

Affordability, Alignment and Assistance Subcommittee

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Meeting Overview

- Meeting structure/roadmap
- Brainstorming with DHHS
- The December Report
- Next Steps

*Slides and materials will be shared by email after the meeting



Goals Structure

1

- Choose a goal
- Solicit input on changes members would like to see in said program or goal using the guiding question/subcommittee charge parameters

2

- Research the goal
- Have organization who runs that program (utilities/Staff/DHHS) provide background knowledge/limitations of that program

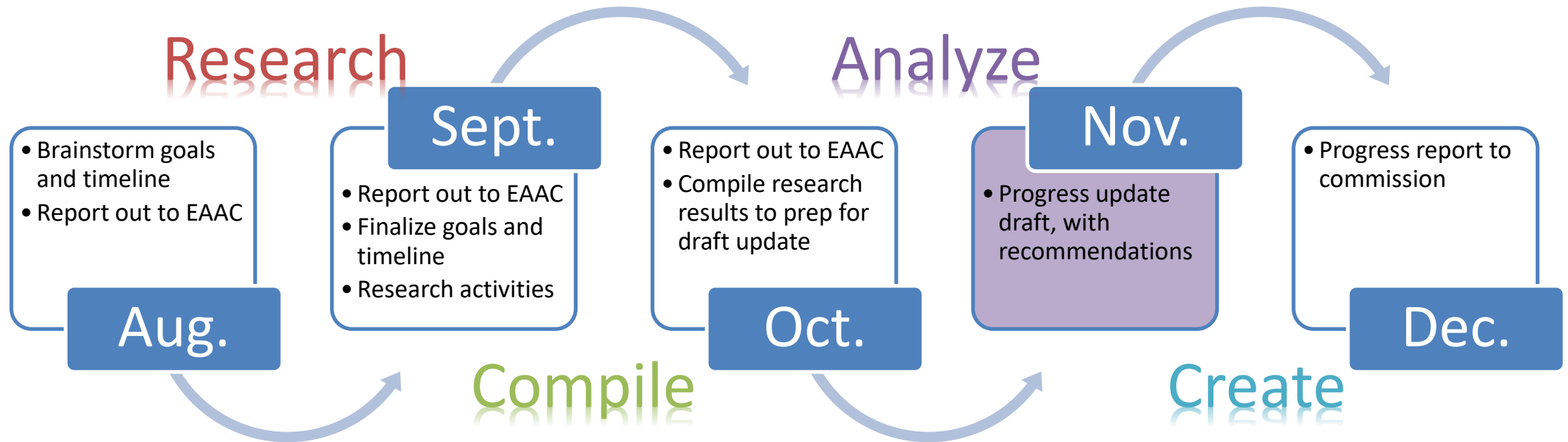
3

- Identify solutions
- Bring to EAAC for greater review—October 20 meeting

4

- If appropriate, collaborate with the responsible organization
- Propose to the Commission

Projected 2021 Timeline

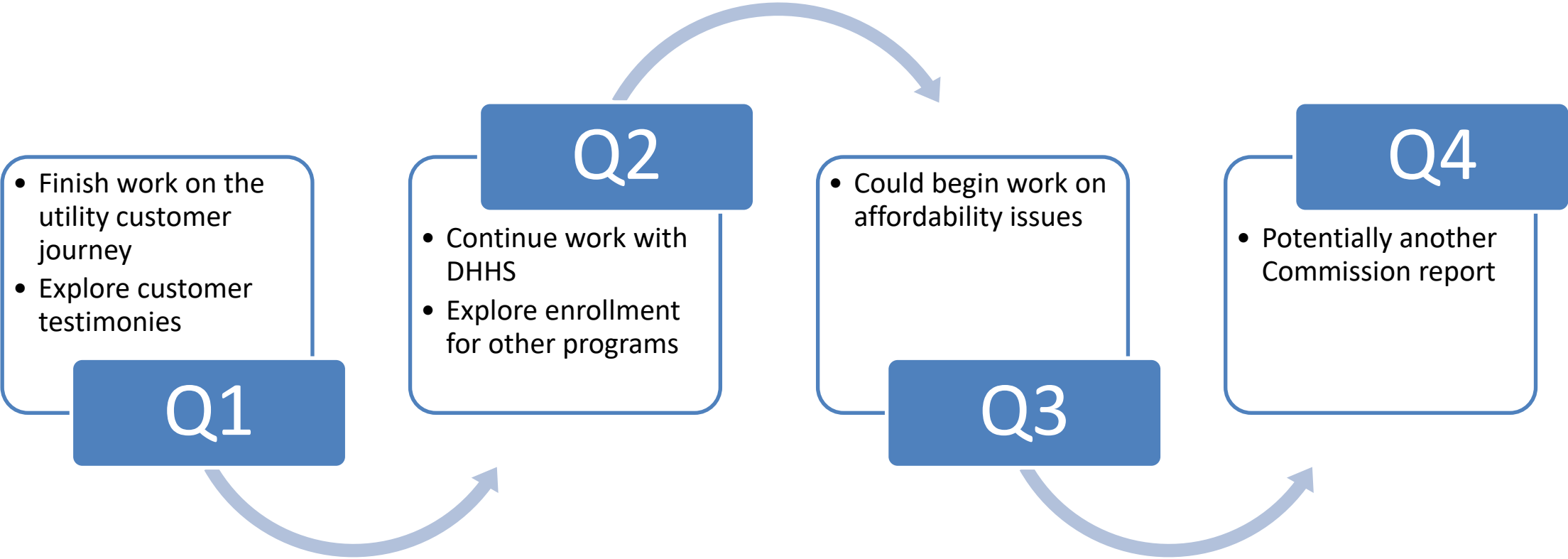


Beyond 2021

December 2022: Submit updated report with recommendations

2023: Continue collaborative as necessary and finalize work

Potential Timeline for 2022



*This timeline is tentative and subject to change based on the priorities of the AAA members

From Last Meeting...

