

Strategic & Interagency Initiatives

Overview

The Strategic and Interagency Initiatives (SI2) team in the Energy Department's [Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs](#) Office helps states and local communities meet their energy objectives for underserved communities through deep dive initiatives and alignment of federal resources. In addition to spearheading multi-year, cross-sector initiatives in response to state and local agency interests, the SI2 team leads a staff-level federal interagency collaborative to promote energy solutions for low income communities.

Promoting Cross-Agency Collaboration

Recognizing the need to make it easier to navigate federal resources, the SI2 team leads a staff-level federal interagency collaborative to promote energy solutions for low income communities through information sharing, coordination of resources, and appropriate alignment of practices. Available resources from eight participating agencies can be found in the low income energy federal library noted in the box to the right.

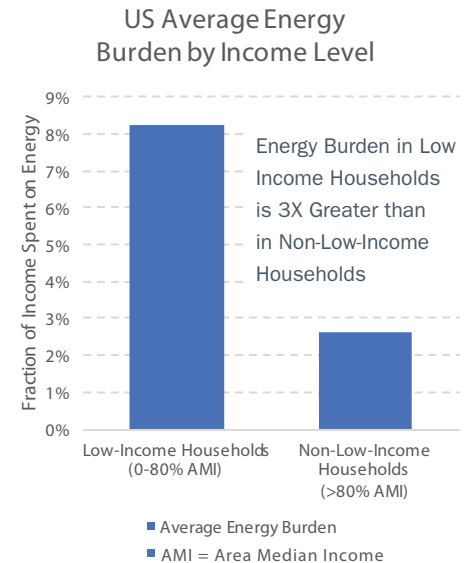


Advancing Strategies for Low Income Communities

44% of U.S. households are low income. The average energy burden for low income households is over 8%—3 times as high as for non-low-income households.ⁱ

The [Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator](#) (CELICA), launched in May 2016, aims to lower energy bills in low income communities through a voluntary partnership with state and local governments, community agencies, nonprofits, and utilities to demonstrate a wide range of locally designed energy efficiency and distributed renewable energy solutions. CELICA helps partners develop programs using proven and promising strategies that make

cost-saving technologies accessible to underserved communities. Over 35 organizations (partner map on next page) joined CELICA and are working to address barriers to achieving their goals.



