


VQA Institute
Accessing Government Funds
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Presented by
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Presentation Overview

- Overview of Energy Outreach Colorado
- Resource Generation Goals
- Successes in “Innovative” Funding
- What have we achieved?
- Questions?

Energy Outreach Colorado

- Statewide Fuel Fund
- Founded in 1989
- Will raise close to \$15 million in 2007-08
- Since 1989, raised over \$100 Million
- Built \$24 Million in reserves
- Programs: bill payment assistance, energy efficiency projects, energy education and advocacy

Organizational Goals

- Generate a permanent revenue stream for low-income energy assistance in Colorado
- Maximize funding from current revenue streams that resulted from advocacy efforts
 - Mandatory utility bill check-off program
 - Unclaimed deposits and refunds
 - Regulatory settlements
- Generate innovative funding resources

Permanent Source of Funding

- Focused effort began in 2000
- Opt out legislation vetoed in May 2004
- Passed Voluntary Check Off bill in 2005
- EOC published a Report to the Community in December 2005 identifying a \$21 million funding gap; Held Energy Forums
- January 2006 HB 1200 – first bill passed in the session generating \$60 million for the next four years (source: severance tax funds)
- May 2008 – extension of funding through 2012
- Funds for LiHEAP, EOC and weatherization programs

Funding through Advocacy Efforts

- Regulatory Activities – Public Utilities Commission
 - Intervention in Rate Cases
 - Intervention in Utility Mergers
 - Participation in Rule Making – collection processes, etc.
 - Fines from utility noncompliance
- Legislative Activities
 - Unclaimed Utility Deposits and Refunds
 - Natural Gas Deregulation (not currently active in Colorado)
 - Creation of voluntary system benefit charge – the Low Income Energy Assistance Act

Innovative Funding

- Reacting to New Energy Economy in Colorado
- Community Foundation Partnership – funded pilot project for Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Program (NEEP) - \$150,000
- Franchise fees from City of Denver - \$1 million/year for NEEP
- Utility DSM - \$700,000 potential in 2008-09
- Unclaimed LiHEAP – built into vendor agreement
- Partnership with Governor’s Energy Office – linking energy assistance and energy efficiency – Energy Saving Kits - \$125K/year

How? - Increased Staff Resources for Advocacy

- Deputy Director regularly participates in advocacy coalition meetings
- State level legislation is closely monitored
- Work with contract lobbyists
- Executive Director kept informed and commits time to testify at the Public Utilities Commission and the legislature
- Publish and release annual advocacy report
- Increased budget for advocacy efforts

Strong Partnerships are Key

- Governor's Office and key legislators
- All Colorado utilities including investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities and cooperative electric associations
- Environment Colorado and other environmental groups
- Colorado Oil and Gas Association, IPAMS, Mining
- AARP
- Colorado Catholic Conference and other faith-based groups
- Other low-income advocates – hunger, healthcare

Participating Member of Many Coalitions

- Housing Colorado! – Affordable Housing
- Colorado Nonprofit Association
- Colorado Social Legislation Committee
- All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition
- Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
- Metro Denver Anti-Hunger Network
- 9 to 5 Association of Working Women
- Tenants Rights and Action Coalition
- Several faith-based coalitions

Funding Historically

- Unclaimed Deposits/Escheats - \$150,000/year
 - Decreasing as deposit policies change
- Unclaimed Refunds/Settlements - \$25,000 – \$2 Million/year – very volatile funding
 - Now part of utilities' regulatory process
- Unclaimed LEAP - \$60,000/year
 - Built into LiHEAP Vendor Agreement

What have we achieved recently?

- Legislation
 - Utility Bill Check off - \$2 million/year statewide
 - Severance taxes - \$90 million 2006-2012
 - EOC gets \$3 million for cash assistance; \$500K for efficiency
- Regulatory
 - Customer late fees - \$6.5 million/year
- Other
 - Franchise fees - \$1 million/year



Questions?



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