



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

JB Pritzker, Governor

**Low Income Energy Assistance Policy Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Recording of Webex Meeting Held on January 27, 2022**

Recording

Topic	Password
Policy Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting-20220127 1900-1	No password

Attendance:

PAC Members: Eric Shrader, Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas (Proxy); Nichole Owens, Commonwealth Edison (ComEd); Kimberly Bond, Ameren Illinois; Ivonne Rychwa, Citizens Utility Board (CUB); Joan Howard, Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC); Jared Policicchio, City of Chicago- City Mayor’s Office; Ellen Rendos, Nicor Gas; Dalitso Sulamoyo, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; Lorrie Walls, City of Chicago- Department of Family & Support Services; Kris White, Will County Center for Community Concerns; Staci Wilson, Illinois Municipal Electric Agency; David Wortman, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Guests: Tiffany Gilstrap, Nicor Gas; Linda Rhodes, ComEd; Kimberly Roberts, Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA); Mionia Booker, CEDA; Larry Dawson Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA), Aarian Smith, ComEd; Christopher Greenwood, City of Rockford Human Services; Abigail Miner, Office of the Illinois Attorney General; Brauder G. Smith, Ameren; Manuel Alicea, CEDA; Martha Strawser, City of Rockford Human Services; Mindy Browning, ERBA; James Agnew, ICC; Charles Murphy, Office of the Illinois Attorney General; Shahi Nawab, CEDA; Jennifer Jaeger, City of Rockford Human Services; Harold Rice, CEDA; Latoya Butler, CEDA; Jennifer Marten, Nicor Gas; Anthony White, Ameren; Shimecka Anderson, CEDA; Jamey Neal, Ameren; Joseph Giamberdino, CUB; Kathy Walk, C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity; Allen Cherry, Low Income Utility Advocacy Project.

DCEO Staff: Mick Prince, Leslie Ann Lesko, Ben Moore, Cassandra Vaughn, Wayne Hartel, Kurt Verduin, Evans Spencer, Maria Gallardo, Addrena King, Brigitte Irvin-Hunter, Janet Hawes-Davis, Patricia Troyer.

**Policy Advisory Council (PAC) Webex Meeting Transcript
January 27, 2022**

WEBVTT

1
david wortman 00:00:10.120 --> 00:00:31.265
So, I'm watching the participant total. We've got 27 on the call, which is kind of low, but we will get started. Um, I call this meeting to order. This is the low income energy assistance, policy advisory council meeting, uh, the 1st, quarter of 2022. I want to remind everyone that this.

2
david wortman 00:01:08.500 --> 00:01:09.995
On or how, how do you want to do that?

3
Maria Gallardo 00:01:10.835 --> 00:01:29.495
Sure, I can I can do that. So, uh, good afternoon, everyone happy New year I will call the name of the member, uh, with the organization. So, please, let us know if you're present present by your muting yourself or you can type it in the chat. And we can take the wrong call.

4
Maria Gallardo 00:01:51.145 --> 00:01:53.305
And Nicole always from comment.

5
Nichole Owens 00:01:54.745 --> 00:01:56.215
Maria, I'm on.

6
Maria Gallardo 00:01:56.215 --> 00:02:02.005
Thank you, um, bonds from.

7
Maria Gallardo 00:02:06.715 --> 00:02:07.855
All right Thank you.

8
Maria Gallardo 00:02:10.679 --> 00:02:14.214
Required from city sense utility board.

Page | 2

- 9
Maria Gallardo 00:02:25.085 --> 00:02:26.225
Agency on aging.
- 10
Maria Gallardo 00:02:29.375 --> 00:02:32.465
Uh, 1, the Hopkins from South asking coalition.
- 11
Maria Gallardo 00:02:35.824 --> 00:02:38.554
Joan, how're from the Illinois Commerce Commission.
- 12
Maria Gallardo 00:02:52.245 --> 00:02:55.455
Jared policy issue from the city of Chicago.
- 13
Maria Gallardo 00:02:59.385 --> 00:03:01.725
And ran those NYC or guests.
- 14
Maria Gallardo 00:03:06.704 --> 00:03:10.034
Ryan Robertson from looters, Robertson and conson.
- 15
Maria Gallardo 00:03:14.984 --> 00:03:18.134
Lawyer from champagne County, original planning commission.
- 16
Dalitso Sulamoyo 00:03:18.764 --> 00:03:20.084
Come on.
- 17
Maria Gallardo 00:03:20.084 --> 00:03:25.544
Thank you thank you Lisa. Terry from department of human services.
- 18
Maria Gallardo 00:03:29.384 --> 00:03:30.434
City of Chicago.
- 19
Maria Gallardo 00:03:34.394 --> 00:03:45.014
Chris white from will county center for community concerns present Stacy Wilson from electric agency.
- Page | 3

20

Maria Gallardo 00:03:48.435 --> 00:03:53.715

Kevin right uh, the assignee representing independent energy providers.

21

Maria Gallardo 00:04:16.859 --> 00:04:17.850

Yes.

22

david wortman 00:04:17.995 --> 00:04:21.114

So, they and that, so let's count 1, 2 3.

23

James Agnew 00:04:21.114 --> 00:04:29.245

For I am here, David. Hi, I couldn't. Unmute fast enough. All right, John should be dialing in or she's having computer issues today.

24

david wortman 00:04:29.665 --> 00:04:30.235

Okay.

25

Maria Gallardo 00:04:30.955 --> 00:04:37.525

And and I see, um, David also that we are having Jared policy shift from the city of Chicago. So, Jared, I.

26

Maria Gallardo 00:04:38.274 --> 00:04:43.554

Mark you as present, did we miss anyone else from the back members?

27

Maria Gallardo 00:04:55.620 --> 00:05:16.015

I'll keep, uh, watching the, the chat and monitor that but, um, since this is our new pack meeting, you know, in January, and we have, uh, ask members to please confirm your designation in the policy advisory council.

28

Maria Gallardo 00:05:17.154 --> 00:05:37.614

Uh, 1st of all for returning the letters to us, and we like to announce that we have, uh, now, 3, new members on the pack. Those are Nicole always from comment Kimberly bond from emery, Illinois, and then Yvonne require from utility board. So.

29

Page | 4

Maria Gallardo 00:05:38.154 --> 00:05:44.934

Welcome everyone, we just want to point out. So, at this time, uh, David, I'll turn it back to you.

30

david wortman 00:05:45.624 --> 00:05:59.064

Okay, thank you. Um, Maria, this is always, um, so for folks who are new to this, the, um, the way we've been doing minutes, um, uh, about the last year is, uh, we have we record the.

31

david wortman 00:05:59.069 --> 00:06:20.214

These meetings and we do a transcript from the Webex transcript, and we put those out as starting this meeting or starting with the last meeting. We put the link to the, to the recording and the transcript in 1 document. So, if someone.

32

david wortman 00:06:31.445 --> 00:06:52.145

That's the way we've been handling minutes. Um, so we need to approve the minutes from the last 2 meetings we do have a quorum today. I'm trying to see, I don't know, we have a lot of new members. I hope we have people who were at the meetings of those last 2 meetings. So, um, I would entertain a motion to accept the.

33

Eric Schrader 00:07:13.260 --> 00:07:14.545

Yes, I'll make that motion.

34

david wortman 00:07:14.905 --> 00:07:20.335

Thank you and Stacey you've been around awhile. Could you 2nd, if you were at those meetings.

35

Staci Wilson 00:07:20.815 --> 00:07:21.865

I was thinking that.

36

david wortman 00:07:22.195 --> 00:07:34.405

All right, thank you. Uh, all in favor, say, aye, uh, anyone oppose, uh, same sign hearing none meetings are no meeting minutes are accepted moving on to.

37

david wortman 00:07:41.060 --> 00:07:42.975

So, take it away.

38

Page | 5

Ben Moore 00:07:43.755 --> 00:08:02.115

Thanks, David. So if in the handouts there was the, the 2nd page, I believe had the Cisco overview report. I'll be looking at that. Thank you Maria. So, in the, the authorization grants for.

39

Ben Moore 00:08:02.209 --> 00:08:23.174

22, we've got approximately 49Million available out in the network authorization grant activities for this program year of that. So far we've extended about 10.6Million. So there's about 38.6Million left for the rest of the program here, which runs through June.

