

## Additional Information for Austin Energy’s request to provide additional funding for Weatherization Programs

**Subject:** Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Austin Energy Operating Budget of Ordinance No. 20150908-001 to decrease the Austin Energy Operating Fund Ending Balance by \$1,040,134 and increase the Conservation Rebates expenses by \$1,040,134 to provide additional funding for the Free Weatherization and Customer Assistance Program Low Income Weatherization programs.

**Background:** Over the past 30 years, Austin Energy (AE) has provided weatherization services to over 17,000 low income customers. AE has streamlined and automated processes, increased the quality of installations and reduced the cost to deliver weatherization for each home to an average cost of around \$3,300 while completing in 30-40 days. The services provided include air infiltration, insulation, ductwork, energy efficiency lighting, window air conditioning, solar screens, fire and carbon monoxide detectors along with low flow water devices partnering with Austin Water (AW). AE is in the process of adding tune-up of central air conditioning as a part of the weatherization program. For homes that need additional services, customers are referred to other departments, agencies and utilities such as the Housing Repair Coalition, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) and Texas Gas Services (TGS).

Partnerships with other departments and utilities may focus on specific areas in the community. AE, NHCD, AW and TGS align resources to provide weatherization, structural repair, low flow water devices and gas appliances to eligible customers. AE is working with the Austin Fire Department to provide LED lighting as well as weatherization participation applications to areas they are providing fire and smoke detectors. AE is also working with various non-profit organizations for direct installation of LEDs in various neighborhoods and have expanded our outreach and marketing to attract eligible participants. These services have assisted low income home owners and renters along with economic development in the weatherization industry.

**Funding:** The Customer Benefit Charge (CBC) provides funding for energy efficiency and customer assistance programs. In the 2016 budget, \$2.377 million is allocated for low income weatherization from the two CBC funds: \$1.377 million from Energy Efficiency Services (EES) and \$1 million from Customer Assistance Program (CAP). The funds for CBC CAP have been rolled over annually. In an agreement with the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force, AE committed to roll-over any remaining CBC EES weatherization funds starting in 2015. The intent of this RCA is to approve a budget amendment to roll over \$1,040,134 to FY 2016. This comprises the unspent 2015 CBC weatherization funds: \$955,111 from EES and cumulative \$85,023 from CAP.

### FY16 Austin Energy Weatherization Services Through May 10, 2016

