

EWR Low Income Workgroup 06/03/2021 – Chat

[9:01 AM] Lisa Ritter (Guest)

Me too (smile)

(1 liked)

[9:08 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

Does that allow for only 25 or up to 25?

[9:11 AM] Annika Brindel (Guest)

Mary, this graph makes it look like Michigan Saves is not providing loans to households with incomes below 60% AMI, is that right?

[9:11 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

Yes!

[9:18 AM] Martin Kushler (Guest)

Do the utilities offering on bill financing include any utility contribution to the project cost (e.g., rebates) as part of the program? This would obviously help with the economic attractiveness of the project to the customer, and also be consistent with the principle of EWR, that EE is a "resource" for utilities to acquire as part of their resource mix.

[9:19 AM] Goldberg, Laura (Guest)

Per the previous slide - can owners make tenants share costs on their bills for OBF? Or is tenant approval needed? and how would the tenants receive the benefits, would they get a direct bill reductions? how often are costs passed to tenants vs. just on the owner bills?

[9:21 AM] Martin Kushler (Guest)

Glad to hear of the 20% rebate!

[9:22 AM] Darrell Oakley (Guest)

Can DOE WAP costs be used as Homeowner portion

[9:23 AM] Gordon-Victor Fon (Guest)

Are "true energy/cost savings" tracked after project completion using customer's utility bills?

[9:25 AM] Aimee Gendusa-English (Guest)

How do you ensure that customers who qualify for WAP or other IQ programs are properly routed - do you partner with Community Action Agencies in screening for income and referrals?

[9:26 AM] Martin Kushler (Guest)

Just to clarify, so the 20% rebate comes from City funds (i.e., taxpayers?) and not the utility?

[9:28 AM] Kamalay, Maddy (DHHS)

Can I speak for a moment?

[9:31 AM] Lisa Ritter (Guest)

All CAAs will be going thru their WAP wait lists fairly quickly to meet increased production demand starting this summer

[9:32 AM] Hoesch, Karl (Guest)

I'm a landlord who used the on-bill financing program in Holland for the Home energy retrofit. We pay the 4 separate electric bills for our tenants and they add that amount into their rent each month (so they benefit from the savings). Our building is naturally occurring affordable housing so we may have qualified for WAP but weren't aware of it at the time. Increasing the coordination between the two programs would be a great way to reach more homes (especially multifamily) in Holland.

[9:35 AM] Hoesch, Karl (Guest)

Has Holland considered decreasing the minimum \$10,000 for the city rebate to increase participation?

[9:40 AM] Darrell Oakley (Guest)

Are many municipal utilities look at this

[9:40 AM] Hoesch, Karl (Guest)

Have any/many on-bill funds been used for solar?

[9:40 AM] Darrell Oakley (Guest)

Michigan

[9:43 AM] Gordon-Victor Fon (Guest)

Are the number of closed loans for 2021 or program life?

[9:50 AM] Martin Kushler (Guest)

What percentage of your loans have been for EV charging? What % for heat pumps?

[9:52 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

Is there an energy savings projection required for the audit? Or how do you know what the project savings will be based on the recommended updates?

[9:53 AM] Martin Kushler (Guest)

Any utility funds being applied as a rebate to help with project costs?

[9:55 AM] Lisa Ritter (Guest)

Thanks, Jake!

(1 liked)

[10:04 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

When will this open to entire DTE service territory?

[10:17 AM] Mary Templeton , Michigan Saves (Guest)

We would love to work with any other utility that would be interested in exploring some of these financing options with us -- we believe expansive access is essential to serving all customers. Please don't hesitate to reach out. mtempleton@michigansaves.org

(1 liked)

[10:19 AM] Martin Kushler (Guest)

Idea for a topic group: How to get to scale. These are great programs described today, but Michigan literally has 100's of thousands of homes that would be eligible and needs this work done. Plus we have very ambitious climate goals for the state now, that will require reaching essentially all of these homes at some point. How do we greatly ramp up the scale?

(1 liked)

[10:20 AM] Ben Dueweke (Guest)
+1 Marty - very needed.

(1 liked)

[10:20 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

Would love to continue our work on leveraging and communicating all funding resources available in the state and by county / city. How they can work together.

[10:20 AM] Annika Brindel (Guest)

In the short term (June) the topic of integration of multifamily LIHTC with utility programs is timely. After the utilities file their plans this summer, the timing might not be right to keep discussing this until after plans are approved?

(1 liked)

[10:21 AM] Goldberg, Laura (Guest)

before we break - could we define for the group what it means to be a topic group?

[10:22 AM] Annika Brindel (Guest)

I'm not sure the title "application and eligibility uniformity" is appropriate, as it implies that uniformity is desirable, which I disagree with. Any uniform definition is likely to disadvantage multifamily. Perhaps its better to use a more neutral term like "application and eligibility options"

[10:22 AM] Martin Kushler (Guest)

Great meeting. I have to jump for another call. Thanks!

[10:23 AM] Aimee Gendusa-English (Guest)

Hi, I'm with the National Community Action Partnership and new to this group - are you saying that the Coordination of EWR & WAP Topic Group was so successful it's no longer needed? Will that group continue or is it being disbanded?

(1 liked)

[10:24 AM] Brett Little GHI (Guest)

Aimee - I think this needs a lot of work still.

[10:25 AM] Goldberg, Laura (Guest)

agreed - we should build on any initial success of that group and others

[10:40 AM] Mary Templeton , Michigan Saves (Guest)

Group 1:

[10:40 AM] Mary Templeton , Michigan Saves (Guest)

- Learning more about Medicaid to finance energy efficiency improvements especially in affordable housing.
- What money is available with the LIEHP program and the American Recovery Plan, and how can we leverage that for health and energy improvements? What level of income will be required – can the threshold be raised to allow more people to participate?
- What policy changes need to be made to allow electrification to align with the state's decarbonization plans? What financial incentives and rebates can be put in place to make sure that all income classes can participate?
- What statutory changes might be needed to better incorporate energy savings and associated health impacts into the IRP process?

[10:42 AM] Armstrong, Anne (LARA)

[Energy Affordability & Accessibility Collaborative June 16 mtg](#)

[10:42 AM] Denise E Allard (Guest)

I never got put in a group

[10:43 AM] Banks, Brad (LARA)

Denise, sent me some notes if you have some ideas, and I'll get you involved going forward.

[10:43 AM] Aimee Gendusa-English (Guest)

There is also the new LIHWAP Water Assistance Program launching. It may bring a lot of new customers into our sphere of influence and elevate discussions of water conservation measures.

[10:44 AM] Armstrong, Anne (LARA)

Energy Affordability & Accessibility Collaborative Subcommittee Volunteer sign-up form: these subcommittees are still in formation, including workplans and priorities. We would love to have your perspectives! [Energy Affordability and Accessibility Collaborative Subgroup Sign-up \(office.com\)](#)