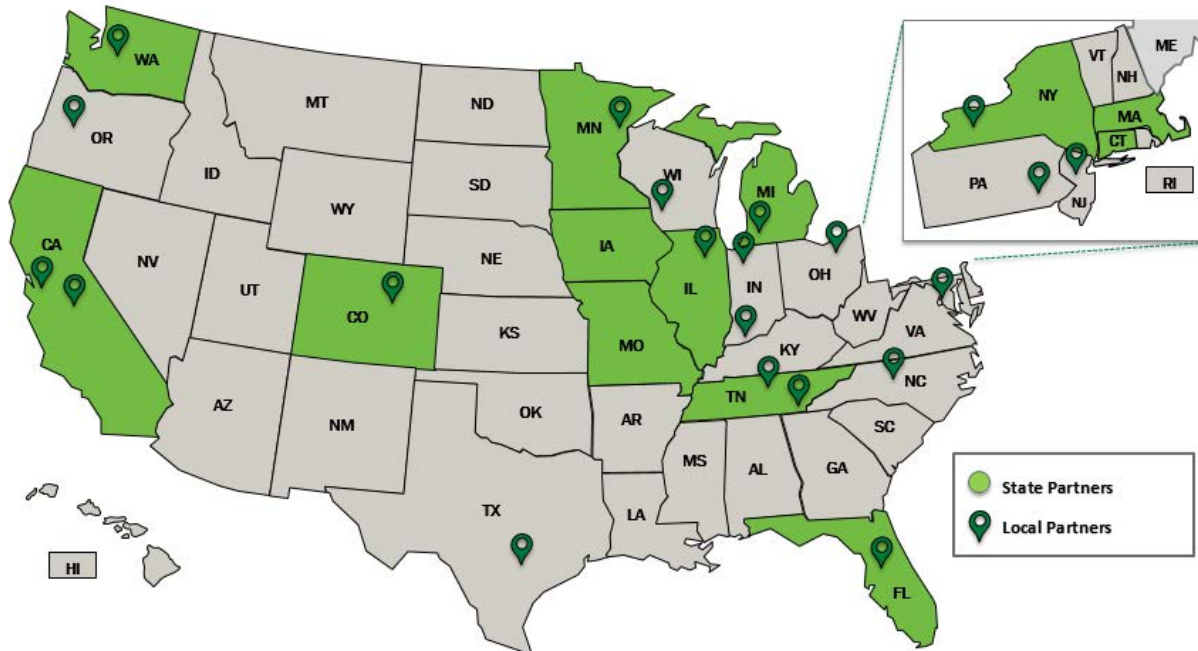
Low Income Program Planning Tools

[Low-income Energy Affordability Data \(LEAD\) Tool](#) – Provides interactive state, county, and city level worksheets with graphs and data including housing characteristics, energy expenditures, and energy burden by income level.

[Baseline Assessment Guide](#) – A series of questions to identify needs and gaps in energy efficiency, renewables, or other energy assistance programs for low income communities.

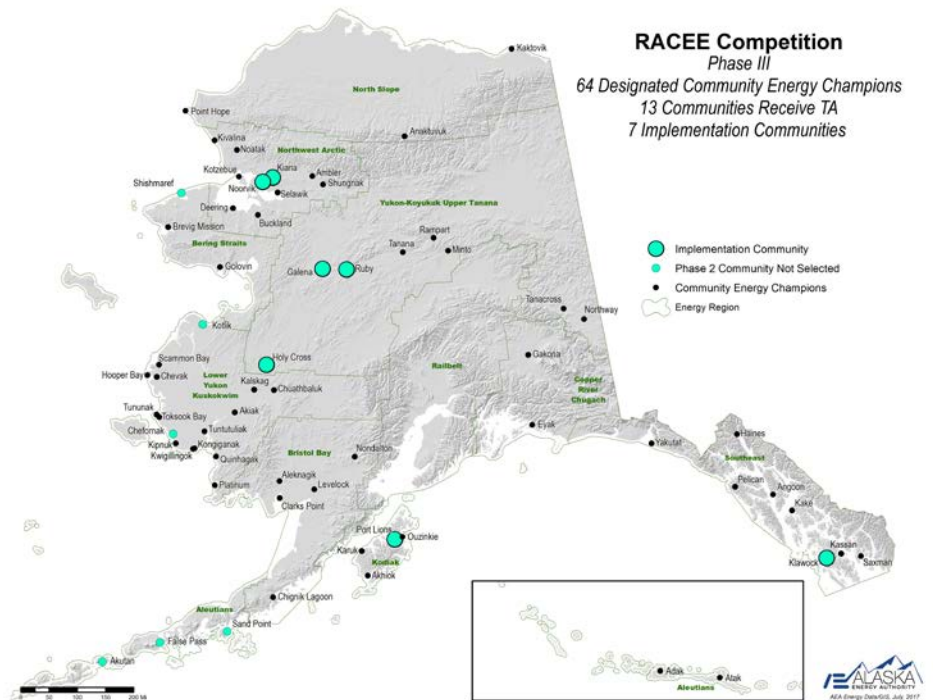
[Low-Income Energy Federal Library](#) – A compilation of resources and tools across 8 federal agencies focused on serving low-to-moderate income communities.

CELICA Local Partner Map



Increasing Access to Energy Efficiency in Remote Communities

The [Remote Alaskan Communities Energy Efficiency Competition](#) (RACEE) is a one-time initiative launched in 2015 to empower remote Alaskan communities to develop reliable, affordable energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. The \$4 million multi-year initiative concludes in 2020. RACEE is structured to address challenges posed by Alaska’s unique energy profile. Rural Alaskans pay 60% more than the U.S. average and face extremely cold climate conditions much of the year. Energy-saving technologies can make a significant economic impact and free up household budgets for food, medicine, and other necessities. ■



¹ U.S. Census Bureau 2011-2015 average

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For more information, visit: energy.gov/eere/wipo

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