### Energy Efficiency Financing in the Multifamily/Public Housing Sectors

### **Owner's Agent Services and Energy Performance Contracting**



National Association of State Energy Officials



Powering Maryland's Future

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**Enlightened Energy Consultants** 

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## **Public Housing Program**

- Established to provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, elderly, and persons with disabilities
- Approximately 1.2 million households living in public housing units
  - Managed by some 3,300 HAs
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers Federal aid to local housing agencies (HAs)
- HUD furnishes technical and professional assistance in planning, developing and managing these developments

### **EPC Marketplace Opportunities**

### Rising utility cost in Public Housing

- Americans spend \$200 billion annually to light, heat, and cool their homes
  - Of \$200 billion, HUD spends \$7 billion annually, ~13% of its budget (allowances and grants); \$53B (2015)
  - \$1.57 billion PHA –paid (20% of expenditures)
- + <u>\$ 452</u> million in tenant paid
  - \$ 2.0 billion (total utility cost in PH)

# EPC Inventory 2010-2011 (Executed Contracts)

PHA Type by Unit	PHAs	Percent	Active or	Percent of	Percent	Total
Count	No. M.	of PHAs	Completed	PHAs	of Total	Invested
			EPCs*	w/EPCs*	PHAs	(\$M)*
Very small (Less than 250)	2332	74.6%	27	1.1%	<1%	\$24.0
Small (250-499)	430	13.8%	72	16.7%	2.3%	\$93.3
Medium (500-1,249)	229	7.3%	68	29.8%	2.2%	\$167.0
Large (1,250-6,599)	120	3.8%	87	72.5%	2.6%	\$538.5
Very large (More than 6,599)	14	0.4%	11	78.6%	.4%	\$279.9
Total	3125	100.0%	265		8.5%	\$1,102.7

\*Source: 2012 Report to Congress, Affordable Green: Renewing the Federal Commitment to Energy-Efficient, Healthy Housing

### **EPC – An Historical Perspective**

Category	2012
	270
# of EPCs	270
EPC investment	\$1.2B
# of V Small (<499)	106
Self-developed projects	26
Projects repaid	21
Internal Rate of Return	~ 10.9%

### U.S. Public Housing Sector – Energy Barriers

- Majority of PHA buildings built pre-1970
- Process is too complicated 12 to 18 month to get installation
- Lack of education on the part of lenders
- Energy conservation is not core mission of PHA
  - 100% occupancy and rent collection, compliance
- Investors perceive a lack of investment opportunities at scale with attractive returns, strong risk management
- 10 15 EPCs down from 20+ annually
  - RAD caused PHAs to pause and consider transition to MF program

# **Opportunity for EPCs in Maryland**

- 32 Public Housing agencies in MD; ~1 percent
  - 18,754 Units
  - DOE competitive grant to provide owner's agent services to local governments and PHAs to explore, evaluate, and implement EPCs
- Compliments State grant and utility rebate programs
- More information online: <u>http://energy.maryland.gov/Education/EnergyPerformanceContractingAssistanceProgram.htm</u>

# **EPC Timeline in Public Housing**

#### Time Line – 14 to 18 months from Development of RFP to NTP

PHA Develops an RFQ/P Obtains HUD Approval - 30 to 60 Days

Advertise Request for Qualifications/Proposal – 30 Days

Site Visits (questions and answers) – 1 to 2 Weeks

RFP Responses Due – 30 Days after Site Visits

Short list ESCos and Interviews – 30 days

ESCo Selected – Negotiate IGEA Agreement – 30 days

Obtain Board Approval–30 days

IGEA Submission - 90 Working Days after Commence Date

Negotiate /prepare ESA - Secure PHA, Board and HUD Approval - 60 Days

Sign Energy Services Agreement with ESCO – 30 days

Secure HUD Section 30 approval - 45 days

Secure Financing – 30 days

Notice to Proceed with Final Design, Pricing and Implementation Schedule - 30 days