- What areas would you like to see improvement?
 - Not collecting income data from customers makes it difficult to reach out to customers. Need mechanism to identify customers from DHHS or Treasury
 - Utilities don't want the income information. Just a list of eligible customers that received other forms of assistance

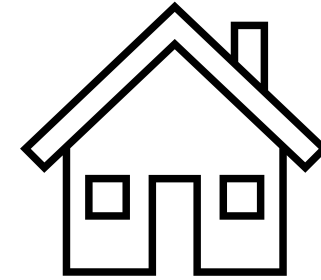


Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

*Presented by: Tammy Bair
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LIHEAP



LIHEAP Components

- Heating – Home Heating Credit
- Crisis – State Emergency Relief
- Weatherization Assistance Program
- Assurance 16 – Self-Sufficiency

FY2020 Household Report

- Households served by LIHEAP



Home Heating Credit (HHC)

HHC is Michigan's preventative LIHEAP benefit and is administered by the Department of Treasury. Applications are accepted from the time tax forms become available through September 30 each year.

Eligibility Criteria:

- ✓ Income
- ✓ Number of Exemptions
- ✓ Household Heating Costs

Income Eligibility = 110% FPL



Application form is the MI-1040CR-7

[2020 MICHIGAN Home Heating Credit Claim MI-1040CR-7](#)

Applications are mailed to households that received HHC for the previous Tax Year.

A household does NOT have to file taxes in order to apply for or qualify for HHC.

More information, including instructions for completing the application, can be found online, under Individual Income Tax at [Taxes - Forms \(michigan.gov\)](#).



State Emergency Relief (SER)

SER is Michigan's crisis component of LIHEAP. SER is an intervention program and is offered year-round. SER does not provide ongoing benefits like other MDHHS benefits such as SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, etc.

SER Services Funded by LIHEAP:

Heating Fuel

Electricity

Furnace Repair/Replacement

Income Eligibility = 150% FPL



Asset limit = \$15,000

The household's primary residence and vehicle are excluded, among other asset exclusions.

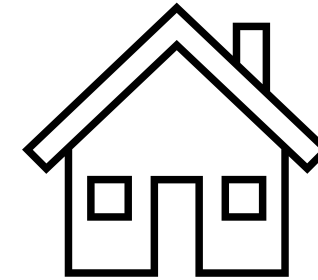
Applications are available in paper and online at [MI Bridges \(michigan.gov\)](https://mibridges.michigan.gov)

Coordination with MEAP

A household receiving SER for heating fuel or electricity qualify for additional services & assistance through MEAP without an additional application process.



Household Report



Number of Households assisted by LIHEAP in FY20

HEATING (HHC)	254,654*
CRISIS (SER)	106,035*
CARES CRISIS (SER)	52,500*
FURNACE ASSISTANCE (SER)	836
CARES FURNACE ASSISTANCE (SER)	33
WEATHERIZATION	692
NOMINAL PAYMENT (HEAT & EAT)	90,171

*Energy suppliers receive payment information about these households as part of the benefit issuance process.

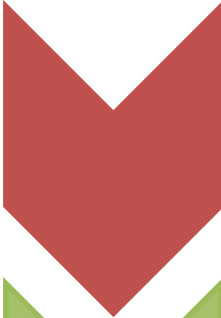
Discussion with DHHS: Streamlining Enrollment

- What hurdles exist that make it difficult to auto-enroll Medicaid and SNAP recipients in HHC and SER?
 - Or make it difficult to give a list of all customers below 150% of FPL to the utilities?
- What mechanisms could be established in order to make the application processes easier? E.g. MI Bridges integration


The December Report

- You have already received the first draft in your email. Please provide comments or edits below each section in the research.net platform.
- At this time, we will start answering questions. We have already reviewed comments submitted and want to remind you that edits should not be made to work that has already been done and agreed upon
- If you do not agree with this report, you can choose to dissent once the final version is sent out 11/22. You have until 11/17 to make edits.

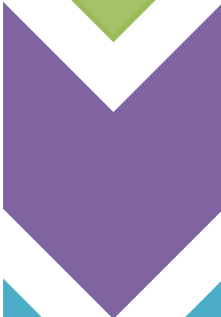
Next Steps



- Dec. report edits are due 11/17. Dissent can be made on 11/22 draft that may or may not include your edits.



- Pursuing a lead on a new stakeholder lead. They are currently shadowing us.



- Continue to work with DHHS to find solutions to streamlining the customer journey



- Start preparing for 2022



Appendix 1: Weatherization

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is administered by MDHHS' Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO). Weatherization is funded with both Department of Energy (DOE) funding and LIHEAP.

The primary purpose of the Weatherization Program:

“...to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential energy expenditures, and improve their health and safety, especially low-income persons who are particularly vulnerable, such as the elderly, the disabled, and children.”



There are 25 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) that provide weatherization services statewide.

michigan.gov MDHHS - Energy & Weatherization



Appendix 2: Assurance 16

Up to 5% can be spent on services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs (and thereby the need for energy assistance), including needs assessment counseling, and assistance with energy vendors.

To achieve this goal, MEAP Grantees offer the following services to participating households:

- Needs assessment and referral information
- Financial education activities
- Energy education activities
- Vendor advocacy
- Long or short-term case management plan

