

My name is Peter Wingate, I am the co-chair of the Massachusetts Energy Directors Association and Energy Director for Community Action Pioneer Valley located in Greenfield. Community Action runs Liheap, also known as fuel assistance, and energy efficiency and heating system repair and replace programs for Hampshire and Franklin counties.

I'm here to talk just a little bit about the programs available to lower income households in Massachusetts.

Community Action serves around 7,500 households with fuel assistance funds and provides a combination of energy efficiency services and heating system repairs and replacements to approximately 1,800 lower income homes per year. The energy efficiency services include direct installation of energy efficient lighting, replacement of high energy using appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, AC's, dehumidifiers, and washing machines. We also provide full scale weatherization, heating system repairs and replacements, and the installation of mini split heat pumps. Community Action works with dozens of private contractors to provide these services. These private contractors are the backbone of the work that gets done and the programs we run help create and maintain good jobs for these skilled workers.

My agency is just one of 21 in Massachusetts providing these services. While some of our funding is federal, much of the efficiency work is funded by our utility companies. Across all of Massachusetts this network of agencies spent about \$30 million in 2017 in single family homes and over \$100 million combined in single family and multifamily energy efficiency. In 2017 around 20,000 lower income families received efficiency services.

Who do we serve?

Homes owners

Renters

Elders

Working families

Veterans

What type of housing do we work on?

Mobile homes

Every conceivable type of single family, duplex, and larger homes.

We also serve large multifamily buildings - including many here in Springfield and throughout western Massachusetts.

For seven years in a row Massachusetts has had the distinction of being number 1 in the nation in energy efficiency per capita. We are proud to be part of that and continue to look into ways to provide yet greater savings to even more households each year.

The priority point system based on demographics of household members mentioned in earlier testimony is required for federally funded DOE work, that priority system is not part of the Massachusetts utility sponsored energy programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.