

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Limited Income Housing Subgroup Meeting #3**  
**September 29, 2023**

Meeting Location: Online using Zoom.

**Attendees**

Names in bold are official Task Force members.

**Nicola Tran (DHCD)**, **Susan Miller (Earthjustice)**, Cliff Majersik (IMT), Louise Sharrow (IMT), Cindy Osorto (MDE), **Joshua Galloway (New Ecology)**, Ashita Gona (RMI), Raymond Nevo (NHT), Jeremy Good (Montgomery County DEP), Justin Barry (GHHI), Tyler Pullen (Maryland Environmental Service), Anthony Crane, Rebecca Price, **Carol Ott** (Economic Action MD), Nikki Kuhn (VEIC, consultant to MD OPC), Ben Adams (MaGrann), Khalid Malik (GEMM COMM), Jose Coronado-Flores (CASA)

**Introductions**

- Key takeaway from full Task Force meeting: Focus on funding mechanisms
- [Green and Healthy Task Force](#) is tasked with finding funding sources and budget for weatherizing all low income homes by 2031 and could use the data from that group for this purpose
- Goal for today is to get to consensus, more than bringing up new ideas

**Recommendations**

- Weatherization
  - Discussion: Change from “Weatherization” to “Whole Building Retrofit and Decarbonization” to reflect others retrofit components e.g health and to reflect national language
  - Discussion around DHCD one-stop via MEA Hub: trying not to get too decentralized. Hub would be first point of contact and channel folks to DHCD
  - Discussion: making very clear that affordable housing includes unsubsidized housing. Potential for referencing “resiliency” as well
  - Cindy: MEA has hired one person for the Hub and do not currently have funding to grow that but is open to ideas around the Hub
- Prioritization
  - Discussion around defining decarbonization more broadly - health, resilience, etc
  - Need to address cost-shifting
  - Consider referencing new construction program certification standards
  - Agreement that retrofits need more support than new construction, should be more prioritized
  - Removal of bullet around analysis since no consensus or strong interest
  - Inclusion of money for soft costs like ASHRAE audits, in general early-cycle support as well as non-equipment costs like panel upgrades and technical assistance
  - Agreement to remove calling out historic buildings specifically
  - Change recommendation about North Star target to reference Green and Health Task Force and change their goal from “weatherization” to “decarbonize” and that it should align with state climate plan and timeline

- State Programs
  - Staffing: we can be more definitive about staffing needs. Recommend “navigator” role but move it to one-stop-shop, make it plural
  - Hub recc: move this to the last bullet of the one-stop shop to reflect the connection between Hub and one-stop-shop
  - Medicaid: does anyone beyond GHFI have strong feelings about this? Put this aside for now? Agreement on that.
    - For reference:
      - [https://earthjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/20230123\\_marylandreport.pdf](https://earthjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/20230123_marylandreport.pdf)
      - Appendix B, on health funds, pg 22
    - Maryland is already acting on lead with the Healthy Homes Healthy Kids Program and may consider a new pathway to support Medicaid being used for decarbonization linked with health benefits.
  - Phasing out subsidies: make clear that we want to redirect to electrification. Keep STRIDE example but strike anything form comments
  - Agreement on changing “consider” to “do”
- Other
  - Lots of discussion around workforce development. Need to hold contractors accountable to requirements, reference existing programs and requirements like Justice40 and WIOA. State funding needed for this aspect and not just funding buildings. “Community benefits” language.
  - Suggestion to connect with manufacturers on workforce
  - Need some research from AECOM on specifics
  - Need to clarify bullet - this is mainly about getting contractors FROM LI community, less about making sure LI community is being served by contractors
- AECOM tasks
  - Workforce \$\$ and examples
  - \$\$ from phasing out fossil
- Additional
  - Suggestion: let’s be bold. Perhaps a new state income tax for higher income households could generate a bunch of money (not very politically friendly)
  - Make sure multifamily isn’t excluded because of metering configuration, utility customer class, building type, system type