
Bridging Climate Change and Public Health
Energy Insecurity Workgroup Meeting
Meeting Notes – | March 25th | 2:30PM -3:30PM

Purpose of Workgroup Meeting:

1. Discuss the connection between energy insecurity and public health, climate change, and vulnerable populations through the lens of health equity.
2. Discuss the need for community and stakeholder engagement: establish the energy insecurity workgroup
3. Facilitate communication and collaboration across different community sectors

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- Welcome and agenda overview (5 mins) – Lauren
 - Update on the project and plans for the future (10 mins) – Vjollca
 - Project Priorities:
 - Raise understanding about energy insecurity and health implications, encourage engagement of stakeholders and community members, develop data-driven platform to address energy insecurity
 - Overarching goal: improve culture of health among vulnerable populations in Maricopa County
 - Phoenix energy burdens across subgroups:
 - Energy burden is defined as percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs
 - High energy burden remains a persistent challenge for some households:
 - Low-income households
 - Older adults (65+)
 - Black and Hispanic households

- Families residing in low-income multi-family housing, manufactured housing, and older buildings
 - The percentage and number of households in Phoenix with a high energy burden (>6%) in 2017
 - US households spend on average 3.1% of income on energy bills
 - Partnerships Move Us Forward
 - Convening and partnerships foster multi-sectoral conversations on energy insecurity and provide education and better understanding how of energy insecurity is experienced by Maricopa County residents
 - Q: Is there data available by legislative districts?
 - Reply: data can be made available later by zip codes
 - CCL groups meet twice a year with reps and having concrete data for their districts would be helpful
 - Mapping overlapping, intersecting indicators of access issues correlated with energy burdens, zip code, etc. will be addressed in a new tool.
 - Maybe by census tracts through a mapping tool
- Brief overview of planned workshops – Lauren and Allie (10min)
 - Introduce Allie Mcgranaghan and plans for adopting Learning and Action Alliance Framework for generating innovative, cross-sectorial solutions
 - Visioning and strategizing workshops
 - Date of Visioning Workshop TBD – likely sometime in April
 - Request to discuss stories of those impacted as well as adding legislative perspective/data
 - Helps with advocacy planning
 - Will be looking at systemic change
 - Something to consider: job creation as a win
 - Group Feedback:
 - Is this process something you would like to work towards?
 - Will this be beneficial for you in this workgroup or in your own personal work?
 - Is there anything you would want included in the workshop that was not already mentioned?
 - *Can provide feedback to these questions via email as well*
- Presentation from Unlimited Potential (20 mins) – Emma N Viera, PhD, MPH, Executive Director
 - Unlimited Potential started in 1985 as a grassroots organization
 - The energy insecurity survey was conducted in South Phoenix
 - Residents have competing costs and bills (competing priorities)

- 150 Community Health Workers work with Unlimited Potential and provide health education
 - Unlimited Potential's programs are all based on best practices
 - Energy insecurity survey administered primary by 5 Community Health Workers
 - Energy insecurity survey administered primarily over the phone
 - 142 completed surveys
 - Takeaways from completing the surveys:
 - Many residents had COVID-19 themselves or knew someone that had it
 - Need to meet the community where they're at and address THEIR needs and priorities
 - "created by the community for the community"
- Q and A (10 mins) – Diana
 - Wrap-up (5 mins) – Diana

Chat Log Notes and Additional Meeting Notes:

- The city of Phoenix is a member of the Global Covenant of Mayors and an upcoming requirement is to create an energy access plan where residents have access to secure, sustainable, and affordable energy. The process being proposed would be very beneficial to the city.
 - ACEEE actually advised on those guidelines. I do think the workshops and mapping/analytical tool will be very helpful for that.
- COVID disparities have absolutely foreshadowed the communities who will be impacted first and worst by climate change impacts.
- Sensitivity + Exposure + Ability to Adapt = Impact
- Energy insecurity as a contributor to housing
- Areas of Phoenix in low poverty zones struggle with utilities, Internet, etc. They sometimes have lower graduation rates, higher unemployment rates, etc.