

August 11, 2026

Bert Cooper
Managing Director
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

2026 Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group Report Comments/Feedback

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Thank you for facilitating and summarizing the ongoing work of Rhode Island Energy's Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group ("EWG"). Acadia Center offers the following comments on the 2026 Rhode Island Energy Efficiency EWG Report:

- Strive to set quantitative targets for equity metrics, or at least standards for directional trends, such as an increase in quantity by percentage.
 - If a trend is heading in the opposite direction, consider a trigger to require course correction. For example, if the number of ESL audits or weatherization projects decreases by greater than 20% from year to year, then Rhode Island Energy must produce a report and direct capacity and attention towards addressing this declining performance.
- Require Rhode Island Energy to produce a report about the equitable distribution of funds and offer more granular data regarding where funds are going (i.e. by geography, customer type).
- Establish a framework for capturing the individual health, safety, and comfort benefits of remediating pre-weatherization barriers.
- Establish a small business equity metric as well as a workforce diversity metric.
- Outline specific timeline to incorporate equity metrics into Rhode Island Energy's Performance Incentive Mechanism (PIM)s, non-binding then binding; ensure both positive and negative PIMs.

Acadia Center appreciates the initial insights from two years of data on equity metrics. Now, the EWG must pivot to leverage the information from this data to act and establish consequential, actionable targets and demand utility accountability in serving historically underserved and under-resourced communities with energy efficiency.

Sincerely,

Emily Koo
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