40

Ben Moore 00:08:24.104 --> 00:08:43.964

Um, in weather ization, there, we are aware that there will be some additional funding that we'll receive from the passage of the infrastructure bill. It the estimate is, our Illinois allocation will be around 200Million dollars. We have not received.

41

Ben Moore 00:08:44.509 --> 00:09:05.654

any more details from the department of energy about how that will be dispersed it likely will be over multiple years rather than receiving it in one lump fund one lump sum but that's something that we're looking at how to ramp up for those activities and make prints may speak a little bit more about that in the authorization report but i just wanted to make everyone aware

42

Ben Moore 00:09:20.260 --> 00:09:31.565

1Million out in the network for this program year about 170Million of that had been expended. So we have about 33. I'm sorry.

43

Ben Moore 00:09:34.774 --> 00:09:55.204

yeah about thirty three million unspent i'm sorry for this year um one thing i wanted to point out is that you'll notice the well first of all the twenty one two two four which is the fiscal year twenty one grant we have essentially fully expended that grant we utilize

44

Ben Moore 00:09:55.654 --> 00:10:16.654

Uh, a lot of those funds for the supplemental payments at the end of last program year, typically, there is carry over from that 1 program years, grant to the next. But considering we also receive the RPO funds, which on this report is the 2174 grant. Um, we.

45

Ben Moore 00:10:16.659 --> 00:10:37.264

realized as much of the twenty one funding as possible so that we would try to ensure that we spent the rpr grants and along with that we typically would have the twenty two program year which is the twenty two two two four series we would be spending from that but you'll notice from this report there are no expenditures against that because we

46

Ben Moore 00:10:38.194 --> 00:10:58.954

That grant ends in 2023 the program year, 22 grant, but the RPO funds, and at the end of this fiscal year. So it's critical that we spend all of those. So, there is no expenditures against the 22. and all of the current expenditures are are being directed to the RPO fund. And so that will, we obviously will have.

47

Ben Moore 00:10:58.959 --> 00:11:13.204

a full year of of twenty two funding for next year so we'll certainly be ready for the start up but we just wanted to point out that that's why the there are gaps and it looks a little different than our normal normal program here

48

Ben Moore 00:11:16.295 --> 00:11:19.085

Really about all I have David, unless there are any questions.

49

david wortman 00:11:23.854 --> 00:11:39.604

No, thank you Ben I did want to just make sure clarify. So we have spent 169Million, but that's including the 39Million funds.

50

Ben Moore 00:11:41.644 --> 00:11:42.244

David, yeah.

51

david wortman 00:11:42.844 --> 00:11:45.094

And we have a.

52

david wortman 00:11:47.284 --> 00:12:02.944

i i i'll go through on my presentation but we we have we still have a significant amount of funding that we so i'll talk more about that but uh yeah the the total expenditures you said something about thirty

53

Ben Moore 00:12:02.944 --> 00:12:08.044

I agree. I, that was my mistake. It's 100 about 171. that's out in that.

54

Ben Moore 00:12:08.050 --> 00:12:10.925
network right now i apologize for that yes

55

david wortman 00:12:13.924 --> 00:12:15.604
Okay, very good. Uh.

56

Ben Moore 00:12:15.604 --> 00:12:18.784
So, we spent about half of what we have out there for now, it looks like.

57

david wortman 00:12:19.444 --> 00:12:24.484
Right. Um, okay any questions for me.

58

Nichole Owens 00:12:25.234 --> 00:12:34.834
Yeah, David, just for clarity then maybe you could share just this is Nicole from comment. So there's 341.

59

Nichole Owens 00:12:34.840 --> 00:12:43.235
1Billion that we had allocated for which program year. So this bottom is reflecting exactly what because.

60

Nichole Owens 00:12:43.505 --> 00:12:43.685
Hello.

61

Ben Moore 00:12:43.685 --> 00:12:55.955
So the 2022 program year, which started back in September, so it started in September of 21, and it runs through the end of May of this year. So, that is the current program here that.

62

Ben Moore 00:12:55.989 --> 00:12:56.974
Disrupt reflects.

63

Nichole Owens 00:12:57.994 --> 00:13:05.104
Got it and that's not the full 341. 341Million would amount would that be or is that the full 345,000,000.

64

Ben Moore 00:13:06.064 --> 00:13:16.744

Page | 8

that is and that includes tip as well as david mentioned so yeah that three forty one is what is currently issued to grantees to run the both pip and

65

Ben Moore 00:13:17.165 --> 00:13:18.575

2022 program.

66

Nichole Owens 00:13:19.265 --> 00:13:24.935

Got it and do we know what portion of the 341 257.

67

Ben Moore 00:13:26.345 --> 00:13:38.135

The bottom line there and yeah, I should have broken that the 55Million is tip. So the 55Million available approximately 40 has been issued.

68

Ben Moore 00:13:38.344 --> 00:13:39.814

About 15.8.

69

Nichole Owens 00:13:40.534 --> 00:13:41.464

Got it Thank you.

70

david wortman 00:13:42.004 --> 00:13:59.434

So, Nicole, uh, in my presentation later, my numbers are gonna look a little different because I, I, but, I mean, bins are the, the numbers that are in our computer system and they're, they're on the grants out to the agencies. Um, when I present my numbers, I'll try to talk about.

71

david wortman 00:13:59.439 --> 00:14:20.104

Differences but the main difference is Ben shows the 43Million in the 22 grants that are signed and available for the agencies. Right now when I created my budget that I show what I'm wanting to show is what we're expecting agencies to get out.

72

david wortman 00:14:20.615 --> 00:14:31.475

Here, so when I do my presentation, I'll talk about the differences that, um, I just wanted to point out now that my number is gonna be below the 341. but that's because I don't have.

73

david wortman 00:14:31.565 --> 00:14:33.845

Page | 9

43Million the 22.

74

Ben Moore 00:14:36.364 --> 00:14:56.884

Thanks yeah, thanks. And I just wanted to on the, the 43Million from the the 22 fiscal year grants. We issued those, because they run all the way through their effective through June of 23. so, we, we went ahead and got them issued so that if we do exhaust all of the article money.

75

Ben Moore 00:14:57.274 --> 00:15:16.504

Agencies have funding available for us to utilize so we don't have to issue though. So we issued them knowing that there probably would be very little expenditure of those this year, but we had it available. So we went ahead and put them in place. So, there's, there's a, an outlet if all of the RPO money gets spent just to.

76

david wortman 00:15:18.064 --> 00:15:18.394

Or.

77

david wortman 00:15:18.399 --> 00:15:39.544

Example, if an agency spends all of their money, there there are for money, but they have someone come in that's not on a state funded system. We can't pay up 8 dollars. So we do need to have that 43. but when in July, when we try to show what agency, what money was available.

78

david wortman 00:15:39.550 --> 00:15:47.165

2 agency, we won't be holding the 43Million in their budget. We won't be considering that against what they're trying to spend.

79

david wortman 00:15:51.695 --> 00:15:54.215

So any other questions for Ben.

80

david wortman 00:15:56.524 --> 00:16:00.754

Okay, hearing none. Uh, we'll move on to Mick talking about whether.

81

Mick 00:16:03.064 --> 00:16:17.494

Thank you, David. Can you hear me? All right? Uh, huh. Okay so we'll start with the production numbers. Um, right now statewide. We're at about 933 units completed.

82

Mick 00:16:17.644 --> 00:16:37.534

With 670, uh, in progress, we're, we're not really anywhere where we want to be with respect to production. And from ben's report, we haven't really moved the needle, um, on extending the grants to this point in the program year.

83

Mick 00:16:39.485 --> 00:16:59.405

Some of the some of the things that that we've heard, obviously cobit is an issue right now and some supply chain issues uh, getting some of the materials needed to whether it's homes. We've had often on furnace, uh, furnaces, air conditioners.

84

Mick 00:17:00.035 --> 00:17:20.915

Apart from other materials that we use regularly have, um, we've had a hard time getting our hands on those, and it's, it's kind of hit or miss and ebbs and flows with the supply chain. So that's definitely a concern. I think right now there's just.

85

Mick 00:17:21.874 --> 00:17:42.184

Some coven fatigue occurring, not just in our network, but but everywhere and so I think that's definitely plays a role in the, the production numbers to this point. Um, obviously, there's a, there's a workforce problem, uh, all over the.