# EPC – ESCO Managed

- Projects can be done turn-key (ESCO)
- Generated savings must pay for measures, fastest payback ECMs are primary target
- One stop contracting
- Experienced national and regional firms
- Long established policies and procedures
- Guaranteed savings are available
- Provide for financing
- Solution to capability and capacity issues
- Plan EPCs in conjunction with broader capital projects

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## **Overview – Performance Incentives**



### **Operating Fund Benefit**

PHA share a decrease in utility consumption with HUD 75/25

#### **Rate Reduction Incentive**



If PHA takes initiative to reduce the rate it pays for utilities, then PHA will be permitted to retain 100/50 percent of the annual savings *New* – applies to PHA paid and resident paid utilities

# Overview – Energy Performance Contract Incentives



#### **Frozen Rolling Base Subsidy**

Pre-construction utility consumption level is frozen for term of contract. Up to 100% usage savings + increases as utility rates rise.



#### **Add-on Subsidy**

PHA receives annual subsidy for utility costs + EPC contract costs.

#### **Tenant Paid Utility Incentive**



Rent increases, commensurate with utility cost savings; savings pay project costs.

Incentives created by 1988 legislation; implemented by 1993 regulations

# Financing



- EPCs are typically funded with long-term debt or leases by third-party institutions
- Established and well capitalized market for EPCs
- Advantageous to capital-limited PHAs
- Lease purchasing agreements are alternatives to debt-based financing
- 300+ EPC projects investing more than \$1.5B (2014)

### **Owner's Agent Services**

- Uniquely PHA qualified, experienced consultants
- No-cost offer attractive to PHAs with competing priorities
- Specific services to assist PHAs include:
  - Developing EPC RFQ and RFP packages
  - Assist PHA in evaluation of RFQ/RFP EPC responses
  - Review/analyze IGEA on behalf of the PHA
  - Assist in negotiation of Energy Service Agreement with ESCos
  - Provide necessary training to PHA staff to ensure full understanding of the HUD energy incentives
  - Assist in evaluation of cost reasonableness to validate project costs
  - Validation of ESCo Measurement & Verification reports

### Untapped? – 179D Rebate

- Tax deduction at Section 179D of the Internal Revenue Code
- Encourages EE design/construction
  - Expired 12/31/14; Still valid for projects installed after 2011
- Size at least 40,000 square feet of energy retrofits.
- Eligibility Any (3+ stories) PHA, governmental entity including schools, airports, cities, counties, states, federal agencies who have done lighting, HVAC & building envelope energy upgrades
- Statute is blind to funding source Capital funds, ARRA monies, State or DOE grants or EPC
- Government entity allocates its 179D deduction to ESCOs, architects or engineers; in exchange for a negotiated payment
- HUD guidance developed to promote use of 179D
- 179D extension under consideration as part of Congressional Tax Reform legislation

### **Rental Assistance Demonstration**

- RAD is HUD's rental housing preservation strategy, which works to:
  - Preserve HUD –funded public and assisted housing (losing 10,000 – 15,000 units annually)
  - Streamline housing rental programs
  - Simplify program administration
  - Leverage private financing to meet public housing capital needs
  - Encourage broader housing planning efforts
  - Introduce greater market discipline
  - Enhance tenant choice
  - Build strong, stable communities

# Key Debate: EPC v. RAD v. Both

# Grant team in unique position to educate PHAs on EPC as an interim step to RAD...

- Helping PHAs implement EPCs to:
  - Improve operational efficiency of PHAs that are not currently suitable for RAD conversion
  - Strengthen position for PHAs considering RAD, however, can't convert at current funding levels
  - Continue to reduce utility costs in PHAs that do not have great capital needs and not currently seeking RAD conversion
- And supporting PHAs and others in MD with alternative financing mechanisms and incentives
  - o EmPOWER Maryland utility rebate programs
  - Maryland Smart Energy Communities and Low-to-Moderate Income Grant Programs
  - Low-interest Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program

### **Progress to Date**

#### Three PHAs signed up and participating

- HACA, Elkton, and Hagerstown
- All three received walk-through audits of facilities
- Evaluating options

#### Support for PHA sector in Maryland and beyond

- Upcoming article in national housing journal
- Formal presentation at MAHRA
- EPC v. RAD decision tree

# **Contact Information**

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