Energy Assistance Program: Assurance 16
Energy Conference
May 19, 2016
Assurance 16

Agenda

• Introduction & Background
• Assurance 16 (A16) Activity Categories
• Proactive Energy Self-Sufficiency
• Patricia Elizondo: Heartland CAA
• Rachel Bagley: Western CAP
• Discussion & Brainstorm
• Program Development
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Introduction & Background

• Assurance 16: The LIHEAP statute allows states to spend up to five percent (5%) of their LIHEAP Block Grant funds on “services encouraging and enabling households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance, including needs assessment counseling, and assistance with energy vendors.”
Introduction & Background

- Historically, A16 in Minnesota has been used for:
  - Outreach
  - Referral and basic case management
  - Advocacy
- Many good things were done, but focus was not very clearly on energy need reduction
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Introduction & Background

A16 Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
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Introduction & Background

- From FFY2013 through FFY2015 EAP began a process of substantial change in A16.
- Continue to allow outreach, but have shifted focus more clearly to energy need reduction.
- Encourage community-specific, targeted, and transformational activities.
- Opportunities exist for greater collaboration and coordination with aligned programs.
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Introduction & Background

• Some points to note:
  – For EAP, energy need is not necessarily just energy usage (i.e., it is a function of energy cost and a household’s income)
  – Desire coordination with other programs
  – Determine needs at local level (even household level)
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Two A16 Activity Categories:

• Outreach

• Energy Self-Sufficiency:
  — Responsive
  — Proactive
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Energy Self-Sufficiency

• Activities that contribute toward reducing household energy need and enabling energy security by impacting one or more of the following areas:
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Energy Self-Sufficiency: Example

Energy Conservation
Information provided

Increased knowledge

Optimal (efficient/low) energy Usage

Energy Security

Energy Self-Sufficiency
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Energy Self-Sufficiency: Example

- Increased/improved Income/assets
  - Improved budgeting decision making
  - Improved Financial Literacy skills
  - Referral to financial Lit services

Energy Security
Energy Self-Sufficiency (ESS)

• Responsive vs. Proactive ESS
  – Difference is primarily in the approach to how activities are conducted
  – Certain specific activities could be conducted for either
Responsive Energy Self-Sufficiency (ESS)
Activities that are reactive, reflexive, spontaneous, occasional, short-term, and/or less intensive.
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Proactive Energy Self-Sufficiency (ESS)

Activities that reduce household energy need in a manner that is planned, comprehensive, intentional, deliberate, focused, long-term, and/or intensive.
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Proactive ESS Plans

• EAP reserves 25% of A16 funds for Proactive ESS
• This is about $1.25M per program year
• Plans are required for Proactive ESS
• We want you to be creative & innovative
### Title of activity or program:

Energy conservation education for Seniors

### Description of activity or program:

Selected households will participate in monthly sessions on energy usage and conservation. Sessions will include trips to different locations in the community for training on topics like simple, low-cost energy conservation techniques/home improvements; energy production; and identifying alternative housing options. Participants who complete the course will receive energy conservation kits provided free of charge by the local utility.
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Proactive ESS: Current Activities

- Case Management
- Energy Conservation Education
  - In-home
  - Classes
- Financial Literacy
- Family Assets for Independence In MN (FAIM)
- Combinations
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Proactive ESS: Current Activities
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Proactive ESS: Current Activities
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Ideas for WX Collaboration/Coordination

• Integrate referrals

• Energy Conservation Education
  • Post-Wx
  • In-home
  • Classes

• Conservation Improvement Program

• Other?
Ideas for WX Collaboration/Coordination: Discussion

• In groups, take 10-15 minutes and discuss the following questions:
  – What needs have you wanted to address, but....
    • You didn’t have the skills, funding, time to do so?
    • You couldn’t because your program’s rules/regulations wouldn’t allow it?
  – What barriers prevent you from more fully addressing a household’s energy burden?
  – What opportunities do you see that go unfulfilled?
  – What strengths do you/your program have?
  – What collaborations have you already done?
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Ideas for WX Collaboration/Coordination

• Brainstorm

• In groups, come up with a proposal of your own

• Report back in 10-15 minutes