86

Mick 00:17:42.219 --> 00:18:03.364

United States right now. Um, so we're, we're having a hard time getting folks hired as well as a lack of contractors available to do this type of work. So those are those are some contributing factors to, uh, why our production isn't where we want it to be. Right now, um, we do have.

87

Mick 00:18:03.369 --> 00:18:24.514

Some good news procurement wrapped up for the network so they, they do have contracts in place with contractors to perform the work. Maybe not as many contractors as as they would like to have but we do have procurement done, um, another, um.

88

Mick 00:18:24.605 --> 00:18:45.605

We've been working on is updating the weather work system. We've been, uh, working with apex ity and Oracle on updating, um, our database. Um, we're making good progress. I think in a couple weeks, they're going to demo a large portion of.

89

Mick 00:18:45.670 --> 00:19:06.785

Of the build that they've completed to this point, uh, we haven't got into the energy audit piece yet, which is pretty complex. Um, but I think the goal is to, to be completed with the project by next spring. And then I think we would go live.

90

Mick 00:19:07.564 --> 00:19:10.354

Uh, next program, your July 1.

91

Mick 00:19:12.904 --> 00:19:20.254

I haven't seen the energy audit, so I'm cautiously optimistic that we can hit those dates.

92

Mick 00:19:24.005 --> 00:19:41.885

1 thing that we're working on with the new weather work system is, uh, we, we want communication with the utilities. Uh, we reached out to the, about modifying the current light heat and tip communication methodology to utilize for weather. ization.

93

Mick 00:19:43.654 --> 00:20:04.354

Utilities are not willing to allocate resources for the authorization build. And so I'd like to continue conversations about that in the future. Um, just a point of distinction that our needs for the new system. They don't have anything to do with the partnership that we have with the utilities.

94

Mick 00:20:04.804 --> 00:20:25.234

Um, to CO fund energy efficiency products or projects excuse me? Um, it's more the communication is needed for program evaluation and eligibility determination. Like, David mentioned, you have to, you have to be part of a participating utility to.

95

Mick 00:20:26.345 --> 00:20:29.945

For us to utilize the state authorization grant funds.

96

Mick 00:20:32.915 --> 00:20:48.995

And I just want to point out that this system rebuild is, it's the 1st phase, um, to consolidate, like, dot net, whether works and stars all into 1 giant system right? David.

97

david wortman 00:20:50.405 --> 00:20:51.335

That's the plan.

Page | 12

98

Mick 00:20:51.665 --> 00:20:52.805

Yeah, so.

99

Mick 00:20:54.604 --> 00:21:13.354

Anyway, enough about weather works right now the network for conducting technical refresher training at, which is something we do every couple of years where we have mandatory training for all of our energy auditors and final inspectors.

100

Mick 00:21:15.814 --> 00:21:24.664

Mentioned a little bit about the infrastructure funding that we, we think we're going to receive. Uh, we've got no real definitive word from.

101

Mick 00:21:27.244 --> 00:21:47.404

But in the in the legislation, if there was no sunset on the funding, so, like, Ben mentioned, we think we're gonna get around 200Million dollars. Our plan is to build a gentle ramp up and not make the same mistakes that that were made during era where it was.

102

Mick 00:21:50.704 --> 00:22:08.704

2 years, so I think our plan will be to utilize this funding over a 10 year. Period is what we're planning now. But again, we, we still don't have any definitive word from the Department of energy on when we'll receive.

103

Mick 00:22:08.734 --> 00:22:29.854

The funds, or or anything else at this point, we just know that that the funds are on their way we heard from NASA that we should be getting guidance from in the next couple of months. They think so anyway, that's all. I have.

104

Mick 00:22:29.884 --> 00:22:30.334

David.

105

david wortman 00:22:31.594 --> 00:22:34.954

All right, thank you very much. Make any questions for MC on whether.

106

Page | 13

david wortman 00:22:39.334 --> 00:22:48.214

Hearing none, we will continue on with the program status report for the likey program and Leslie, and will give that.

107

Leslie Ann 00:22:52.234 --> 00:22:54.514

Hi, good afternoon. Everyone.

108

Leslie Ann 00:22:56.855 --> 00:22:57.755

Yeah.

109

Leslie Ann 00:22:59.975 --> 00:23:20.585

Thank you Maria for changing the slides for us here. We are at our January pack meeting. Thank you. Everyone for joining the next slide is our new my new logo. We are pretty proud of it. We've had it for a couple months now. So hope you like it.

110

Leslie Ann 00:23:25.534 --> 00:23:40.414

Let's see, I'm gonna just call it. A total of 116.2Million is obligated on behalf of 127,823 household, receiving at least 1 benefit.

111

Leslie Ann 00:23:41.769 --> 00:24:02.164

And then I'll refer you to the pack program status report. It's the same report that Nick was going over. And if you look at that, you can see each agency and the total number of applications for both like health and the number of households served. Actually.

112

Leslie Ann 00:24:08.885 --> 00:24:11.555

So the total number of applications entered.

113

Leslie Ann 00:24:14.344 --> 00:24:34.774

September 1st, and January 24th is 184,480. we still have a big challenge in receiving customer documentation that's needed to complete an application. We are still saying that applications need to be.

114

Leslie Ann 00:24:35.464 --> 00:24:48.784

Approved or denied within 30 days, but everyone hopefully knows that if an application is denied, it can very easily be overturned. Once everything is has been received.

Page | 14

115

Leslie Ann 00:24:53.644 --> 00:25:12.004

Right. So, uh, December 1st, we had a meeting, um, and all of the local agencies we talked about, we reminded them of the program flexibility to help get the applications through.

116

Leslie Ann 00:25:13.294 --> 00:25:33.154

Um, proof of social security number, if the person has been on an approved application any time in our database, then they should not need to provide another 1, the utility bills. If they have the same, the same utility or vendor and the same account.

117

Leslie Ann 00:25:33.214 --> 00:25:54.304

Number, especially for the ones that communicate electronically, if they're on a path application, they should not need to provide a bill. We changed our, our how long that income can be considered a verified previously it was always for 90 days and we did.

118

Leslie Ann 00:25:57.520 --> 00:26:18.455

It's for the whole entire program here, if they need to apply again, once once they've been considered approved for a live application, just consider that if they need to apply in this program year, they are the same information can be entered on the 2nd application. We have said.

119

Leslie Ann 00:26:19.174 --> 00:26:39.454

As long as they have 30 days of consecutive income that they have shared with us to accept that. And 1 example I want to give is if a customer worked a lot of overtime around the holidays, and then applied in mid January, they might be.

120

Leslie Ann 00:26:40.264 --> 00:27:00.784

But, they, the agencies are allowed to take that customer statement that I don't work this over time anymore. They could get the next paystub. That would prove that if the customer had it handy, but just really the customer statement. It's a common thing that happens. So, hopefully that will help.

121

Leslie Ann 00:27:01.924 --> 00:27:22.054

Some applications from prevent them from being stalled. 1 of the other flexibility is presumptive eligibility, which is a similar thing moving. You know, looking forward. I have this layout notice I got fired. I can't get unemployment. I don't have any perspective.

122

Page | 15

Leslie Ann 00:27:23.134 --> 00:27:34.624

So the agencies are allowed to consider that person is being presumptive, having presumptive eligibility for the income income wise. Basically.

123

Leslie Ann 00:27:38.135 --> 00:27:39.695

Next slide.

124

Leslie Ann 00:27:41.974 --> 00:28:03.004

And a couple other several other, we have an a regular check rule. We usually say the income is for the most the past 30 days. And sometimes a person might have an extra check in there. We have said over a year ago, don't count that check. Actually, give them the.

125

Leslie Ann 00:28:03.034 --> 00:28:24.154

Bit of whichever check drop 1 off whichever 1 is going to be to the benefit of the customer and use the income intake workers affidavit if needed, which would be to write down a documentation that intake worker has seen or it can document something.

126

Leslie Ann 00:28:24.159 --> 00:28:45.304

The customer has said the same thing for case notes and use a Pre existing customer information to document this year's application. That is all very important. Those are flexibilities that we hope the agencies will continue to use and feel more comfortable with next slide. Please.

