

MEETING 3 MINUTES
COMMISSION ON LOW INCOME ENERGY & WATER ASSISTANCE
NOVEMBER 14, 2022
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

Commission Members in Attendance:

- Luke Ilderton, Energy Outreach Colorado
- Michelle Butler, Colorado Energy Office
- Theresa Kullen, Department of Human Services
- Laura Getts, San Isabel Electric Association
- Elizabeth Gillitzer -Gallardo, Aurora Water Department

Not Present:

- Regina Bosma, Arapahoe County Weatherization Division
- Andrew Hawkins, Xcel Energy

CEO Staff Members:

- Stephanie Insinna-Sahando
- Barbara (Babi) Pazos
- Erin Edwards

Attorney General's Office Representatives:

- Jessica Lowrey, Second Assistant Attorney General

Quorum Met: Yes

Action items

- Motion regarding how to allocate the 8% of budget remaining this fiscal year (will vote at the next meeting)
- Energy Assistance Updates from EOC and LEAP
- Energy Assistance Education RFP Update
- Next meeting: To be determined

Introductions

- Erin Edwards - Babi Pazos introduced Erin Edwards, WAP's new Communications Associate, as the new administrative support. Erin will act as the administrative support moving forward.

Approval of 8/29 Meeting Minutes

- Theresa Kullen: motion to approve minutes from August 29, 2022 Commission meeting
- Michelle Butler - second
- No objections

Administrative Procedure

- CEO staff will look into whether there is a way to send a reminder to previous meeting participants via Zoom.

Energy Assistance Updates from EOC

- Luke Ilderton: EOC background- starts October 1st (one month earlier than LEAP) for emergency assistance for utility bills.
 - Served 3,472 households so far this year
 - Average benefits \$666
 - Over 620 households a week
 - 67% increase for EOC over pre-pandemic year
- Laura Getts: What does distribution look like? Are we seeing stronger needs in certain parts of the state?
- Luke Ilderton: Assistance is up from last year- biggest trend we are seeing. Biggest issue is anticipating a 4 million dollar gap in assistance for those with unregulated utilities. They have just as much need and demand, but not resources available to cover the need.
- Laura Getts: Did we see contributions from utilities go up at all? We've seen an increase in \$\$/therm. Have there been any shifts to the contributions?
- Luke Ilderton: No there has not been any shifts in additional funding on top of this funding that wasn't already part of historical funding.

Energy Assistance Updates from LEAP

- Theresa Kullen: 90% of last year's allocation, 3.8 billion nationwide. Going into this year with less funding, we are fortunate to get bulk funding so we can get started with what is expected in this heating season. Increased to 4 billion this year.
 - There was a supplemental award added to this year of \$1 billion, Colorado got \$9 million.
 - \$1,475,000 from IJJA funding
 - Up 10% applications across the state
 - Very concerned about the increase in NG prices and afraid we won't have enough to cover what the needs are.
 - LEAP has received 36,000 applications, 17,500 approved. Still have 17,000 pending
- Laura Getts: Average benefit is \$431 over the heating season?
 - Theresa Kullen: Yes
- Laura Getts: EOC can service up to 80% AMI, but LEAP is only 60% AMI. So EOC can serve people LEAP can't. LEAP also can't serve people where the primary heating source is not to the dwelling, but EOC can.

Energy Assistance Education RFP Update

- Luke Ilderton: RFP was launched on schedule (early Nov); on the website; has been reaching out to entities that have applied to be partner agencies in the past; invited Environmental Justice Coalition members. Plans to make a decision in December; excited about having smaller organizations that have not been able to administer energy assistance grants in the past.

Discuss and vote on how to allocate the 8% of budget remaining this fiscal year

- Luke Ilderton: We voted on amendments memorializing how funding will be allocated to CEO and education. After allocation of 45% of funds to EOC, 45% to CEO, and 2% for

energy assistance education, there are still 8% of the funds that need to be allocated for the rest of the fiscal year.

- Luke Ilderton: Use this meeting to gain perspective on the extreme need we are seeing this year, and make sure we have enough funding out there to prevent more debt from being added to accounts.
- Michelle Butler: would like to see some of that 8% come over to WAP. Some of the challenges there are seeing our agencies getting fully staffed so we can get people out to weatherize.
- Laura Getts: Is this money distributed based on location?
 - Luke Ilderton: Yes. all the funding has to go back to the customers in each utility from which the funding comes from

Scheduling future meetings and topics

- Babi Pazos will coordinate schedules over email via doodle poll.
- Clarifying proposals for how to spend the 8%.
- Vote allocating the remaining 8% of funds.

Meeting Adjourned 12:00 p.m.