Gendusa-English - This is a problem across the country. Apprenticeship and training programs are desperate to recruit. The answer is to get more folks interested in these careers!

Wende Randall - Right!

Armstrong, Anne (LARA) - PIPP = percentage of income payment plans

Kristen Bolds - Many of our customers indicate that enrollment in the Affordable Payment Plans has allowed them "room to breathe" and for the first time they are able to create a budget.

Tonya Swenor (SWP) - Since the utility standard for eligibility is 200% FPL, could DHHS allow Michigan applicants to apply for energy efficiency so that they can be income qualified and referred to the appropriate program?

Gina Kostoff, I&M - Comment about EE programs being too complex with very strict eligibility guidelines. Utility EE programs have to be cost-effective thus the need for strict guidelines particularly if the utility provides only one type of energy. What does the panel suggest to remedy that?

Ben Dueweke - Regarding energy efficiency and associated home repair: Who (what entity) in your opinion should/could be responsible for the overall management of owning the process of braiding program resources together in an attempt to bring a more holistic approach to clients? Local gov't? State gov't?

Martin Kushler - Note that in Michigan, low-income EWR programs are specifically exempted from having to meet a cost-effectiveness test. However, it is difficult for those programs to pay for repairs needed in order to perform weatherization work. So there is a need for other sources of funding to help with that.

Aimee Gendusa-English - Logistically it makes a lot of sense to do it at the state level as federally funded programs are handled at the state level and utilities are regulated at the state level.

Wende Randall - To some degree, it may be necessary or appropriate to have coordination at a local level, as well. Some municipalities are interested in supporting these efforts in aging neighborhoods, but there is often no organic connection to the federal and state funds for home repair and weatherization.

Martin Kushler - Great panel, on important topics. Thanks!

Curtis, Jamie (LARA) - Survey #2: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/63TNSX3>

Aimee Gendusa-English - Wende, I would encourage you to work directly with the community action agency in your town, and I can help to connect you if need be.

Curtis, Jamie (LARA) - Results Dashboard: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-62YH75LJ/>

Shama Mounzer -WMCAA - You are welcome!

Monica Martinez - thank you Shama, Bethany, Aimee & Roger! Great insights.

Shama Mounzer -WMCAA - Thanks for inviting me, I am passionate about the work this group is doing and I would love to support in any way I can.

Rittenhouse, Amy (LARA) - [Energy Affordability and Accessibility Collaborative Subgroup Sign-up \(office.com\)](#)

Rittenhouse, Amy (LARA) - [EAAC Website](#)

Annika Brindel - Is there a subcommittee that will engage on DTE's and Consumers' implementation and refinement of their PIPP pilots as well as ideal PIPP design?

Curtis, Jamie (LARA) - Annika Brindel that would be in the Affordability, Alignment, and Assistance committee

Yvonne K. Lewis - I would like to be on the Outreach and Education Subcommittee

Kasey McNeally - I had to step away and missed some of the discussion of subgroups. Is there someone I can contact for more info before I sign on? (Kasey from SWP, kaseym@superiorwatersheds.org)

Noah Purcell - Thanks everyone!