127

Leslie Ann 00:28:47.945 --> 00:29:00.695

So the main thing is, we want to remove barriers that are presenting customers from getting served. Um, we have had some promotion effort that.

128

Leslie Ann 00:29:03.544 --> 00:29:23.374

Such as well, some of the other strategies are can contact and returned customers, contact customers by phone and work with them to overturn applications if they've been denied, or to get any kind of missing documentation before they're denied and continue offering choices for.

129

Leslie Ann 00:29:23.379 --> 00:29:42.904

Documentation delivery, such as upload back, drop off email, etc, you know, take a picture, accept a picture. Whatever is needed for that particular household to be able to provide what's needed for the application. Next slide.

130

Leslie Ann 00:29:45.334 --> 00:30:05.674

Oh, here we go. Here's the lady promotion I was mentioning so we had a big press release that was sent out in November. There was also a cub citizens utility board partnership webinars that were scheduled November, 17th and 18th. They were in English and Spanish.

131

Leslie Ann 00:30:06.425 --> 00:30:12.125

Uh, David and Maria hosted those. I, and, um.

132

Leslie Ann 00:30:13.204 --> 00:30:17.464

We are always sending people to help our families dot com.

133

Leslie Ann 00:30:24.515 --> 00:30:40.805

Okay next slide please. All right, I'm checking 2 screens. The, it's almost it's getting close to the end of new furniture assistance applications. Um, agencies are allowed to take and encourage please take as many.

134

Leslie Ann 00:30:40.955 --> 00:31:02.075

As many as possible furnished assistance applications through March 31st if you take an application towards the end of March, of course, you're still allowed to finish serving that customer and then we want we're really need the agency to make sure that they're up to date on.

135

Leslie Ann 00:31:02.434 --> 00:31:09.094

Bonus assistance entries in my, he's done that. It's very important that they keep up with that.

136

Leslie Ann 00:31:13.354 --> 00:31:27.154

And I believe that was the rest of mind. Are there any questions for me? I don't want to forget to ask that please take yourself off mute. If you have questions for any of us.

137

david wortman 00:31:31.055 --> 00:31:38.765

There is a question in the chat, Leslie, and do local agency, except pictures via text message.

138

Leslie Ann 00:31:40.475 --> 00:31:51.005

Well, if the local agency has a cell phone that they would use to receive text messages, then I think that they could.

Page | 17

139

Leslie Ann 00:31:52.114 --> 00:32:12.064

Accept them yes. By text message. I don't know that most agencies have cell phones that they, that they provide, you know, that they accept information on. And then he says they do. So basically if, as long as they're able to the agency is able to see it.

140

Leslie Ann 00:32:12.579 --> 00:32:29.434

And they can document they've seen it, so look look everybody. Oh, wow. So CFS Aruba, Rockford they all do they have phones that actually accept text so that's all great. That's good to know. That's a good question. Abigail, thank you for asking.

141

david wortman 00:32:32.704 --> 00:32:52.564

Okay, any other questions for Leslie and, uh, I do want to say on the, uh, on the hub webinars that Joe who's on today and Yvonne, we're, uh, Co, host with us with Maria and I, on those 2 and, uh, we appreciate it.

142

david wortman 00:32:53.494 --> 00:33:14.494

There are quite a few people on the ones that, uh, that we watched and I actually have a media request coming from a media outlet, newspaper and cook county and they watched the this webinar and had questions from the that were taken from the slides. And the webinar, so people were paying.

143

david wortman 00:33:14.914 --> 00:33:16.234

That was good, thank you.

144

Leslie Ann 00:33:21.335 --> 00:33:28.655

It says the program year, 22 end of year projection David. So, I think.

145

david wortman 00:33:28.865 --> 00:33:32.345

Oh, okay, okay. So I have the, uh, I will grab.

146

Leslie Ann 00:33:32.375 --> 00:33:32.885

Thank you.

147

david wortman 00:33:33.875 --> 00:33:39.905

Page | 18

Yes, thank you Leslie. So, uh, I will do the, the next section and talk about, uh, the.

148

david wortman 00:33:40.000 --> 00:33:54.365

Projections, uh, and we're in, uh, little past halfway through the program year, so it's time to start seeing how we're doing and preparing for the end of the year. So, that's what I'll be going over. It's everyone seeing my screen.

149

Maria Gallardo 00:33:56.585 --> 00:33:57.815

Yes, we can see it.

150

david wortman 00:33:57.905 --> 00:34:01.145

Okay, thank you. So these numbers that I'm going.

151

david wortman 00:34:01.149 --> 00:34:22.294

To be giving, I just always want to make sure everyone knows that we're talking with client benefit numbers. So for the agencies, if you're looking at your grant amount, your fiscal people are on these won't be your full grant, but these are client benefit numbers. So, this is from back in April of last year, or or maybe the July meeting.

152

david wortman 00:34:22.299 --> 00:34:43.324

Not for sure, but we had this is a slide straight from the presentation where we were planning our budget for the 22 year. So, 21, we ended up with 232,000 client, serve, household served and we had an average of about 710 dollars per app and.

153

david wortman 00:34:43.449 --> 00:35:04.234

At that time, we were budgeting to try to hit the same number of applications, and we increased the benefit matrix last year and attempted to hit 50% increase on that 7 and 10. so we were projecting 247Million in.

154

david wortman 00:35:04.715 --> 00:35:24.395

Lie heat out the door to clients, uh, with the 100 or 1065 per app. So that was what we were aiming for. So, where are we uh, Jill, January 15th was exactly halfway through the program year. And at that time.

155

david wortman 00:35:25.834 --> 00:35:46.894

150,000 completed applications that number Leslie, and just gave her update that were at 127,000. so, the difference there is that, um, the 150 is me estimating how many will that were received by January 15th will end up receiving.

156

david wortman 00:35:46.925 --> 00:36:08.045

So, I'm projecting, you know, agencies are still approving and verifying income and things. So, this number is where, I think in the 1st, half of the year, we, at the end of the year will have received 150,000 applications during that time. I went back and looked at the last few years and you'll.

157

david wortman 00:36:08.049 --> 00:36:28.564

It on the next slide the 1st, half of the year ends up being about 2 thirds of the applications that get approved that year. So, roughly we're looking at something like another 75. I actually gave us 80,000 applications. So, I went a little bit more than what that.

158

david wortman 00:36:29.254 --> 00:36:50.314

That equation would tell you too, but, uh, I'm projecting that we'll end up at 230, which is just below the, uh, 232 that we were working on this right here shows, uh, how program years have gone in the past. So these are the, the past, uh, this year and the previous 4 years each.

159

david wortman 00:36:50.350 --> 00:37:11.495

1 of the dots is a week and these are cumulative approved applications as they were taken through the year. So you can see in 819 and 20. we started in October and we ended up the really light line here. If you can see it. That's 2018.

160

david wortman 00:37:11.499 --> 00:37:32.644

Ended up at 250, I think it was 4 or something like that. And then programming year, 19 we ended up at 251 and then for the 2020 where we hit covet, you can see that. Right here in March we hit covet and then this number. Well, we extended the program year.

161

david wortman 00:37:33.005 --> 00:37:53.675

Uh, we ended up with something like 216 and 2020 in 2021 during our regular program year. We got to 232,000. that was the number I just showed and then at the end of the year, we did the special program and we were actually because we went.

162

david wortman 00:37:54.334 --> 00:38:14.674

Served clients who were from the previous 2 program years, but hadn't come in. In 21. we were able to right at the end increase the number of households served. So we did 57,000 accounts and that's utility accounts were served from the state.

163

david wortman 00:38:15.394 --> 00:38:36.064

From the previous 2 program years so we don't know exactly because they were accounts instead of households. We don't know exactly how many that added to our 232, but I think it's safe to say that we serve more clients last year than we had served in the previous 4 years. So that's.

164

david wortman 00:38:36.485 --> 00:38:57.245

Those are the past 4 years the projections here this green line is what we're doing this year and then when the dot in the center, I don't know if everyone can see that, but it turns orange. Those are projections. And I project us, uh, finishing really right around the same amount as we did last year.

165

david wortman 00:38:57.574 --> 00:39:18.334

So right around 230,000 so plus or minus a couple 1000 from where we ended up last year. So, from our original budget, we expected to do 232 at 100 or 1065 per application and it's looking and that would have been.

