



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 5.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Coordinating Committee

From: Daniel Olson, Senior Energy Efficiency Planner

Date: May 4, 2011

Re: Update on the Chicago Region Initiative for Better Buildings (CRIBB) Grant

"When it comes to saving money and growing our economy, energy efficiency isn't just low hanging fruit; it's fruit laying on the ground." This quote from Energy Secretary Steven Chu succinctly portrays the current state of affairs surrounding efforts related to building energy efficiency and increasing consumer understanding of and participation in home or business-related energy retrofits. Recent studies have indicated that energy consumed by buildings accounts for 61 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the northeastern Illinois region, and 70 percent in Chicago, which is twice the energy consumed by comparable buildings in the Midwest. The 2008 Chicago Climate Action Plan called for retrofitting 400,000 residential housing units to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020 though current capacity can retrofit only 8,900 units a year. Many communities throughout the seven-county CMAP region have similar goals, but are trying to address them in a time of unprecedented financial and resource challenges. Promoting retrofit programs was a priority recommendation in GO TO 2040.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Chicago Region Initiative for Better Buildings, or CRIBB, is one of the 25 BetterBuildings Initiative projects totaling \$452 million awarded nationally in April 2010. The program represents the competitive portion of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) and consists of a regional collaboration led by the CMAP in partnership with the City of Chicago and support from the City of Rockford and other local and regional stakeholders. CRIBB utilizes the \$25-million grant award to fund three major initiatives designed to mitigate the barriers to energy efficiency retrofitting activities across multiple building sectors in the northeastern Illinois region:

1. Access to comprehensive information (\$6.55 million)
2. Access to functional finance tools (\$15.75 million)
3. Access to a trained workforce (\$200,000)

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During the initial three-year period of the grant, CRIBB looks to retrofit at least 8,000 units, leverage more than \$125 million in local investments, and create more than 2,000 jobs. The goal is to develop a sustainable framework that will lead to market transformation and ongoing retrofits way beyond the three-year grant period. Since being awarded the grant, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT Energy) was selected as the implementation agency for the program in October 2010 and has been working with the CRIBB partnership to design an effective program offering that is within the three distinct initiatives mentioned above. The program has also been heavily involved in a competitive procurement phase reviewing and selecting appropriate organizations to develop and carry out varying aspects of the program. Beginning in June 2011, with additional roll-out envisioned during the summer and fall of 2011, the CRIBB program will begin a bringing the programs associated with these recent procurement selections online, including:

- A new and dynamic program name with associated outreach and marketing campaigns to the general public as well as six-targeted pilot communities across the region geared at increasing energy efficiency awareness
- A comprehensive, web-based Information System for consumers across all building sectors to serve as a single, user-friendly resource of energy efficiency information
- Multiple financing options for consumers based on their building sector type; including multifamily, single-family residential, and commercial/industrial
- A workforce intermediary and contractor services effort that will match up skilled labor with appropriate energy efficiency work as well as provide soft-skills training and customer service information to currently existing contractors.

An overview and update of the program will be presented at your meeting. For more information, please refer to <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/energy> or contact Dan Olson at dolson@cmap.illinois.gov.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

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