

Affordability, Alignment and Assistance Subcommittee Kick-Off

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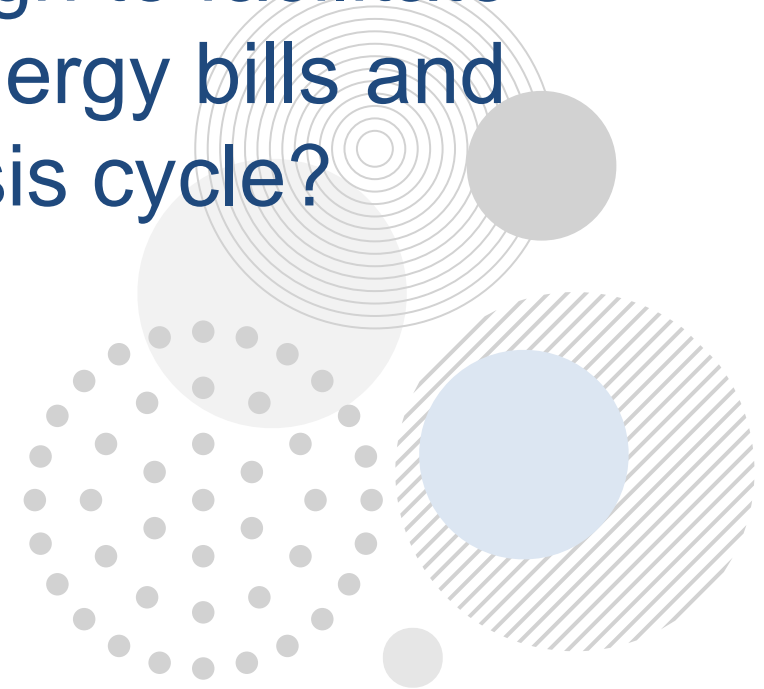
Meeting Overview

- Introductions
- Guiding question and subcommittee charge
- 2021 Timeline and logistics
- Suggested research topics and outputs
- Next steps and group goals
- Assign tasks and review next steps
- Questions and suggestions for other resources (*parking lot*)



Guiding question

What is the best system/program design to facilitate customers' sustainably paying their energy bills and avoiding the crisis-assistance-crisis cycle?

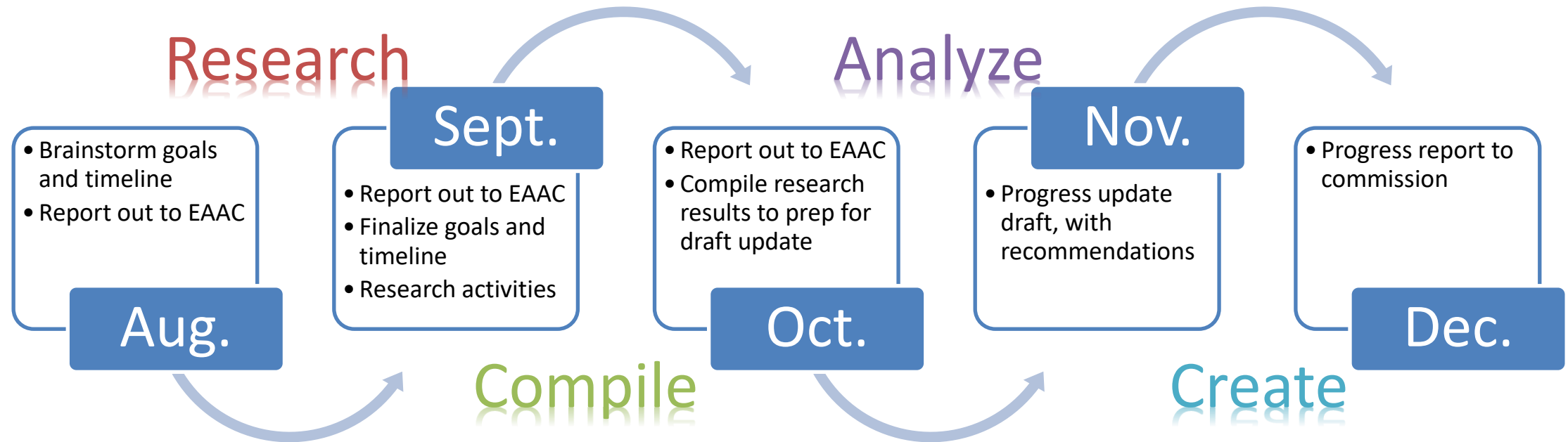


Subcommittee Charge

- *Streamlining and making more accessible* existing energy assistance programs
 - Improving upon existing energy assistance plans
- *Researching* next generation affordable payment plans
- *Analyzing* collections processes and disconnections
- *Integrating* with EWR, weatherization, and rate design



Projected 2021 Timeline



Beyond 2021

December 2022: Submit updated report with recommendations

2023: Continue collaborative as necessary and finalize work

Logistics

- File-sharing medium
- Best form of communication between meetings
- Delegating/check-ins
- Frequency and date/time of meetings
 - Does the 2nd Thursday of the month work well?



Suggested Research Topics

- Research

- Affordable Payment Plans (APPs)

- Work with MEAP Workgroup to understand MEAP APPs, including APP designs, metrics and the move toward energy security
 - Update on MEAP APP pilots (propane and below 20% FPL)
 - Update on 1st cohort of 2-year MEAP APP 'graduates'
 - Streamlining program design
 - Additional options

- Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

- Other states' experiences
 - National research
 - Options for financing, including through the rate setting process such as with the Low-Income Assistance Credit

- Eligibility criteria, funding and application processes

- Energy assistance, low-income EWR programs and energy protections
 - Implications of expanding energy assistance/protections eligibility to 200% FPL

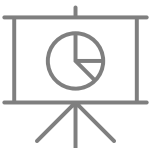
- Accessibility

- Collections processes and disconnections



Suggested Outputs

- Develop
 - Best practices for payment plan pilots (APP and/or PIPP)
 - Recommendations for:
 - Types of assistance plans for different customer groups (e.g. low-fixed income)
 - Streamlining the application process across funding streams (including EWR and energy protections)
 - Tying low-income EWR programs to energy assistance and customer protections



Next Steps and Group Goals

The image displays four horizontal rectangular boxes stacked vertically. Each box is outlined with a colored border and has a corresponding colored arrowhead pointing downwards from its left side. The colors of the boxes and arrowheads, from top to bottom, are red, green, purple, and teal. The boxes are currently empty, serving as a template for recording information.

Assign tasks and review next steps

Task	Name	Timeframe

Suggestions/more info/resources on...

