Clean Energy States Alliance

Partnering to Reduce Energy Burden:

A Michigan Community Solar and Weatherization Pilot

July 12, 2023

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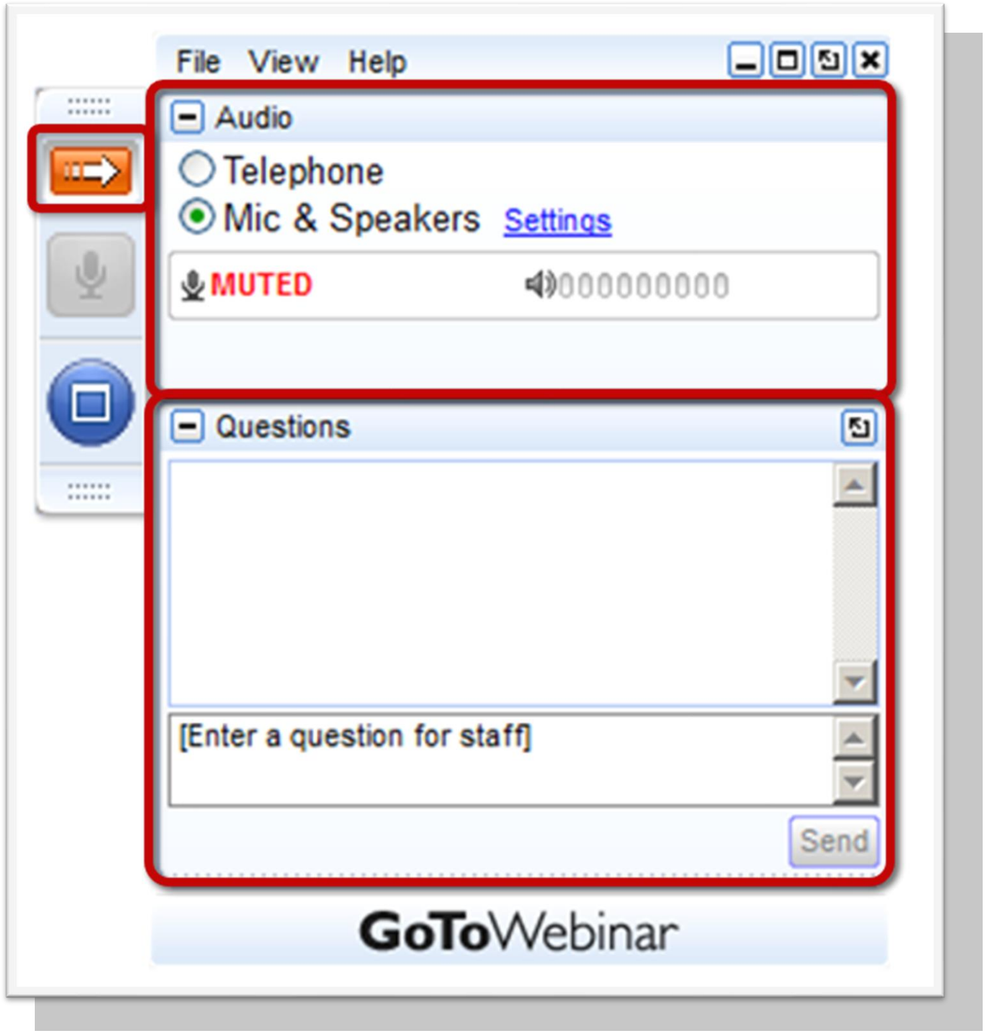

Celebrating 20 Years of State Leadership

Clean Energy States Alliance

The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is a national, nonprofit coalition of public agencies and organizations working together to advance clean energy.

CESA members—mostly state agencies—include many of the most innovative, successful, and influential public funders of clean energy initiatives in the country.

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State of California Energy Commission

Connecticut Green Bank

Department of Energy & Environment

Energy Trust of Oregon

IPA Illinois Power Agency

Governor's Energy Office (Maine)

State of New Hampshire Department of Energy

Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

Maryland Energy Administration

EGLE Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

New Jersey's cleanenergy program (BPU) njcleanenergy.com

New Mexico emnrd Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

New York State | NYSERDA

mn Commerce Department

SMUD Powering forward. Together.

