

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Energy Rebates Program

Stakeholder Engagement Webinar – Overview and Timeline

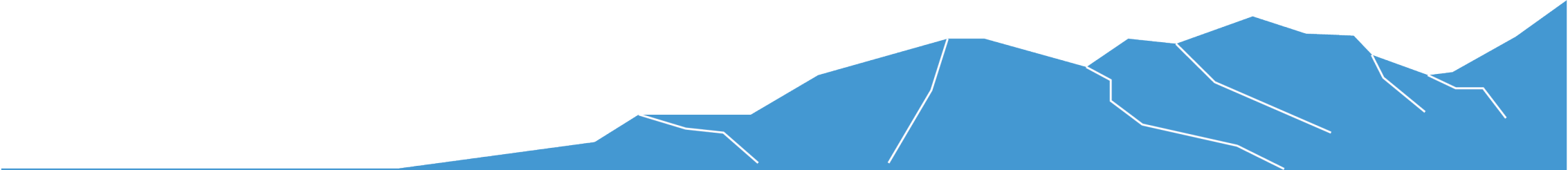
Community Listening Session



Welcome

Your engagement and feedback is very important to us!

Questions:

- Feel free to raise questions anytime throughout the presentation via the Q&A.
 - We will respond to your questions after the presentation during the Feedback session.
 - A current list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are available on the Montana Program Website – mtenergyrebates.com.
 - A feedback survey will be provided, and we encourage you to participate.
 - Feedback survey responses will inform the continued planning development of program details to prepare for the program launch.
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Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Team**
- **Overview of Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates Program**
 - **MT Home Efficiency Rebate (HER) Program**
 - **MT Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) Program**
- **Program Design and Implementation**
 - Plan Phase
 - DOE Plan Review and Approval
 - Program Process Overview
- **Q&A**
- **Feedback Survey**

Introduction and Roles



MT DEQ

- Committed to fostering affordable, stable, and reliable energy solutions
- Supports the development of a comprehensive and balanced energy policy, enhancing a diverse portfolio of energy resources
- Works together with stakeholders and partners in private industry, non-governmental organizations, tribes, the public, and local governments to protect the environment

HORNE

- Serves as program implementer for MT Home Energy Rebates program
- Provides start to finish administration and oversight of the program for Montana residents
- Consumer outreach and education and marketing efforts to recruit program participants
- Workforce development

Community

- Feedback – provide feedback to refine our processes, especially the residents in your communities.
- Program Awareness and Education & Outreach to your communities.
- Identify potential barriers.

IRA Home Energy Rebates Program Overview

- \$8.8 billion in DOE Home Energy Rebates program via Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
- Montana has been allocated \$71 million for Home Energy Rebates.
- MT Rebates assist residents in reducing energy costs through energy efficiency improvements.
- IRA rebate funds are expected to provide rebates to 1-2% of households nationwide.

Home Energy Rebates

50121 Home Efficiency Rebates (HER)	Whole home energy conservation projects.
50122 Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program (HEAR)	Encourages adoption of energy electrical saving appliances.

MT Home Energy Rebates Program Overview

	Home Efficiency Rebates Allocation (50121)	Home Electrification & Appliance Rebates Allocation (50122)	Total Home Energy Rebates Allocation (50121 & 50122)
Montana's Allocation	\$35,692,560.00	\$35,484,830.00	\$71,177,390.00

Eligible Properties

Single Family

A building that contains at least one but not more than two dwelling units that have independent mechanical systems (e.g., heating, cooling, water heating, and ventilation) for each dwelling unit – including manufactured and mobile homes.

Multifamily

Single building containing at least two dwelling units used for residential purposes.

Home Efficiency Rebate (HER) Program

Focus: Achieve energy savings goals through whole-home retrofits.

Eligible Upgrades:

- Whole-Home Retrofits: Includes air sealing, insulation, and retrofits for the installation of heat pump HVAC system, heat pump water heaters and other energy efficiency improvements.
- Eligible retrofits will include weatherization, space heating and cooling, and water heating, and other measures.
- All energy efficiency measures and upgrades must be installed by program approved contractors.

Program Target Group:

- Applicable to both single-family and multi-family residential units.
- Rebates are available to households of any income.
- All homes receiving rebates must complete a home energy assessment.
- A minimum allocation of 40% must be reserved for low-income households.
- A minimum allocation of 10% must be reserved for low-income multi-family households.

Rebate Details:

- Designed to make energy-efficient improvements to the envelope and other areas of the home more accessible to those who benefit most.

Home Appliance Rebate Program (HEAR)

Focus: Maximum rebate amounts for Energy Efficient appliances and upgrades.