166

david wortman 00:39:18.400 --> 00:39:39.515

147Million out the door of what it's looking, like, is we're going to end up slightly less than that. And the dollar per application right now is at 1007 that may go up with reconnects and maybe more furnaces that may go up a little bit. But I just used.

167

david wortman 00:39:39.549 --> 00:40:00.664

What it is right now, so we're looking at spending 232Million, um, instead of the 247 that we had budgeted, so pretty close, but not quite what we have budgeted. So, um, this was a graph also from the, the budget preparation meeting.

168

david wortman 00:40:00.699 --> 00:40:21.844

Last year, and where we're ending up, then if you add in the 39Million for the PIP, and those are the obligated amounts for the year and add that to the 232 that I'm projecting, we're going to end up at 270.

169

david wortman 00:40:42.999 --> 00:41:04.144

Presented in the April pack meeting last year and this is where we are today Ben mentioned in his presentation that we have 14Million from 21 that was sent out this year. So when we budgeted last April, we didn't.

170

david wortman 00:41:04.150 --> 00:41:25.265

Know how much we would have left of 21 we thought that the new DAP and the supplemental may take up all of the 21 grant. It did not. We ended up starting the year with 14Million. From 21. we are going to get all of the RPO money out the door this program year. So that was as.

171

david wortman 00:41:25.894 --> 00:41:45.874

Advertised this is where I talked about, uh, Ben had the 43Million. Uh, so the 43Million is available to agencies if we needed. Um, if they run out, if that agency runs out of our funding, we can spend it and still serve, uh, clients who either aren't on.

172

david wortman 00:41:46.624 --> 00:42:07.504

Really the clients who aren't on the state system we could do that, but when at the end of the year, when we compare agencies performance to what their, uh, their budget was and what they were, what was made available to them, we're not going to hold the 43Million against them, so we're not expecting to spend much there.

173

david wortman 00:42:08.044 --> 00:42:27.754

So, the bottom 2 lines is where I want to focus here. So if you looked at the bottom 2 lines, we had 3600036.7Million budgeted for state lie here and 49Million budgeted for state. Uh.

174

david wortman 00:42:29.464 --> 00:42:49.894

And what we're headed towards is spending something like 9Million in the state fund for. And then we're at 39Million for, uh, the PIP program. And once again, if you go back to.

175

david wortman 00:42:49.925 --> 00:43:10.895

Slides he has 55Million we started with our 50Million, I think, and we've increased it some to allow agencies that were spending and wanted to have more Pip applicants. We have a, we have increased. It's but because the way.

176

david wortman 00:43:11.049 --> 00:43:31.864

We send funding out there are agencies that don't spend all of their money. So we don't we in a normal year, we don't actually get obligated all of the PIP funding that we make available to agencies. So, even though we have 55Million budgeted for.

177

david wortman 00:43:32.314 --> 00:43:53.344

We're only going to get 39Million out the door. So what all of this adds up to is that we're projecting 38Million in state lie. He funds to be not spent that was budgeted. So, um, before I go to the.

178

david wortman 00:43:53.349 --> 00:44:14.494

Next slide I want to. So right now we're already thinking about the program year, 23, and what that's going to look like. So we know we're going to have 22 money. We're going to have that entire grant. The RP, of course, will be gone, but.

179

david wortman 00:44:14.584 --> 00:44:35.524

Uh, we're looking at the 22 money. We know that there'll be 23 money coming as well and we have this, the state funding that I'm going to talk about and we've also recently we know that there is lie heat funding in the infrastructure Bill and it's not that much. It's something like, uh, 500,000,000.

180

david wortman 00:44:35.650 --> 00:44:56.735

Nationwide over the next 5 years. So, for us, it's only it's less than 4Million coming to us. But all of that, we will we will put all of that together and have a budget for next program year. And the, the good news I would say is that when I presented this budget.

181

david wortman 00:44:56.799 --> 00:45:17.884

Last year in April for 22, we knew that we were going to expand the benefit matrix and and keep it at a level 50% above what, you know. So this is the, the largest benefit matrix we've ever had. And I thought that we were going to have to lower it into program year, 22, as some of the special funding.

182

david wortman 00:45:18.214 --> 00:45:39.094

Uh, went away, but I, I can already project that we're going to be able to keep this funding the, the benefit matrix at the same level for next year because of the, um, some of the, um, the 20, the funding and the a little bit of extra that we get to that, but also because of the state.

183

david wortman 00:45:39.124 --> 00:46:00.064

Dollars that I'm going to talk about here next. So this is from a slide directly from the, uh, April meeting from 2020. so, 2, years ago this was when i1st talked to the pack about the borrowings that had taken place over the years from the state funds. So, uh, from.

184

david wortman 00:46:01.144 --> 00:46:20.584

2015 through 2020, you can see that there was, uh, quite a bit of funding was, uh, swept the I want to focus on these last few years. So we had a total of 142Million, uh, swept from 819 and 20. so.

185

david wortman 00:46:22.205 --> 00:46:33.725

What, uh, I recently found out, uh, the governor's office, uh, let us know that some of those borrowings were going to be repaid. And, um.

186

david wortman 00:46:35.584 --> 00:46:56.644

All of this, uh, I, it, it hasn't been I haven't been told exactly how much and when they are going to be repayments made, but the 1 that I can talk about is the 1 that's actually hit the comptroller's office. So, uh, about a couple times a month, I always go to the controller.

187

david wortman 00:46:56.765 --> 00:47:17.315

Website and look at the, um, look at our fund balances and look at our expenditures to make sure that things are making sense. And, uh, earlier this month, a 70Million dollar transfer took place from into the state funds. So, uh.

188

david wortman 00:47:17.884 --> 00:47:38.764

Told us, uh, our physical office, and they let me know that there were likely going to be some repayments this year. I learned that probably 3 weeks ago. So I started watching and indeed we have had 70Million dollars repaid to the state fund. So, what all that means for us right now is that.

189

david wortman 00:47:40.024 --> 00:48:00.064

When you look at our state dollars July 1st of last year. So the, the beginning of the program year, 22, we had 50Million dollars as our starting balance and some of our design of our program, the and weaponization program.

190

david wortman 00:48:00.124 --> 00:48:21.154

Reflected that, um, in my numbers that we, that are were in my budget, we actually spent more than 100Million, which is our annual revenue into the fund. And we did that. Because, uh, there we knew that

there was going to be a balance, but the 50Million balance was larger than we even thought. But that was the.

191

david wortman 00:48:21.249 --> 00:48:41.224

Balance at the beginning of the year, and now we have 38Million that we know we're going to spend less than what was budgeted. So we started the year with 50Million. We, we're going to add 30Million during our normal program this year, because we're going to spend 38Million less than.

192

david wortman 00:48:42.425 --> 00:49:03.545

Budgeted and now we've had 70Million repaid to the state fund. So right now, today I can say that just I just, uh, considering our normal light heap operations. If we do nothing else we're going to.

193

david wortman 00:49:03.549 --> 00:49:24.694

And the state, the lie, he program year with 158Million dollars in the state fund and that's a lot of money. And the, my director's office and the governor's office they understand that that number is there. And we, I don't.

194

david wortman 00:49:24.699 --> 00:49:45.724

Have anything to announce today, other than that number is not going to stay that number, we are going to have to do some special programs at the end of the year to get funding out. So, right now, today, I don't know what that is. If you remember last year, I think we had we had an emergency meeting, I think, in April.

195

david wortman 00:49:46.024 --> 00:50:06.964

Just prior to the pack meeting, I think that we're probably looking at something like that this year that, uh, as we understand, uh, from the governor's office exactly what our funding is going to be. Uh, we will be calling this group together, uh, for a a special meeting to talk about special programs at the end of the year. So.

196

david wortman 00:50:07.054 --> 00:50:26.554

Is that a you'd app is that supplemental? I can't say today. Uh, exactly what it's going to be, but I can stay with near certainty that there will be a special program at the end of this year. So, uh, I saw a couple of chats come across. Let me pause here.

197

david wortman 00:50:34.415 --> 00:50:43.025

Abigail ask is the, the 127 number of benefits unique households? Yes, that is a, uh, that's unique counsel. That's application.

