

Late Backup # 47

**City Council  
November 5, 2009**

**American Reinvestment and Recovery Act  
Weatherization Assistance Briefing**

Karl R. Rábago  
Vice President, Distributed Energy Services  
Austin Energy  
Karl.Rabago@austinenergy.com



# Topics

- Purpose / Status
- ARRA/TDHCA Guidelines
- Measures
- Teams
- Weatherization Programs
- Roadmap
- Questions

# Purpose

- Assist lower-income households and homes with higher energy burden
- Reduce residential energy costs
- Increase the energy efficiency of dwellings
- Improve home health and safety for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and families with young children

# Status

- Austin Energy submitted grant application for \$5.8 million dollars in stimulus funds on June 24, 2009
- Contract award notification received October 2009
  - DOE/TDHCA to release \$2.9 million up front
  - Balance to be released on demonstration of performance

# ARRA/TDHCA Guidelines

- Serve households at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Income Guideline
- \$6,500 maximum spend per home
  - Labor, materials, health/safety, and program support
  - Health/safety limited to 20%
  - Administrative limited to 5%
- Two-year program: ends August 31, 2011

# Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

<b>Persons in Family</b>	<b>Maximum Household Income (200% of Federal Poverty Level)</b>
1	\$ 21,660
2	\$ 29,140
3	\$ 36,620
4	\$ 44,100
5	\$ 51,580
6	\$ 59,060
7	\$ 66,540

# Measures

- Attic insulation
- Solar Screens
- Air infiltration
- Replacement of qualifying appliances (HVAC, window air conditioners, refrigerator)
- Doors
- Minor energy-related repairs (health and safety)
- Benefit/cost ratio  $\geq 1$
- Priority list and DOE auditing software

# \$6,500 Limit Expands Opportunities

- New additional weatherization measures:
  - Heating & cooling units
  - Wall insulation
  - Health & safety up to \$1,300
  - Replacement of refrigerator & compact fluorescents
  - Allows work in multi-family complexes
- Key element of program design and delivery is identification of new program elements (measures and delivery modes) to be added to post-2011 weatherization efforts



# Teams & Staffing

- Stakeholders
  - Austin Energy: 11
  - Texas Dept of Housing and Community Affairs: 2
  - Travis County: 8
  - Austin Housing Finance: 2
  - Texas Gas Service: 2
- Sub-Committees Created
  - Legal/Purchasing
  - Program Offering / Program Development
  - Community Outreach
  - Executive

# Additional Weatherization Programs

- Austin Energy Free Home Energy Improvement Program
  - Since 1982, weatherized over 14,000 homes
  - Average 600 homes annually
  - Single family, duplexes, mobile homes
  - Measures: Attic insulation, repairing/sealing ducts, caulking/weatherstripping, solar screens, CFL's, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors
  - Will be integrated with ARRA-funded program and continue after 2011
- Travis County
- Austin Housing Finance Corporation

# Roadmap: Key Dates

- Briefing to Community Development Commission: Sept 8, 2009
- Briefings to EUC, RMC: Sept 14, 15
- Briefing to Environmental Board: Nov 4
- Briefing to City Council: Nov 5
- Budget amendment to City Council: Nov 19
- Inter-local agreement with Travis County: Nov 19
- Contract solicitations: Dec 10

# Roadmap: Contract Solicitations

- Commitment to local, under-utilized workforce
- Address information shortages and lead-time needs with early, repeated information
- New requirements brochure published
- Contracting opportunities will increase significantly (from 3 to 24 contractors)
- Provide training ground for new “green collar” workforce
- Provide certification training to qualify delivery technicians (Sept & Oct)
- Mandatory pre-bid conference, publish certification lists to enable minority/disadvantage compliance success
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party “test-in” energy auditors; “test out” final inspections; and weatherization work

# Roadmap: Project Management Steps

- Finalize budget for staffing, equipment, and program development
  - 3 to 4 administrative staff
  - 2 field personnel
- Continued input from subcommittees
- Identify targeted areas and neighborhoods:
  - High energy usage/low income
  - Households with high energy burden
  - 20% of funds to be allocated to non-targeted areas
- Ongoing mandatory training by TDHCA for selected contractors and staff

# Roadmap: Identify Eligible Households

- Program Projections
    - 425 to 500 homes/year X 2 years (850 to 1000 total)
  - Potential Customers
    - Current back-log within Austin Energy: 275
    - City of Austin, Customer Assistance Program: 4,868
    - City of Austin, Plus One Program: 1,235
    - Austin Housing Finance Corporation: 900
    - Austin Housing Authority
    - Travis County
  - 39,000 Eligible Households in 5 targeted zip codes
-

# Roadmap: Marketing & Outreach

- Inter-departmental cooperation
  - To ensure identification and correct characterization of all eligible clients
  - To facilitate comprehensive, coordinated and efficient delivery of services
- Work with social service providers to provide “feet on ground” outreach and awareness
- Conduct grassroots marketing to civic and church groups in target zip codes and via neighborhood canvassing
- Develop universally-applicable services brochure
- Supplement traditional delivery with neighborhood-wide approach

# Questions



Contact Information:

**Joe Guerrero**

Energy Efficiency Services

(512) 482-5394

Joe.Guerrero@austinenergy.com

**Steve Saenz**

Energy Efficiency Services

(512) 482-5325

Steve.Saenz@austinenergy.com