Eligible Appliance and Equipment Upgrades:

- High-Efficiency Equipment: Includes heat pump water heaters, space, heating and cooling heat pumps, stoves, and clothes dryers.
- Electrical Upgrades: Eligibility extends to electrical system enhancements such as service load centers/panels, and electrical wiring.

Program Target Group:

- Tailored specifically for low- and moderate-income households (<150% of Area Median Income).
- Applicable to both single-family and multi-family residential units.
- A limited energy audit is required for installation of electric heat pump for space heating/cooling.
- A minimum allocation of 40% must be reserved for low-income households.
- A minimum allocation of 10% must be reserved for low-income multi-family households.

Rebate Details

- Designed to make energy-efficient appliances and upgrades more accessible to those who benefit most.

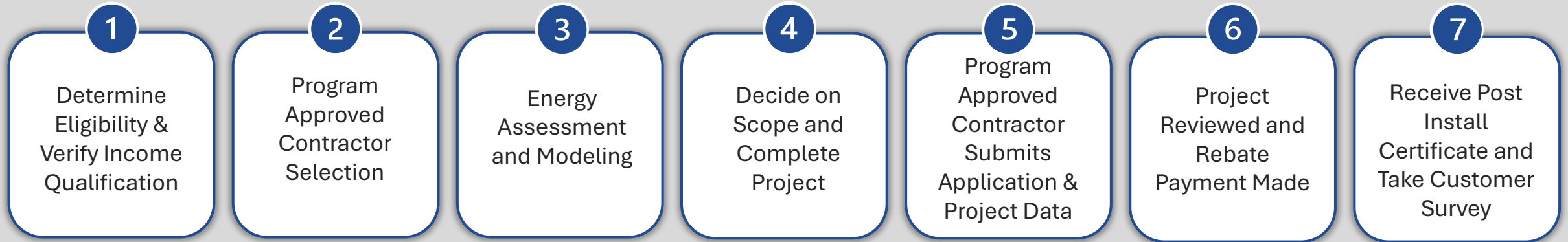
Home Energy Rebate Amounts

DOE Guidance:

IRA Provision Number	Type of Home Energy Project	Maximum Allowed Rebate Amount Per Household Below 80% Area Median Income (AMI)	Maximum Allowed Rebate Amount Per Household Above 80% Area Median Income (AMI)
Section 50121	HER Project with at least 20% predicted energy savings	100% of project costs, up to \$5,000 (whichever is less)	50% of project costs, up to \$2,000 (maximum of \$200,000 for a multifamily building)
Section 50121	HER Project with at least 35% predicted energy savings	80% of project costs, up to \$8,000 (whichever is less)	50% of project costs, up to \$4,000 (maximum of \$400,000 for a multifamily building)
Section 50122	HEAR Project Qualified Technologies (only households with an income below 150% AMI are eligible)	100% of project costs up to technology cost maximums; up to \$14,000	50% of project costs, up to technology cost maximums; up to \$14,000 (households with incomes above 150% AMI are not eligible)

Disclaimer – rebate amounts change as determined by DOE and MT Energy Office Bureau

MT Home Energy Rebates Program Process



- Montana residents and contractors will be able to apply to the program through an easy-to-use online customer portal
- Approved contractor model with baseline technical proficiency training, rebate program administrative orientation around contractor roles, and a formalized QA/QC process

Income Qualification & Documentation Requirements

HER Program – 80% AMI qualifies applicant for additional rebates

HEAR Program – 150% AMI qualification to participate in program



Documents that the MT Home Energy Rebates program may use to verify income include:

- IRS 1040 Form
- Employer W-2 for each member of the Household
- Proof of Residence



Categorical Eligibility:

- DOE requires that states, “allow categorical eligibility determinations based on other federal programs that meet the income thresholds.”
- Categorical eligibility means that by participating in certain other federal programs, applicants can avoid having to demonstrate that they are income eligible, and under certain circumstances a whole low-income multifamily building can automatically qualify as eligible without having to income-verify every tenant in the building.