198

david wortman 00:50:45.514 --> 00:51:06.154

So, uh, and then Kathy said it's good to hear the benefit matrix will remain Hi, I agree. I think the benefit matrix being that that's a very good way to make sure that we get our funding out. I also like that, because it helps with the, the local agencies and and their administration. So.

199

david wortman 00:51:06.244 --> 00:51:27.364

That's good. Ask, does the available funding match the demand? Well, every year, when, when I do the projection to, to try to figure out, you know, we really have 2 numbers. You've got the number of people that are gonna come in and then the average of how much you do per household, and you try to make that match and that's what we did this year.

200

david wortman 00:51:27.369 --> 00:51:48.484

But you can see this year, we, because the, the 14Million from the HHS 21, we started off with more than we thought, and then we underspent. So we ended up with 38Million available. But the, the quick answer is, we always try to make it match, but there's a lot of moving parts.

201

david wortman 00:51:49.024 --> 00:52:09.034

Long term, and I, you know, I've talked to internally I don't think I've ever said this at a pack, but long term I think a good way to handle. This would be to every year. Try to do that match where you've set up your benefit matrix with an assumption of how many people are gonna come in.

202

david wortman 00:52:09.934 --> 00:52:30.814

You you'd be just a little conservative so that you, you're not going to run out of money. But then, if you end up with, uh, 30Million dollars, then at the end of the year, do a summer supplemental. So you could set up your program to have it. Where every year you think you're, you're likely to do.

203

david wortman 00:52:30.844 --> 00:52:51.964

Supplemental, and that way, you can make sure you can get out the vast majority of your funding, but you can at the end of the year, take your balance down. So it's not attractive to any future administration or a borrowing. So that's generally speaking how.

204

david wortman 00:52:51.969 --> 00:53:13.114

Well, I think about the way that we should be budgeting and setting the benefit matrix. Let's see. What do you anticipate? The timing of the find out the governor's office? Yes, certainly by by April. Linda. Um, I think, uh, likely.

205

david wortman 00:53:13.120 --> 00:53:33.965

Prior last year, it was April, because frankly, the was, uh, thought about in mid March, uh, when the, uh, Swami rahul's office, uh, put out the notice of how many people were on the disconnection list and, uh, you know, we were coming off what was essentially a, uh, over a year, long moratorium, so.

206

david wortman 00:53:34.954 --> 00:53:55.354

That was late this year, you know, we've had experience with it. So this year, I think, um, we still have a decision making process to move through, but I think it will be, uh, we'll know earlier than we did last year. Are there any other questions? I believe that's my last slide. Yes. Any other.

207

david wortman 00:54:01.085 --> 00:54:14.435

Okay, so, uh, that is the end of my portion, my presentation so I will hand it back to Maria to talk about the program.

208

Maria Gallardo 00:54:19.594 --> 00:54:37.714

Thank you David. Good afternoon. Everyone I will be providing the brief report. So a total of 39.3Million is currently obligated on behalf of 36,153 customers.

209

Maria Gallardo 00:54:37.719 --> 00:54:58.714

That are currently enrolled in statewide, this represents around 24% increase in the number of customer served in 33% increase in the total amount, spent in benefits when we compare it to last year. During this point of time.

210

Maria Gallardo 00:55:00.545 --> 00:55:18.905

Here's an average benefit comparison from per year 2022 so our current statewide benefit 2087 dollars versus last year at this time of the year. It was a 1007 dollars.

211

Maria Gallardo 00:55:21.124 --> 00:55:21.844

Um.

212

Maria Gallardo 00:55:24.454 --> 00:55:33.664

Page | 27

Enrollment period, um, it's ending March 31st instead of December 31st or appeal.

213

Maria Gallardo 00:55:35.045 --> 00:55:54.725

Um, delegates after this time will have time to process deep applications in stars after, uh, March 31st, and then starting April 1st, or when the runs out of funding old applicants will be offered at 1 time lucky benefit.

214

Maria Gallardo 00:55:56.374 --> 00:56:15.844

So, I'd like to share with the pack that 2 weeks ago, we had the, uh, steering committee meeting meeting and that meeting, uh, 1 of the feedback that we received in terms of the end of the new people enrollment was.

215

Maria Gallardo 00:56:16.474 --> 00:56:37.354

Whether we can extend that new enrollment after March 31st. So we know we had a conversation about that. So, at this time, uh, we're still considering that feedback and we are trying to make sure to understand whether they're going to.

216

Maria Gallardo 00:56:37.654 --> 00:56:58.714

He impacts associated, for example, uh, we need to continue the conversation with our star speed ity contractors that support the system and make sure that when we are rolling over existing customers from 1, fiscal year to the next 1, while enroll.

217

Maria Gallardo 00:56:59.014 --> 00:57:19.564

New customers, we don't have an impact in the system, so we currently are having those discussions. So we'd like to let, you know, at least us off today that we're still considering, you know, that that input or feedback that we receive the steering. So we'll definitely.

218

Maria Gallardo 00:57:20.375 --> 00:57:39.605

You know, keep everyone informed with that, uh, in terms of, uh, funding guidance, uh, has been working with, uh, who were about to receive a lack of funding or and nobody's seen stars and have been adding.

219

Maria Gallardo 00:57:41.134 --> 00:58:02.134

Funding to them after some discussions that we have had, we send out a guidance to the agencies on December 10th, indicating that we were making, you know, additional funding level to the needed. So that have either obligated their regional.

Page | 28

220

Maria Gallardo 00:58:02.169 --> 00:58:23.224

Bonding or would like to continue expanding their deep enrollments they could submit a request for additional phones up to 50 of their current budget allocation in will be evaluating those requests. And then.

221

Maria Gallardo 00:58:23.319 --> 00:58:44.224

Modify their, their, their budgets, you know, accordingly. So, uh, the alleys that have stopped accepting new applications due to funding availability or admin barriers uh, currently, we have 2 agencies. Those are, uh, they stop taking.

222

Maria Gallardo 00:58:44.524 --> 00:59:05.614

Publications on October 1st, we'd have to say with them, particularly. Unfortunately it was a legal that timing, you know, in regards of funding availability at that time. And our analysis of how much could be either allocated to them or move around. And then.

223

Maria Gallardo 00:59:05.645 --> 00:59:26.285

The other agency, uh, password, which they are the emergency provider for the Livingston and meclizine counties. So that office administering and beep in the area, you know, they ask if they could be stopping.

224

Maria Gallardo 00:59:26.944 --> 00:59:47.284

New applications as of December 31st, because of admin barriers at that office in particularly. So, uh, they like I say, they stop in these 2 counties, but then the other counties administered by task would they are continuing serving new customers.

225

Maria Gallardo 00:59:49.114 --> 01:00:09.004

Uh, this is just a reminder that, uh, we also, uh, because we already know remote, uh, application setting that we also have available for repeat customers that they, uh, portal that they can upload their documentation. If they choose this option. And here's the address.

226

Maria Gallardo 01:00:09.124 --> 01:00:28.264

They can go to and upload their documentation. This is available to both, uh, people, customers, but also applicants in. That's the end of the, uh, P portion right there. Any questions.

227

Maria Gallardo 01:00:30.219 --> 01:00:31.354

Page | 29

We look at the chat.

228

Nichole Owens 01:00:34.624 --> 01:00:37.594

This is Nicole from hello?

229

Maria Gallardo 01:00:38.014 --> 01:00:38.584

Hi, Nicole.

230

Nichole Owens 01:00:38.974 --> 01:00:55.594

When we think about the amount of dollars that are available, versus what is gonna be allocated, do we have any plans in place? And, I don't know, maybe the Las would have to speak to it, but to try to get as much of those funds allocated as possible before the program.

231

Nichole Owens 01:00:55.625 --> 01:00:55.925

In.

232

Maria Gallardo 01:00:57.875 --> 01:01:00.215

Are you asking specifically about being.

233

Nichole Owens 01:01:01.955 --> 01:01:03.395

Yeah, specifically for.

234

Maria Gallardo 01:01:06.244 --> 01:01:26.614

So so, so your question again, whether, you know, the, uh, when we look at the amount that they have spent so far, whether is, the question is whether we will be able to spend entire, uh, paper location, is that.

235

Nichole Owens 01:01:26.645 --> 01:01:28.595

Question that that would be great, but I don't know.

236

Maria Gallardo 01:01:32.795 --> 01:01:33.365

So.

