



# Market Development Initiative Support



#### THERESA COLLINS, CEO

SENIOR SERVICES PLUS, INC. ALTON, IL



#### **Overall Workforce Challenges**

SYMPOSI#M

- Qualified workers
- Awareness of energy efficiency workforce opportunities
- Training for energy efficiency workforce opportunities
- Employee retention
  - Obstacles to staying employed



#### Importance of Education



Education of what opportunities exist from trusted sources is important!

- Local colleges
- Community-based organizations
- Energy partners



#### **Partnering With Others**



Partnering with others who can provide wrap-around services is critical.

Collaborations could include:

- Energy providers
- Energy partners like SEEL
- Community-based organizations
- Community colleges



#### **Opportunities Afforded**



Opportunities that will be afforded through CEJA HUB, Navigator and Climate Works Programs:

- Skill-Specific Training
  - Could include solar, electric vehicle manufacturing, energy auditor
- Wrap-Around Services
  - Includes assistance securing resources for transportation, technology, childcare, etc.
- Educational Assistance
  - Includes tutoring, identifying other pre-requisite needs prior to being adequately prepared for skillspecific training, etc.
- Assistance Finding Employment in the Energy Efficiency Field
  - Includes assistance with completing an interview, resume writing, etc.



#### **Contact Information:**

### THERESA COLLINS, CEO

SENIOR SERVICES PLUS, INC. ALTON, IL

tcollins@seniorservicesplus.org



#### **Workforce Development**



- Provides support for jobseekers trying to find work in energy efficiency.
- Intended to reduce and remove barriers to obtaining a job.
- Introduce jobseekers to resources to prepare them for jobs in energy efficiency.
- Direct referrals to open positions within the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program that match jobseeker skillset and experience.



#### **Summer Internship Program**



- Funding provided by Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program.
- Interns are employed for 10-12 weeks, May through August.
- Interns work full-time and tasks must be related to energy efficiency.
- Assistance available to connect with jobseekers.
- Encouraged to hire interns onto staff after the internship period.
- For more information, visit **AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Internship**.



#### **Copay Assistance**



- Some small businesses that are approved for energy efficiency projects may be eligible for copay assistance.
- Copay assistance is reserved for nonprofits and diverse-owned businesses within the Ameren Illinois service territory.
- Copay amount awarded is based on need and available funding.
- Apply for copay assistance at <u>AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Copay</u>.



#### **Resource Grants**



- Available to Diverse Program Allies, Community-Based Organization Partners, Diverse Program Ally Incubator Alumni and Community Action Agencies and the contractors they work with.
- Grants are available to support business operations and should be applied to tasks and functions that relate to energy efficiency.
  - For example, a resource grant may be used to purchase equipment needed to complete energy efficiency projects or as short-term supplemental salary support for an employee.
- For more information about resource grants, contact Alex Deeb at <a href="mailto:adeeb@ameren.com">adeeb@ameren.com</a>.





#### **Questions?**

#### **ALEX DEEB**

MARKET DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
PROJECT MANAGER

ADEEB@AMEREN.COM

















### **Testimonial**



#### Agenda



- Testimonial
- Three Keys to Purpose:
  - > Power to Rise Above Challenges
  - Power of Connection
  - > Power of Accountable Stewardship





#### Power to Rise Above Challenges

- Purpose of Pastors Coalition
- Challenges Pastors were facing in Decatur, IL



#### **Power of Connection**

- Pastors Coalition partnership with Ameren Illinois
- We need each other
- There is power in unity









## The Power of Accountable Stewardship

- Help somebody else
- Speak up and reach out









#### Thank you

- Bishop James A. Wills, President and Founder of Illinois Pastors Coalition
- 217-475-2364
- Pastorwills1@aol.com







**Energy Efficiency PROGRAM** 

