

DRAFT
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
LOW-INCOME CONSUMER ADVISORY TASK FORCE

This document is to track key thoughts expressed at the February 6, 2015 task force meeting. Its purpose is to form a list of potential recommendations to target the underserved that the task force can further refine and assign implementation priorities to individual items.

HVAC AND REFRIGERATORS AS A LOW INCOME PROGRAM MEASURE

- Include repair and replacement of air conditioners and furnaces (full array and replacement of refrigerators as an energy efficiency measure for low-income programs.)
- Uphold community values.
- Homes and apartments are built under the assumption that indoor temperatures will be controlled with air conditioners and furnaces.
- Cost/benefit calculations for the weatherization program should be calculated as an incremental cost above the rebate that would be paid under Austin Energy's standard rebate programs.
- Provide weatherization funds to Neighborhood Housing to use in combination with housing repair funds.
- Allocate CAP weatherization funds to Neighborhood Housing to provide better "one stop" services and improve the cost effectiveness by removing the duplication of administrative burden on City Staff.
- Consider a program designed specifically to provide maintenance and repairs of HVAC units and furnaces.
- Reach as many people as possible by limiting the program to insulation, duct repair, air infiltration, and limited window air conditioner applications.
- Examine the availability of grant funding for solar and energy efficiency program to target low-income customers.

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ON-LINE BILL AND OTHER FINANCING OPTIONS

- The legal opinions rendered by the City Attorney on on-bill financing should be re-examined and evaluated using other program models such as on-bill repayment, use public funds to leverage private capital (e.g., WHEEL).
- Utilize PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) for rental properties (5 units and above).
- Utilize the \$5 million Better Buildings Grant loan loss reserve funds to attract private funding leveraged to \$40M to \$50M for PACE or single family energy efficiency and solar.
- Consult with the Regulatory Assistance Project.
- Look at the CPS (City Public Service) solar leasing project as a possible model for Austin energy to follow.
- Lower the credit score required to qualify for the Home Energy Performance loans currently available through Velocity Credit Union.
- Establish criteria as to avoid having the program target the loan to customers with insufficient income to repay the loan.

OTHER

- In regard to ECAD (Energy Conservation Austin Disclosure) improve program enforcement and community outreach.
- Revise the income threshold for the weatherization program eligibility from 2005 of the Federal Poverty Guideline to 60 to 80 of median income.