237

Page | 30

Nichole Owens 01:01:33.725 --> 01:01:37.625

Yeah, how do we get that gap closed? Even more, I guess, is the question.

238

Maria Gallardo 01:01:38.405 --> 01:01:51.815

So so, at this time, you know, I guess the best response that I can give, and any other members can jump in here too. Uh, we are monitoring the, uh.

239

Maria Gallardo 01:01:52.414 --> 01:02:12.964

Um, I guess expenditure with and when we're noticing that an agency it's lower in their expenditure, you know, we're having a conversation with them and saying, hey, you know, can you administratively speaking, you know, continue enrolling customers at least.

240

Maria Gallardo 01:02:13.174 --> 01:02:32.974

Til March 31st and if so then we can either move things around, or we have been in some cases, the obligated, some of the state like heat funding, and then, uh, moving some of those funds to state deep. So then we can continue satisfying.

241

Maria Gallardo 01:02:34.505 --> 01:02:55.205

Enrollment, so we have been working with the agencies, you know, more actively this hearing that away. So, with the hopes that we can continue with the majority of the state wide can continue enrolling new customers until at least March 31st. So, hopefully, then we can.

242

Maria Gallardo 01:02:56.074 --> 01:03:01.984

You know, um, more funds up until that point that answers your questions.

243

Nichole Owens 01:03:02.764 --> 01:03:15.604

It does help Maria and if there is anything, I don't want to speak for the other utilities. I know we really want to try to get the word out to customers. So they can have an awareness of and to enroll. We're even monitoring what.

244

Nichole Owens 01:03:16.895 --> 01:03:27.815

Customers are we seeing coming online so if there's anything that we can do to support at least I'll just speak for comment and assisting with the Las. We can offer that.

245

Maria Gallardo 01:03:29.465 --> 01:03:37.745

Page | 31

Okay, appreciate it because, and you know what I want to also take over the opportunity to also, you know, special things.

246

Maria Gallardo 01:03:37.774 --> 01:03:58.534

To the agencies, because they also you can tell that they have been, um, pushing more people to those customers of course, that, you know, have a a big participating utility. So you can tell that they have been also increasing their outreach efforts. Um, I know. So, I'm seeing.

247

Maria Gallardo 01:03:58.924 --> 01:04:20.044

I guess a question from Martha, uh, stating that, you know, they have been a rock for has been observing that big clients are getting kind of, you know, a higher CPR, you know, this year, compared to last year that they wouldn't be able to afford that monthly CPR and she's asking.

248

Maria Gallardo 01:04:20.050 --> 01:04:40.805

We can direct some additional funds for them to help them. So, you know, I guess my my answer will be so, thank you for, for providing that in with Martha, you know, I don't know what kind of, you know.

249

Maria Gallardo 01:04:42.574 --> 01:05:02.134

Uh, we can redirect to that, or whether you were asking, you know, from the utility perspective, uh, you know, to help them that, but definitely will will take that internally in and have a further discussion about that. 1. um, and then there's another 1.

250

Maria Gallardo 01:05:02.435 --> 01:05:23.255

From Jennifer jayega, Jacob, is it possible to allow a for a big customer who has experienced a significant increase in CPR? So currently according to our fully CVS, or will be no, they must at the time of the application or at the time of their.

251

Maria Gallardo 01:05:23.499 --> 01:05:43.534

Certification those customers will be presented with that benefit comparison where they will know how much will be their CPR, et cetera. So, in those cases where a customer will not be able to afford that monthly CPR, then most likely that person will select that.

252

Maria Gallardo 01:05:45.034 --> 01:06:05.044

So, I would say currently, you know, based on our current policy, you know, the answer will be. No. Okay. And then, you know, Cathy disagrees with Martha that we have had people drop because they can afford their many of these households are signed up with aris and paying too much.

Page | 32

253

Maria Gallardo 01:06:07.745 --> 01:06:17.735

Okay, good, good feedback. Now it may be, you know, you guys can provide a little bit further.

254

Maria Gallardo 01:06:19.954 --> 01:06:40.204

So because we are presenting the customer with a benefit comparison, and they know what will be their monthly payment. And at that time, you know, they must understand that if they sign up for repeat, then, you know, they're going to be locked into people until the next program year.

255

Maria Gallardo 01:06:41.105 --> 01:06:59.945

I'm curious to know why it's going through the customer's mind at that time when they are making that informed decision, but then few months after they cannot afford the is it because they are losing some income in the meantime, or what is the, you know, the thought process there from the customer perspective.

256

Leslie Ann 01:07:01.505 --> 01:07:02.135

Maria.

257

Leslie Ann 01:07:17.105 --> 01:07:32.735

Agencies have had to do something like that in the past, because they were getting such high CPR and I thought it had something to do with the budget bill and how it was calculated. But I don't know if you can refresh my memory or everyone's memory on that.

258

Maria Gallardo 01:07:33.485 --> 01:07:36.635

Yeah, so 11 comment about the.

259

Maria Gallardo 01:07:37.324 --> 01:07:56.524

More like research, just a reminder to everyone that, um, if it's a customer that it's recertified at that point, if the customer is in good standing with the utilities and they said, you know, you know, but now my budget bill went up CPR.

260

Maria Gallardo 01:07:57.214 --> 01:08:17.943

It's going up, I cannot afford this any longer that we also can issue are true of adjustment benefit when dropping that customer from peak. So then we can basically serve that customer with the, you know, and make it equitable with how much they would have received.

Page | 33

261

Maria Gallardo 01:08:18.275 --> 01:08:22.595

Uh, so, you know, that's another, um.

262

Maria Gallardo 01:08:23.799 --> 01:08:37.145

I guess recourse that we have currently uh, okay, Martha saying that these are people getting maximum benefit for both utilities and that their budget bills are are very high.

263

Maria Gallardo 01:08:42.365 --> 01:08:48.545

Yeah, uh, so, yeah, so, you know.

264

Maria Gallardo 01:08:50.645 --> 01:09:11.734

Definitely, you know, the, this is, you know, I, I guess I good good examples to, you know, I guess, keep the conversation. So, you know, Martha, if you have any also any suggestions on what exactly. Deal with these situations where, you know, more, you know, very happy to.

265

Maria Gallardo 01:09:12.214 --> 01:09:32.825

To the leaders and continue the discussion, because we recognize that definitely there are a segment of the population that the situation could happen in some cases. A true up, you know, like you were saying, could not be already, depending on the time of the year, particularly they may have already received a big chunk of.

266

Maria Gallardo 01:09:32.890 --> 01:09:40.595

For benefits, so they have too much left against their amount at that time. So.

267

Maria Gallardo 01:09:46.984 --> 01:10:03.574

So, yeah, my my thought, we can definitely have a further discussion with you guys, you know, off the line and, you know, Kathy as well. So, you know, if you have any particularly suggestions on these ones, we, we appreciate your your thoughts too.

268

david wortman 01:10:10.804 --> 01:10:13.534

Okay, any other conversation on that.

269

david wortman 01:10:19.744 --> 01:10:28.024

Page | 34

Maria, uh, for the other business, um, who, uh, is that am I talking about that?

270

Maria Gallardo 01:10:30.364 --> 01:10:30.904

Yes.

271

Maria Gallardo 01:10:35.524 --> 01:10:45.334

So, yes, so I think for the, for the goal of that 1 was more about bringing everyone, uh.

272

david wortman 01:10:45.334 --> 01:10:45.904

Awareness.

273

Maria Gallardo 01:10:46.024 --> 01:10:54.154

They're not aware and we provided, uh, you know, key points to, to share with everyone about those various inspirational.

274

Maria Gallardo 01:10:54.934 --> 01:10:59.554

Uh, you know, ask that that bill has, so I think that was the goal.

275

david wortman 01:10:59.584 --> 01:11:15.814

Okay, yeah, so it is good to, to just watch what happens in Washington and, you know, the, I would say the likelihood of this becoming law is not great, but it shows just the discussion that is.

276

david wortman 01:11:15.820 --> 01:11:36.965

Going on in Washington, uh, the heating and cooling relief act, uh, that was introduced, I believe by Senator marquee. I think, uh, but it's aspirational, I think is the good word. It would greatly expand the program and, uh, we had the bullet points that were sent out.