State of Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

Vermont Department of Public Service Clean Energy Development Fund

Virginia Energy

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation

New Mexico State Land Office

Illinois Commerce Commission

OEI Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

Prairie Island Indian Community

Washington State Department of Commerce

Connecticut Energy Environment

DOER Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

Oregon Department of Energy

Colorado Energy Office

Inclusive Prosperity Capital

MassDEP

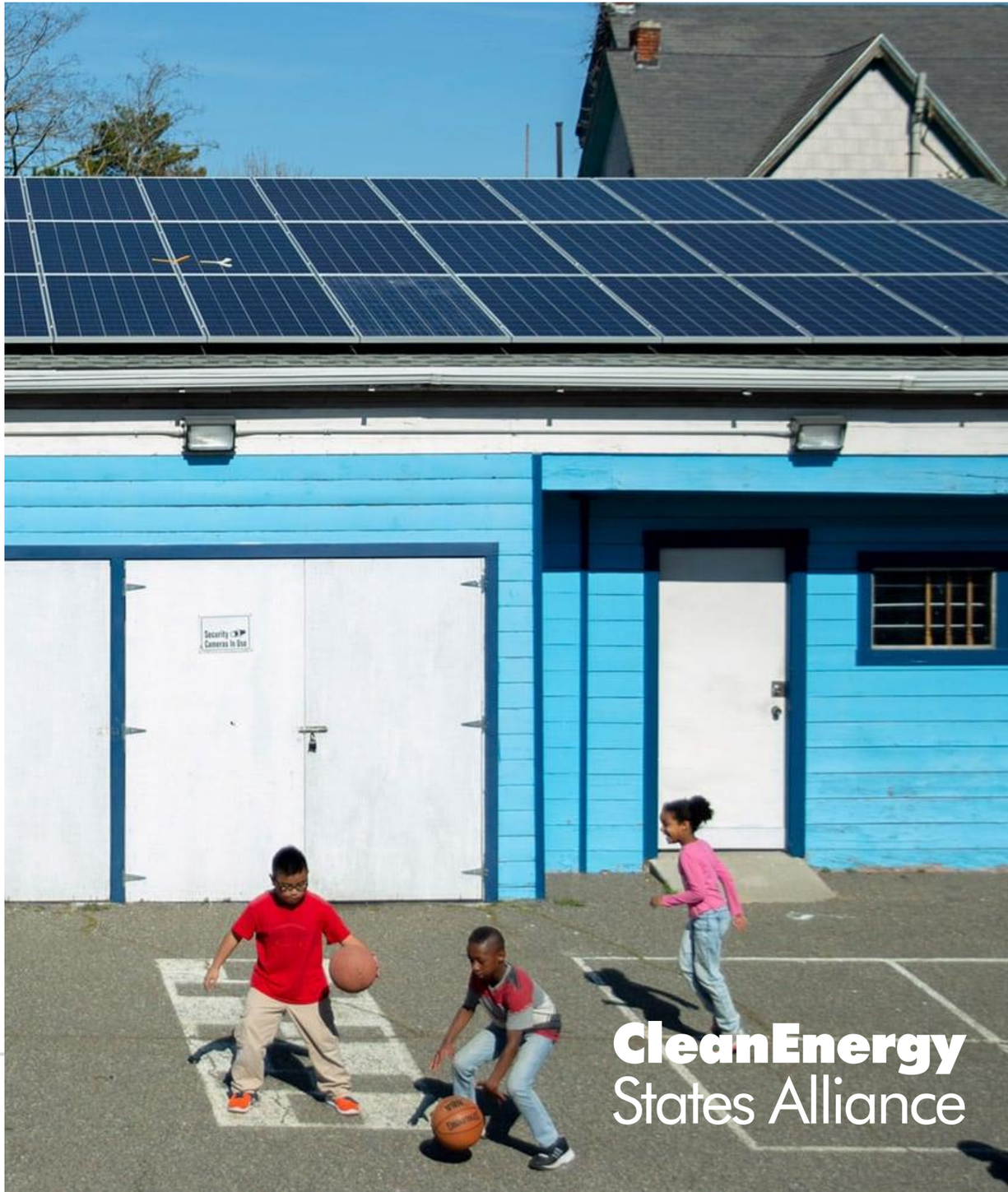
OPC-DC Office of the People's Counsel — Advocacy | Education | Protection

