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Filer:	Harinder Kaur
Organization:	Self-Help Enterprises
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Distributed Energy Resources in California's Energy Future

CEC Proceeding Launch Workshop

June 1, 2022

Abigail Solis

Sustainable Energy Solutions

Self-Help Enterprises

abigails@selfhelpenterprises.org

Self-Help Enterprises

Reversing the Status Quo

Historically DAC participation rates in energy programs have been low.

Often investments are made based on technical potential of technologies to meet climate and policy goals.

Often missing practical considerations such as community preference, community mistrust and program implementation challenges.

Avoid Participation Barriers

Consider

- Community mistrust
- Lack of program awareness
- Familiarity with new technologies
- Past negative experiences
- Top-down approach
- Project flexibility

Develop DER Alongside Community Residents

- Residents are experts in community needs
- Create opportunities to listen and engage with community
- Establish community support from the start
- Behavior change must be considered
- Human connection is key to success!

How do we reach vulnerable communities?

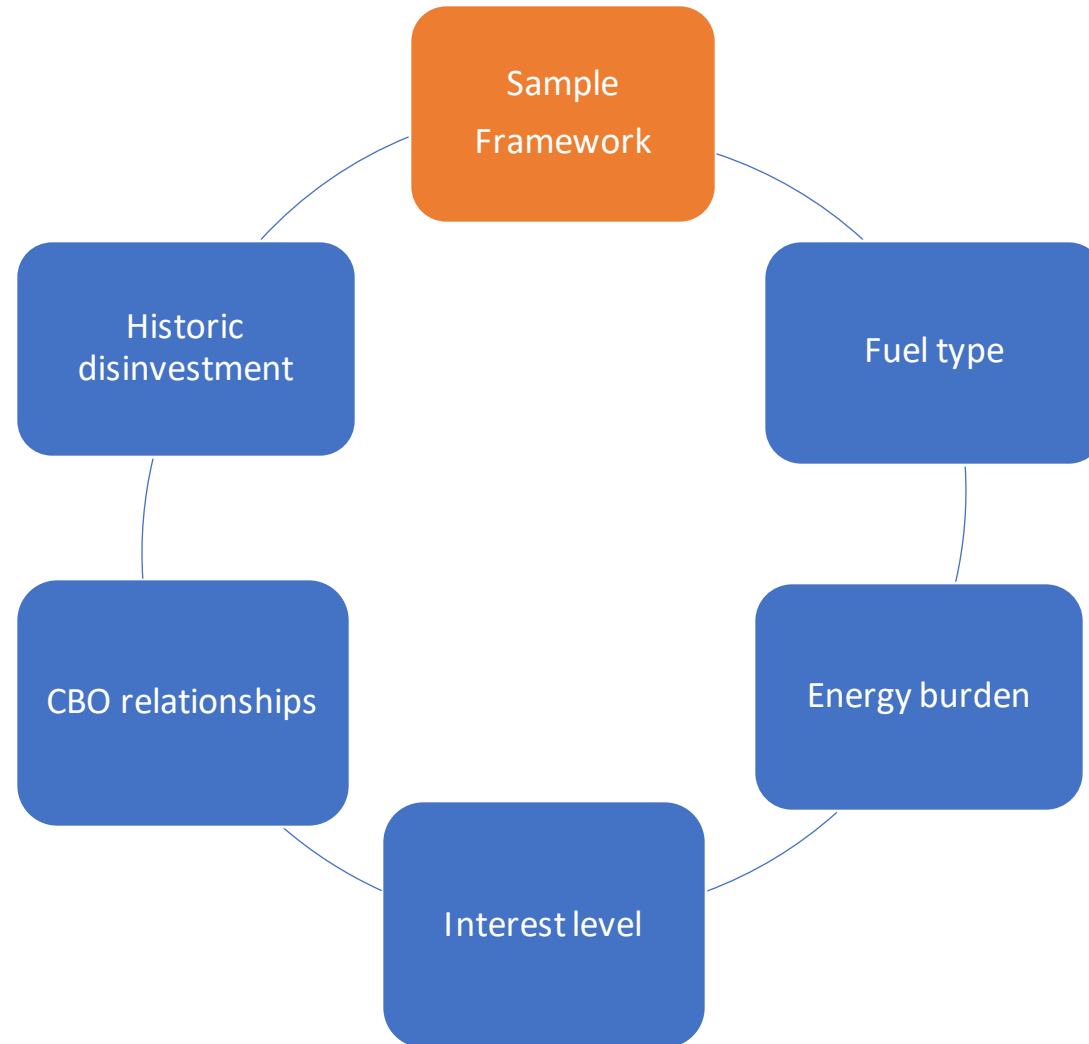DACs are most in need often left behind or left out

Little to no representation or paid staff to apply for resources

Understand how local community projects are funded

Develop an equitable community selection framework for prioritizing communities

Selecting Communities

Recommendations

- Fund community-based organizations to support community outreach, engagement and education.

- Partner with CBO's to provide technical assistance and project design

- Funding requirement should include a community partner

- Identify and work with communities from the start of the project