

EAP meeting minutes:

Steve Tower, Karen Emis-Williams, Don Kreis, Sue Corson, Valerie, Jessica Arnold, John B, Theresa W, Roger Colton, Amanda, Gary

Three charts

Usage subject to discount – data from Eversource and NHEC; matched to the data from the CAAs. Not everything was a perfect match, not a surprise.

365 consecutive days of EAP participation

365 consecutive days between October 2020 and September 2021 (gave an entire heating season)

*anyone active on EAP in April 2022 and who had 365 consecutive days of EAP participation (population likely to use)

Used the other two populations to look for outliers or irregularities. Nothing jumped out.

- 1) Review of 750 kWh limit -is it reasonable?
 - a. Do not need to change the usage cap
 - b. Not an insignificant slice of the EAP population (800 kWh or more) DonK
 - i. But even in 80th percentile of usage, 9 of 20 months are below 750 kWh cap
 - c. Steve – months above are winter heating months and summer cooling month with summer months less than winter months. Can we break out the tiers for the customers in the 80th percentile and above?
 - i. Roger did break out by tier – will send it to everyone
- 2) Bill Burdens
 - a. Reviewing possible changes to the discounts and to the kWh cap
 - i. Distributed the burdens in 5% ranges, starting at 0 and going up to 150%. Can identify how many EAP participants fall into the ranges.
 1. Averages are what the program is based on – Q is are the averages still making sense
 2. Given the kWh cap and the discounts, the average bill burden are in line with goal except for tier 6
 - a. Not real bad but is troubling when dig into the tiers.
 - b. PUC specifically asked if there should be a redistribution
 - i. Just not a lot of give in the upper tiers and the lower tiers
 - ii. And we no longer have money to spend...to change the discounts
 - c. Played with the tiers discounts and the kWh cap to see how to balance out and have no monetary impact on the fund – if simply increase tier 6 to reduce the burden, then are creating more spending
 - d. Inclination is to change the discounts but not the usage

- i. The things that jump out are both the top and the bottom. Is a 3% discount so low that people won't bother to apply? That its not meaningful? Do we need to keep it at 5% to be meaningful? And is 85% so high that it crosses over the reasonableness line?
 - ii. Discussion among advisory board members about discount changes – where should the focus be the tier 6 or providing a discount that is considered meaningful for tier 2.
 - 1. RC – should the eligibility be changed?
 - 2. Just eliminate tier 2
 - a. Amanda – could not support eliminating the whole tier; lots of nodding from utilities and NHLWAA.
 - b. Steve – waffling
 - c. Roger – won't eliminate
 - e. What about 725 kWh and 5% and 85%?
- 3) Impact of rate hikes – what it would cost the program to eliminate the price increase (for Eversource)
- a. Dollar amounts only represent the amount needed to pay the entire cost of the increased energy service rate increases – number in green is the cost in “extra benef12 months of data
 - i. Monthly total usage * (new rate-old rate) – irrespective of the discount. Is understated because is just the sample population not the entire EAP population
 - ii. Is a lot of money
 - iii. No money to add arrears forgiveness
- 4) Arrearages
- a. First two pages are the distribution of arrears by month and average arrearages
 - b. Last page is the new information reflective of the ERAP effect “big payment” each month
 - c. Looked at for Eversource and NHEC - numbers are not additive. SO the more than 250 is more than 250 but less than 500. Don't know how to adjust for that, just has to be taken into account.
 - d. Utilities have no data about the total of ERAP payments received; could look at the website to see the dollars that went to utilities from ERAP
- 5) Discussion of August 11 hearing – Advisory Board with exception of the OCA is onboard with moving the date from October 3 to September 23. Recommendation on budgets from the Advisory Board by end of August – Advisory Board with exception of OCA.