

GUIDELINES FOR AN EQUITABLE HOME ENERGY REBATE PROGRAM

Eligibility

- Ensure 100% of the costs up to program limits will be covered for low-income applicants
- Keep these programs open to single-family and multi-family units
- Reserve at least 40% of funds for low-income communities to align with Justice 40
- Determine final eligibility by consulting community-based organizations or service providers

Stacking Programs

- Use a centralized website for information on rebates and other federal incentives
- Do not disqualify individuals from the rebate programs if they take advantage of Duke Energy's customer programs
- Provide clear guides for consumers to stack programs to save money and to access low-interest loans from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Community Education

- Publicize that low- and moderate-income residents will get upgrades at little to no cost
- Advertise that these rebates, combined with the Weatherization Assistance Program, can prepare homes for solarization through the Solar for All program
- Clarification of the planning period to expand robust community outreach and address potential challenges with this outreach
- Work with community-based nonprofits to educate consumers on equipment maintenance

Workforce Development

- Provide transparent criteria for contractors being considered for rebate-eligible projects
- Require accessibility and cultural training for all contractors
- Provide a reporting process for contractors that violate best practices (hotline, website)
- Collaborate with community-based organizations through Community Benefits
- Agreements on workforce training programs in the State's target regions
- Use funding from the state's Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants award and other funding mechanisms to expand workforce training and apprenticeships
- Maximize the opportunities and limit the barriers for small and minority contractors

Accessibility

- Ensure that new rebate-eligible appliances will be cost competitive with used models
- Simplify the application process, including but not limited to income self-reporting
- Train nonprofits and community partners on the application process
- Educate retailers on these rebates to pass this information to consumers