Solar with Justice:
Connecting States and Communities

Identifying models for how state energy agencies and community-based organizations can collaborate more effectively to expand access to solar.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
SOLAR AWARDEE™

www.cesa.org/projects/solar-with-justice



Partnering to Reduce Energy Burden:
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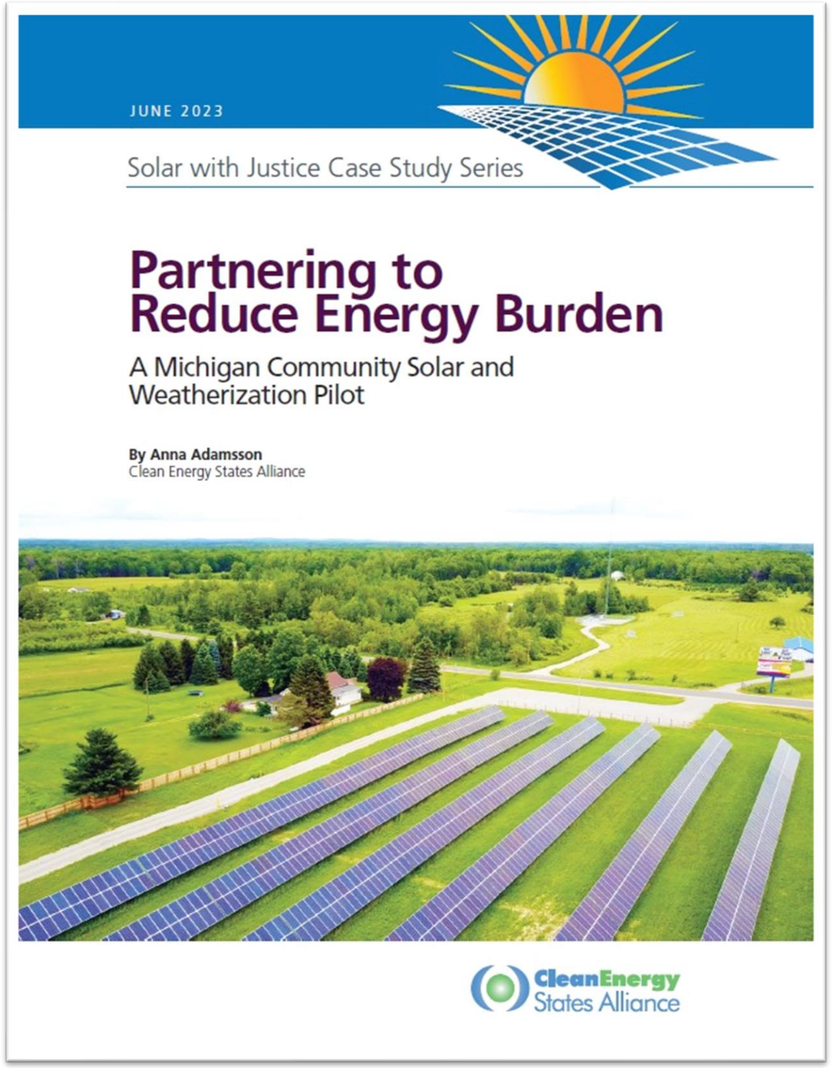
June 2023

By Anna Adamsson,
Clean Energy States Alliance



www.cesa.org/resource-library/resource/partnering-to-reduce-energy-burden-michigan

Webinar Speakers

Lisa Thomas
Environmental Engineer Specialist, Michigan EGLE

Miguel Rodriguez
Executive Director, Capital Area Community Services

Tammy Haworth
Energy Use Advisor, Cherryland Electric Cooperative

Brian Shew
Associate Program Manager, Consumers Energy

Anna Adamsson
Project Manager, Clean Energy States Alliance

EGLE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Capital Area Community Services

CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Consumers Energy

CleanEnergy States Alliance

Clean Energy States Alliance

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Upcoming Webinars

Resilient Power for Florida Community Health Centers (7/13)

U.S. State Renewables Portfolio & Clean Electricity Standards: Berkeley Lab's 2023 Review (7/26)

Community Solar + Resilience Hub in Duluth, Minnesota (7/27)

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Michigan (MI) Solar Communities – Low to Moderate Income Access

By:
Lisa Thomas

Energy Services

How it Started

- What is CELICA?
  - The Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA) is a voluntary partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy and state/local governments.
- What is the goal?
  - To provide access to renewable energy and demonstrate a wide range of locally designed solutions for low income. Michigan joined the Accelerator in 2018.
- MI Solar Communities – Low to Moderate Income Access
  - Continued the CELICA program after the DOE program ended to continue to provide access to alternative energy
  - Address low-income energy challenges
  - State government and energy service providers partnerships
  - Sustainable Value-Added Programs and Services (VAPS)

