

Empowerment Grant Program Report

Empowerment Grant Powered by The Energy Equity Fund Overview –

The Empowerment Grant continues to gain momentum and shows true impact. As we move into our 4th year we will be finalizing the the Delmarva Power funded portion of the Empowerment Grant in 2023. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) portion of our the Empowerment Grant will be completing the first year of funding with the HELP Initiative. The Empowerment Grant powered by the Energy Equity Fund committed \$2 million over the next three years for Energy Resilient and Healthy Homes, partnering with Habitat of NCC, Sussex and Milford Housing Development. Next, the DESEU Board approved \$2 million a year over the next three years to sustain the Empowerment Grant. Additional fundraising in under way to match that amount over the next three years.



The Empowerment Grant has awarded Donna Robbins in Sussex County with a new roof installation and energy efficiency measures, totally \$25,000, through the partnership with Roofs from the Heart Foundation and G. Fedale. The Roof and Resilient Homes Grant provides families with completely new roof installations and energy efficiency measures funded by Energize Delaware’s Home Performance Program. For more information on this opportunity, visit RoofsFromTheHeart.org.

The Empowerment Grant has completed the first Empower Efficiency Grant with Elsmere Volunteer Fire Company in New Castle County. The Fire Company was awarded \$74,704 to install LED lightning units on the second floor, mezzanine level, social hall, and hallways, replace a refrigerator and freezer with energy efficient appliances, and remove two oil fed furnaces after recently fuel switching to gas. For more information, please visit our website, “Like” us on Facebook, and Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. www.EmpowerGrantDE.org



Activity Table

November - December 2022						
Grant Category	Applications	Approved	In Review	Completed	Data Evaluation	Funding to Date
Ecosystem and Neighborhood	9	3	4	0	0	*\$1,950,000
Efficiency and Planning	6	0	1	1	1	\$74,7404
Roofs from the Heart	7	1	4	0	0	\$25,000
Empowerment-Delmarva	0	0	0	8	4	*\$3,312,995

*Three Year Grant Commitment to three organization-Energy Resilient and Healthy Homes

* 12 Grants funded through December 2023

Energy Access and Equity Collaborative

The Energy Access and Equity Collaborative provides feedback, guidance, recommendations, and reporting to the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council involving underserved communities and marginalized groups as it relates to energy justice and equity. The Collaborative’s membership is led by Energize Delaware’s Empowerment Grant Program. Members are recruited from the Empowerment Grant Advisory Council and will be supplemented by DNREC’s Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC) to reflect a diverse mix from across the state of Delaware that is diverse demographically, geographically as well as from industry sectors impacted by energy.

Meetings will held quarterly prior to the Full EEAC meeting and will report out on discussions and activities to the full council.

Objectives:

- a. Identify the root causes of energy inefficiency in Low-Income Communities
- b. Recommend ways to maximize energy efficiency resources.
- c. Provide a framework to leverage partnerships.
- d. Stress the importance of focusing on vulnerable populations.
- e. Emphasize broad community outreach.
- f. Recommend effective training and education resources.
- g. Monitor and advise on the success and failure of low-income initiatives.
- h. Support the sustainability of those low-income initiatives that work.
- i. Promote STEM based curriculum as an integral part of outreach activities to children and their parents.
- j. Advise and recommend effective methods for engaging and articulating those individuals without a voice who are marginalized and underrepresented in Low-Income Communities.
- k. Establish a framework for data monitoring and analysis based on prescribed data sets/points (i.e., Community Vitality, Education, Environment & Infrastructure, Financial Health & Wealth, Housing, Job Creation, Public Safety and Transportation) that are directly relevant to root causes of energy inefficiencies.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding - Integrated energy efficiency and home health interventions directly address LMI Communities.

- 1. Economic Stability (ease energy burden, create job opportunities.
- 2. Healthy and Safe Housing and Communities.
- 3. Abatement of hazards in housing and community

ARPA Services in coordination with HELP Initiative -

Target 600 Households-Statewide

- Home energy consumption evaluation, measurement, and recommendations at no cost to low-income residents
- Coordination and implementation of higher-efficiency home lighting, heating and weatherization programs
- Population education to better understand the reasons behind high energy usage and how behavioral traits contribute to energy usage and energy bills
- Identification of in-home hazards that may impact the health and safety of residents
- Increased access to youth vocational training programs and job opportunities
- Reduced dependence on social-service-based program

ARPA Budget:

Quarterly obligations	\$ 312,500.00
Quarterly Expenditures	\$ 336,817.76
Total Obligations	\$ 2,500,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,032,359.55
Total Remaining	\$ 1,467,64.50
Report Period	10/1/2022 - 12/31/2022