Income Verification & Documentation Requirements

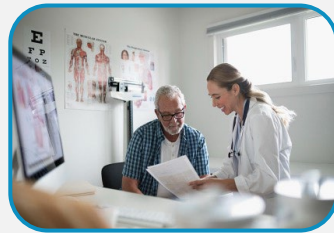
Categorical Eligibility – Documentation of Participation in MT Based Programs Below



Montana
Weatherization
Assistance Program
(WAP)



Montana Low Income
Energy Assistance
Program (LIEAP)



Medicaid



Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program
(SNAP)



Temporary Assistance
for Needy Families
(TANF)



National School Lunch
Program – Free (NSLP)



Head Start



Lifeline Support for
Affordable
Communications
(Lifeline)



Housing Improvement
Program (HIP)



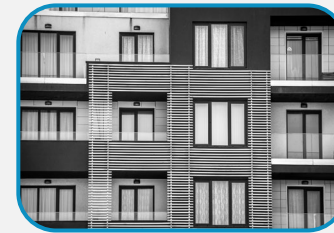
Food Distribution
Program on Indian
Reservations (FDPIR)



Supplemental Security
Income (SSI)



Privately owned
multifamily buildings
receiving project-based
assistance (Section 8,
Section 202, Section
811)



Public Housing (housing
owned and operated by
Public Housing
Authorities)



Special Supplemental
Nutrition Program for
Women, Infants, and
Children (WIC)

Qualified Contractor Selection

- Statewide workforce development is a primary initiative of the MT Home Energy Rebates program and an opportunity for contractors in your communities
- Development of a qualified contractor network for programs is key to success
- Program contractors will need to complete training and present proof of relevant certifications to become a qualified contractor
- Program qualified contractors will conduct comprehensive Home Energy Assessments and energy modeling using Building Performance Institute (BPI) 2400 energy-modeling software with participating households
- A report is generated for the program participant which details recommended upgrades, potential energy-savings, available rebates, and customer co-pay



Identify Scope and Complete Project

- All energy efficiency measures and upgrades must be installed by program qualified contractors
- Through the Home Energy Assessment, the Program Approved Contractor identifies scope of work and provides a project quote to the customer

Eligible Upgrades	
HER Program	Whole-Home Retrofits: Includes air sealing, insulation, and retrofits for the installation of heat pump HVAC system, heat pump water heaters and other energy efficiency improvements.
HEAR Program	Includes heat pump water heaters, space, heating and cooling heat pumps, stoves, and clothes dryers. Electrical Upgrades: Eligibility extends to electrical system enhancements such as service load centers/panels, and electrical wiring.

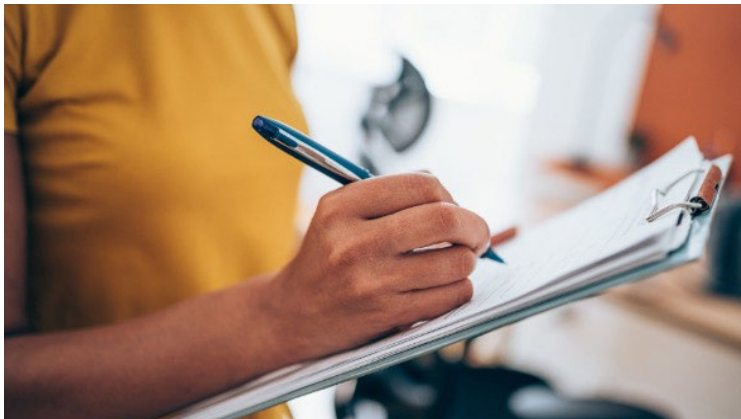
- Customer makes decision to move forward with identified upgrades
- Approved contractor completes the project and submits project completion data to program

Project Review and Rebate Payment



Program Implementer reviews all completed projects, including:

- Review of an itemized project invoice that is completed and submitted by qualified program contractors
- Verification that all equipment and materials meet MT Home Energy Rebate specifications
- Confirmation of final rebate amount to be paid
- Authorization of rebate payment



Quality Control

- First five projects completed by each qualified contractor receive a post-install inspection
- Thereafter, 5% of projects completed by each qualified contractor will receive post-install inspections

Rebates are paid within 30-days of project completion

Post Install Certificate and Customer Survey

Participating homes will receive a post-install certificate following these criteria:

- Certificate is to be completed and certified by a qualified third party.
- Is to be provided to the household.
- Details the work performed, equipment and materials installed, projected energy savings or energy generation to support accurate valuation of the upgrade

Participating customers will receive an email and link to a customer satisfaction survey

For tracking purposes, a system for collecting and responding to consumer feedback will:

- Allow households to file complaints, concerns, and issues directly to the implementer(s) (e.g., a consumer hotline and/or email)
- Contain procedures for addressing negative feedback, including how programs will communicate the feedback to affected contractors or aggregators.
- Include a requirement that a consumer satisfaction survey be sent to the household within one month of the project completion date

Montana Home Energy Rebates Program Impact

Goals and Benefits of the Program

- Maximize number of households served saving money on energy.
- Scaling access to energy efficient upgrades.
- Reduce energy burden for low- and middle-income households.
- Cost Savings and Affordability.
- Enhance Quality of Life.
- Workforce Development.
- Reducing indoor and outdoor air pollution.