EGLE

#1

March 2018

Phase I – Co-op Utility

- Partners: Energy Services, formerly under the Michigan Energy Office (MEO), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Local Electric Utility, & Local Community Action Agency (CAA)
- Subscribers: 50 households. Previously weatherized, income-qualified (at or below 200% FPL) households, within electric utility territory
- Each household received the credits for the energy produced by 9 solar panels

#2

October 2019

Phase II – Municipal Utility

- Partners: Energy Services, Michigan DHHS, Village of L'Anse , & Baraga Houghton Keweenaw Community Action Agency (BHK)
- Subscribers: 25 households. Previously weatherized, income-qualified (at or below 200% FPL) households
- The panels are paid for by contributions from Energy Services and a subscriber on-bill fee of $.90/panel/month

#3

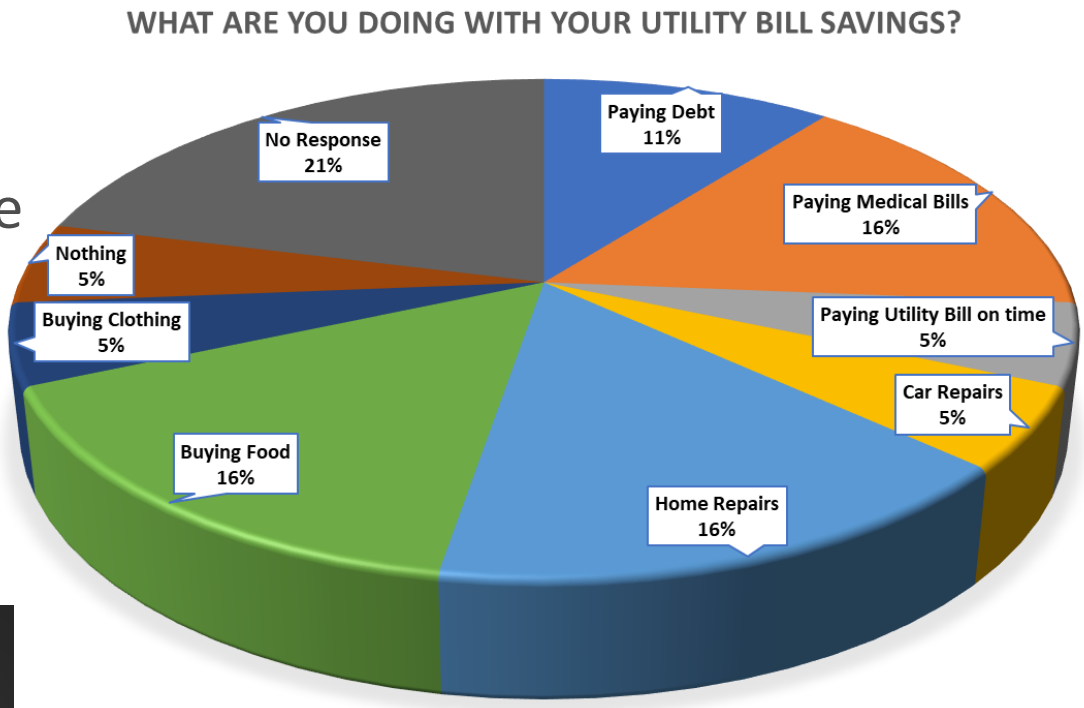
February 2021

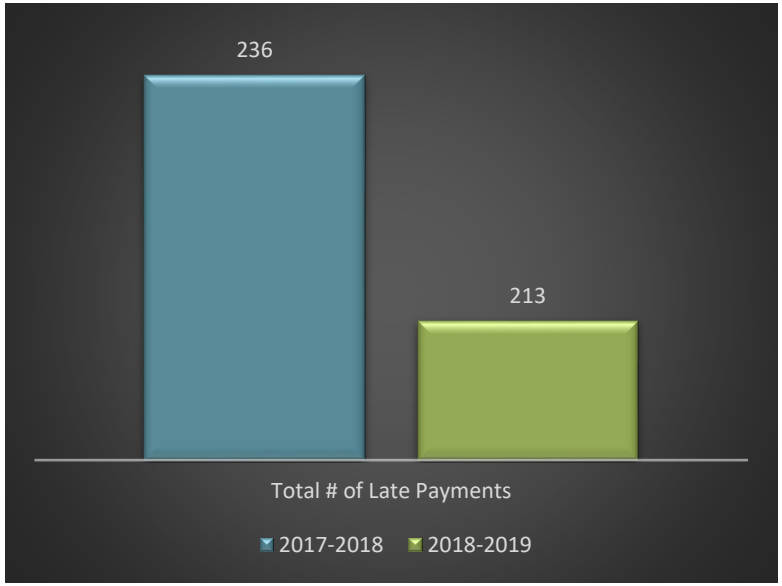
Phase III – Investor-Owned Utility

- Partners: Energy Services, Michigan DHHS, Capital Area Community Services, & Consumers Energy Company (CEC)
- Subscribers: 50 households. Newly weatherized, Gas and Electric CEC customers, income-qualified (at or below 200% FPL) households
- Partners signed the agreement in 2021, households will be enrolled in the Solar Gardens program

