



# Energy Affordability & Accessibility Collaborative

Definitions  
Subcommittee

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# AGENDA



## **Reminder of Our Charge**



## **Timeline** Revised



## **Review Edits**

Part 1 of a companion  
document to our  
definition



## **Next Steps**

## >> **Reminder of Our Charge**

### **01 Establish**

Establish common definition of energy security/self-sufficiency – begin with proposed definition by MEAP Workgroup Subcommittee 2.

### **02 Develop**

Develop proposal for an energy affordability standard and how the standard can be integrated into the regulatory environment.

### **03 Draft**

Draft suggested requirements for consistent energy affordability-related information for utilities to submit to appropriate dockets: rate cases, IRPs, EWR cases.





EDITS

# Definition

- A revision was suggested to the definition.
  - The definition has been decided after ten-month process including stakeholder input and was adequately vetted.
  - **The definition will not be revised and will remain as previously decided.**



# Adding Sections

## ■ Impact Areas

- The sections of the definition could also further segment which stakeholders impact the areas defined. Ex. “Healthy”; physical and mental health may align with State and Community agencies while “Safety” may align with State agencies (housing stock) and Utilities (providing safe and clean energy).
- Alignments and Roles should be further clarified. Or maybe something like an impact matrix.

## ■ **Feedback:**

# Healthy- Physical Health & Energy Efficiency

## Original

Physical health conditions can be directly correlated with energy efficiency of the home.

## Proposed

Physical health conditions can be directly correlated with **increased** energy efficiency of the home.

**Feedback:** Physical health conditions are not qualified as improving or declining. Should we qualify physical health conditions to align with the proposed change or not qualify energy efficiency?



# Healthy - Temperature

- Temperature levels
  - The levels should not be specific but rather a theme of conservation and fuel that is healthy for you with appliances in the home that are running efficient and safe.
    - How is the temperature being controlled? Who is responsible for controlling them? How can it be measured?
    - Programs could be developed to help customer achieve this, one for renters one for homeowners. What if someone does not comply?
  - **Because some customers choose unsafe temperature levels when energy is unaffordable, the quote citing ideal air temperatures from the World Health Organization will remain.**
  - **Clarification:** This document, including this section, is not provided to design or require a specific program, but to explain what was meant by the definition and “a healthy manner.”

# Healthy

- Medical Equipment
  - The energy used for home medical equipment such as nebulizers, breathing machines, home dialysis machines, and the like often help residents avoid the hospital or other higher-cost health care settings.
  - **Added**
- Mental Health and Toxic Stress
  - Does it belong in this document?
    - Who would have control over this? How would it be measured?
    - Is the ask really, to develop programs creating an atmosphere reducing these feelings, ailments?
- **Feedback:**

# Healthy – Mental Health and Stigma

## Proposed

Delete the paragraph on stigma

- Unnecessary
- Not pertinent to the definition to a degree that it needs a separate paragraph or a mention in the definition.

## Feedback:



# Healthy – Mental Health and Stigma

## Draft

The stigma of utilizing public assistance may create or heighten the impacts on mental health. Societal pressures of individualization and achievement are contributing factors to the relatively low percentage of households utilizing benefits among those that are eligible.



## Proposed Revision

The stigma of utilizing public assistance and that associated with an inability to engage in adequate personal hygiene due to unaffordable utilities, i.e., a lack of hot water for bathing, lack of electricity for laundering clothes or for drying and styling hair in socially acceptable ways, etc. may create or heighten the impacts on mental health. Personal hygiene has impacts on the way children are treated in school and adults are treated in the workplace, creating long-term ramifications for mental health, employment, and earning capacity. Societal pressures of individualization and achievement are also contributing factors to the relatively low percentage of households utilizing benefits among those that are eligible for public assistance.

# Sustainable

- “Sufficient payments” was changed to “enough of a payment”
- Factors Outside of our Control
  - In defining energy affordability, group members were cognizant that the ability to afford energy is due partly to larger economic factors outside the control of energy regulators, customers, utilities, or other energy stakeholders, therefore there will always be people who need assistance paying their energy bills. There is also an awareness that the current need for assistance surpasses available funds.
  - **Added**

# Sustainable

## Proposed Deletion

In response to a survey on energy affordability, low-income customers, assistance workers, (62%) and members of advocacy organizations (63%) felt strongly that using energy in a sustainable manner means doing so in a way that individuals will continue to be able to afford their energy bills. Low-income customers have indicated in listening sessions conducted by the Michigan Public Service Commission in the Spring of 2022 that consistency in billing amounts and knowing what to expect in their energy bills contributes to their ability to plan for and pay their bills month after month.

**Feedback:**  
Thoughts?



# Energy Efficient

- Keep the tactics to establish greater energy efficiency in home
  - **The tactics were left in the document.**
  - Who is responsible for this?
    - How can it be measured? Should it really state what a program would look like?
    - It can be offered. What happens if someone does not comply?
    - They rent and they can't make improvements to the home.
    - Would an agency be responsible to help them find a better home?
    - If they failed to move, would they be removed from the Program?
  - **Clarification:** This document, including this section, is not provided to design or require a specific program, but to explain what was meant by the definition and “an energy efficient manner.”



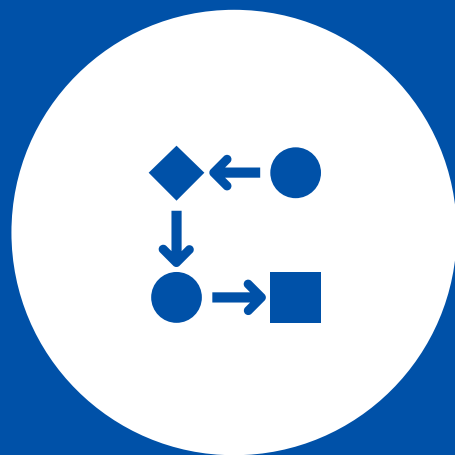
# Energy Efficient

- Perhaps add shifting usage to lower demand times to energy efficiency – would reduce bills if billed on time of use.



- **Feedback:**
  - Should this be added?
  - If so, where in the document would we include this?





# TIMELINE

**29 July**

**Full Draft**

Sent to committee members for review and comment

**15 August**

**Comments Due**

By close of Business

**17 August**

**Meeting**

To review final proposed companion document

**22 August**

**Recommendations**

Received by the Low-Income Energy Policy Board



# Next Steps

**1.**

## **Review**

Review companion document through mid-August

**2.**

## **Finalize**

Meet on August 17 to review changes and finalize document

**3.**

## **Recommend**

Recommend definition to the LIEP Board with document – August 22, 2022

**4.**

## **Develop**

Begin developing a proposal for an energy affordability standard – September 21, 2022

**5.**

## **Integrate**

Determine how the standard can be integrated into the regulatory environment