Justice 40 Initiative

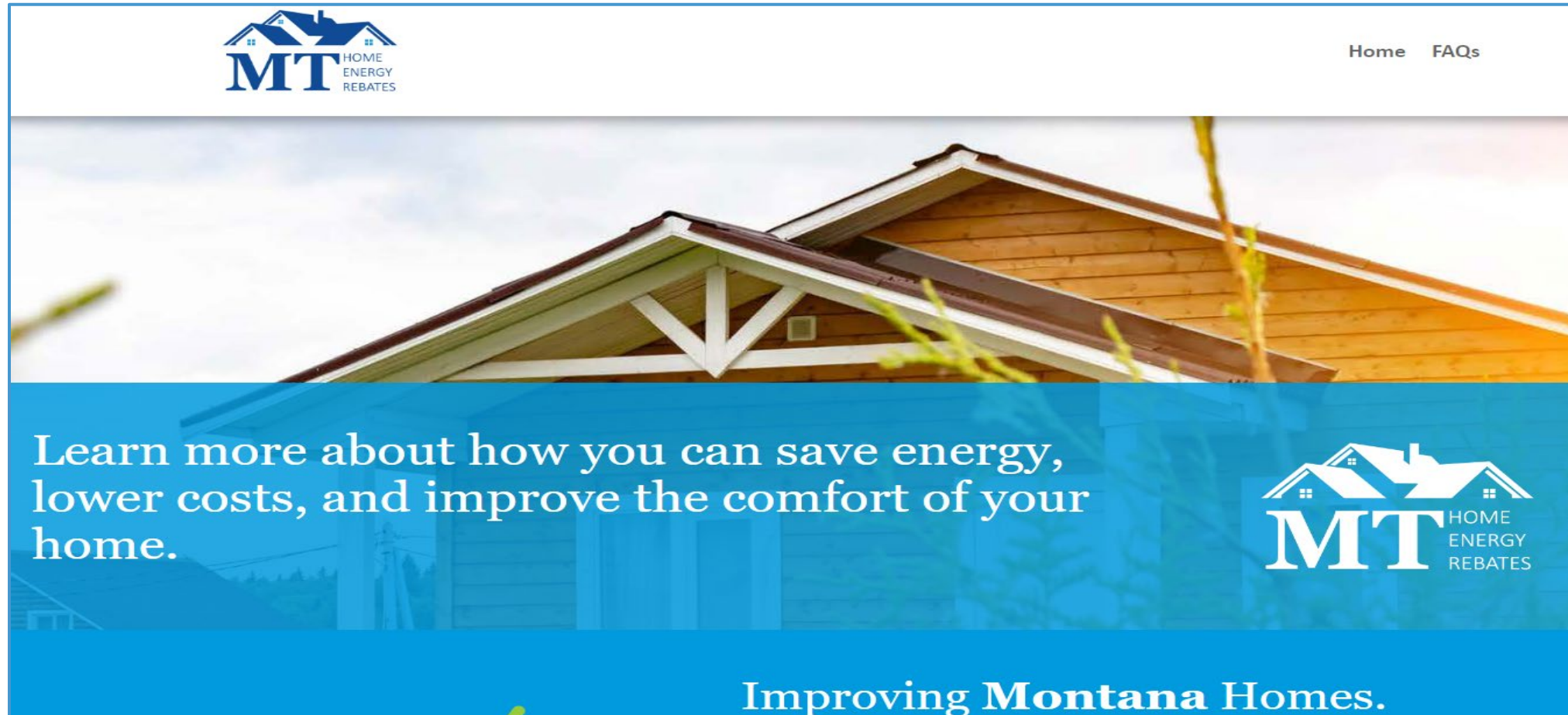
Purpose:

Aims to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (DACs).

Overview of Key Priorities:

- Decreasing the energy and environmental burdens on DACs while increasing their access to clean energy and decision-making processes.
- Increase clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals in DACs.

MT Home Energy Rebates Program – Public-Facing Website



Home FAQs

Learn more about how you can save energy, lower costs, and improve the comfort of your home.

Improving **Montana** Homes.

- Includes FAQ and Email sign-up for program updates
- <https://mtenergyrebates.com>

**We are dedicated to building an excellent program
experience from start to completion**

Your feedback is crucial to this process

Please complete this brief feedback survey

Community Listening Session Feedback Survey

Thank You for Your Time and Participation!



Informational Materials