Cherryland Survey Results

- 10% Late Payment Decrease
- Survey Comments:
  - Less Stress
  - Warmer & Healthier Home Temperature





Subscriber Benefits

- Receive weatherization
- Receive solar credits
- Become energy self-sufficient

EGLE

Program Analysis & Next Steps

Program Successes

- Partnerships Willingness
- Locally designed Project
- Address Energy Burden & Cost

Lessons Learned

- Data Analysis
- Understanding Our Subscribers
- Income Verification

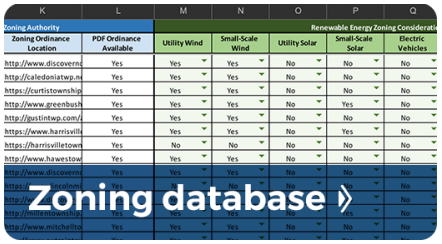
Next Steps

- Update MI Solar Communities Guidebook
- Participate in workgroups, like CESA & NCSP

EGLE

Related Programs

- **Catalyst Communities**
  - Communities can participate in a variety of resource opportunities, like energy efficiency



- **Michigan Zoning Database**
  - Free database that catalogs the zoning of Michigan's 1,856 jurisdictions and identifies those that reference renewable energy

- **MI Clean Energy Assets Roadmap**
  - Understanding Michigan's C&I renewable energy and clean energy technology development assets

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Contact Us

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www.Michigan.gov/Energy

Partnering to Reduce Energy Burden: A Michigan Community Solar and Weatherization Pilot

Capital Area Community Services, Inc.

Lansing, MI

HISTORY

- Established in 1964 as President Johnson’s War on Poverty.
- Serve clients in Eaton, Ingham, Eaton, Shiawassee Counties.
- 501(c)3 private nonprofit agency, 27 member Board of Directors.
- Weatherization program funds come to CACS from the State of Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity.
- Funds to purchase solar panel subscriptions come from Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

MISSION/VISION

Mission

Capital Area Community Services, in partnership with the community, provides education, access, and navigation related to the multiple needs of all people affected by poverty and lack of resources by providing food, housing, financial security, and early education programs to ensure success in school and life throughout the lifespan.

Vision

The people we serve are not impacted by poverty, enjoy lives of personal dignity and self-worth, and are economically self-sufficient.

SERVICES

- Weatherization
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Food Programs
- Financial Literacy
- Property Tax Foreclosure Assistance
- Information and Referral
- Utility and Housing Assistance

EARLY ROLE

- Former Board President committed agency to project.
- Group was formed to discuss project and how to best implement the project.
- Various partners, EGLE, University of Michigan, Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO), Consumers Energy.

RESOURCES AND CAPACITY CACS DEVOTED TO PROJECT

- Our Stability Service Director coordinated the budgeting program that would be used for clients participating in the program.
- Weatherization staff identify homes that were eligible to participate in the program. (BWL vs Consumers Energy).
- Upon verification of client eligibility, Weatherization Director would upload client into shared partner database. Client would the assigned solar panel subscription.
- University of Michigan staff would follow-up with home to do academic part of the project.
- CACS would pay Consumers Energy for solar panels purchased on behalf of clients.

WEATHERIZATION PROCESS

- Client indicates interest in Weatherization program.
- Pre-inspection done on home to determine if house eligible for Wx services and what energy measures can be done. (ROI)
- Contractor(s) go out and perform various energy measures.
- Post-inspection on work done on the home. Homeowner signs off on work done to their home.
- Contractor submits invoices for payment of work done.
- Home included in monthly report as a Weatherized unit.

CACS LESSONS LEARNED/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Secure agreements and note when payments will be received.
- Make sure all partners are clear on their responsibilities and are clear how weatherization process works.
- Account for some amount of administration costs.
- Use materials that have already been developed from existing programs.
- Make connection to CAA's, but understand CAA's ramping up their weatherization programs due to additional federal funding.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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