277

david wortman 01:11:36.994 --> 01:11:37.924

Is that correct?

278

Maria Gallardo 01:11:40.384 --> 01:11:57.574

Yes, W, we send out a copy of the appeal, uh, with the pack discussion documents when we send that out, uh, last Tuesday. And then also we provided, you know, bullet points. Some of the key points, uh, to bring, you know, everyone aware of, you know what? The bill.

Page | 35

279

Maria Gallardo 01:11:58.474 --> 01:11:59.344

He's asking.

280

david wortman 01:12:00.094 --> 01:12:18.994

Yeah, so it's very early in the process of that. But, uh, you know, look it over and you can see that, uh, if anything close to this gets passed, that it would mean great changes for, uh, for our program and positive changes that would say. So, I don't have a lot other to say.

281

david wortman 01:12:19.294 --> 01:12:31.264

If anyone has questions or comments about it on my staff, or on the line, just, uh, you can come off mute and say, but it is something that we're watching but it's early in the process.

282

david wortman 01:12:36.664 --> 01:12:54.514

Okay, hearing nothing on that. Um, I will just say, uh, at close here that I, I'm not someone who by nature needs great escalation, but I expect that at least a, a array that we were getting 70Million dollars repaid.

283

david wortman 01:12:55.384 --> 01:13:02.494

And I saw nothing in the chat so you people are a hard audience that we didn't even get a, for that.

284

Larry Dawson 01:13:04.054 --> 01:13:06.904

You didn't see my, you didn't see my clapping hands there. David.

285

david wortman 01:13:09.544 --> 01:13:09.994

Yeah.

286

Kim Bond 01:13:11.704 --> 01:13:12.424

Over here.

287

david wortman 01:13:19.594 --> 01:13:36.634

I was pretty shocked myself that morning when I, when I logged on to the, uh, the comptroller's website I'm like, is what is this wrong? And I had been notified that there might be a repayment. They didn't tell me how much and when I saw that number, I was like, oh, wow so that's, uh.

Page | 36

288

david wortman 01:13:36.844 --> 01:13:50.314

Nearly 50 of what was borrowed in, from 2018 to 2020 and, um, you know, there's, there's no promise, but I've heard that that may not be the end that we may. There may be more so.

289

david wortman 01:13:53.374 --> 01:14:13.264

I didn't find, you know, this is all in the last few weeks for me it's great news for us. Uh, and, um, I do know the governor has a budget speech next year or next week, uh, next Wednesday and, um, I don't know what, you know, I don't know what his speech is, but I know that, uh, I was asked to.

290

david wortman 01:14:13.479 --> 01:14:23.044

Some of our data for that so I don't know if he'll talk about our programs, but I think it's possible. So good to know.

291

david wortman 01:14:24.934 --> 01:14:25.504

Let's see.

292

david wortman 01:14:28.234 --> 01:14:35.224

Yes, thank you. So the, the 1 last thing I would say, um, how will the utilities be notified?

293

david wortman 01:14:38.765 --> 01:14:58.595

The, um, I think Aaron, Aaron, you may be talking about the 80%. So the, and the 80 for for the group here, what that's referring to is in the energy assistance act last year, there was a, uh, a section that if we spend 80% of the.

294

david wortman 01:14:58.625 --> 01:15:19.745

Fund in a year, it triggers an increase in the meter, charge a 33% increase in the meter charge and that can be done 3 times in 3 different years to essentially double the amount. And there's the way that that was interpreted and.

295

david wortman 01:15:19.774 --> 01:15:40.894

And, um, actually, it was Stacy, a comment that, uh, brought it up in the meeting that we had with the, the way that's interpreted, uh, by the lawyers, is that the 80 refers to the amount of, uh, funding that is available in the state fund that year. And since there was a 70Million dollar repayment, I don't think that.

Page | 37

296

david wortman 01:15:40.899 --> 01:16:01.894

There's any way well, not we're not going to get to the 80%, so we will not trigger a meter charge increase this year. There won't be a meter charge increase January 1st of 23 and with the amount of funding that we have available. I think that that's reasonable there. We have.

297

david wortman 01:16:02.224 --> 01:16:06.244

Funding, so, Larry, did you want to say something.

298

Larry Dawson 01:16:06.634 --> 01:16:17.704

No, no, I was just saying, it probably is a good thing that we hold off and be able to do some gap filling. Once some of this excess funding is, uh, extended.

299

david wortman 01:16:18.004 --> 01:16:23.194

I agree and, you know, I think I think we're our program right now is in a great position.

300

david wortman 01:16:23.225 --> 01:16:44.345

Because we have now that we've actually received repayments, we can plan now with the benefit matrix level and special programs and such. We can, we can plan and given that. We know that the trigger remains in the act and that if.

301

david wortman 01:16:44.374 --> 01:17:05.284

Spend a certain amount that there will be, uh, funding available going forward, uh, we, we may be able to keep the benefit Matrix, uh, at a higher level, uh, on into the future. And I know that that's very important for planning for the agencies for them to know what the, you know, the revenue stream is likely to be. So, I think that.

302

david wortman 01:17:05.525 --> 01:17:26.375

The program is in is in good shape. So, um, yeah, we're, we're, we have a I was very worried that the fund would create kind of a bubble that we had to come down from and that it it could be disruptive for agencies and for clients, but given these repayments and given the trigger to increase the meter charge.

303

david wortman 01:17:27.034 --> 01:17:47.794

In future years, I think that we're in a position that we can continue this way, uh, indefinitely. So that's good. News. Um, the, the last thing before I open it up and see if anyone else has any comments, um, I, I do want to say this and this is kind of springing and and this is.

304

david wortman 01:17:47.799 --> 01:18:08.944

The process, but I do want to say that are working with utilities is extremely important and our communication with utilities is what makes these programs run. And if there is a danger to our communication with utilities, somehow affecting how our programs run.

305

david wortman 01:18:08.950 --> 01:18:29.885

Could be very detrimental to the functioning of our program. So I'm going I haven't we're in the process of doing this ity system rewrite and that causes coordination with utilities and it is of most important for the state.

306

david wortman 01:18:30.124 --> 01:18:51.154

And the utilities to be on the same page, so, for the utility, uh, reps that are on here today, uh, we have to figure this out. We have to be on the same page. So that if we do this, uh, system rewrite, we have the communication that we need. Uh, you know, we're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars that goes from, uh.

307

david wortman 01:18:51.335 --> 01:19:12.395

States on behalf of clients to the utilities and that communication is key. We, we have to get on the same page. So we'll be we'll be setting up meetings to talk about that going forward. Is there anything from the audience? Is there any other topics that people would like to bring up?

308

david wortman 01:19:12.424 --> 01:19:13.054

Discussed.

309

david wortman 01:19:18.874 --> 01:19:30.484

Okay, hearing none, uh, we'll move on so our meeting schedule the next, uh, scheduled pack meeting is, uh, in April. Larry.

310

Larry Dawson 01:19:32.584 --> 01:19:34.264

Nope, sorry I was just clearing my throat.

311

Page | 39

david wortman 01:19:34.384 --> 01:19:36.304
Okay, so the next schedule.

312

david wortman 01:19:36.514 --> 01:19:57.394

Meeting is in April however, as I mentioned, it's likely that we will be setting something up prior to that, to talk about, uh, some, something towards the end of the program year. So stay tuned for that. But next schedule meeting is in April. Uh, other than that. I would accept a motion to.

313

david wortman 01:19:57.544 --> 01:19:58.264

During the meeting.

314

kris white 01:20:01.714 --> 01:20:02.704

Moved it's Chris.

315

david wortman 01:20:03.244 --> 01:20:05.854

Thank you Chris and a 2nd.

316

david wortman 01:20:10.384 --> 01:20:13.834

I think I heard, uh, who was that Harold.

317

Harold Rice 01:20:16.504 --> 01:20:20.164

Yeah, it doesn't matter. Well, I'll 2nd, I'll go ahead and finish.

318

david wortman 01:20:20.614 --> 01:20:27.484

All right, we'll get it done. All right Thank you. Very much. Everyone. Uh, and we'll be in touch soon. Thank you for your efforts.

319

Harold Rice 01:20:27.874 --> 01:20:31.414

Yeah, David, we were so excited about the 70Million. We didn't want this to.