Saving Money through Facility Improvements

Spring Into Action Conference

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Elizabeth Nevarez, Spanish Community Center
Mario Perez, El Hogar Del Nino
Eric Woods, Chicago Commons
Dara Reiff, Elevate Energy
Agenda

• Introductions
• Energy Efficiency Overview
• Opportunities for Childcare
• Case Studies
• Q & A
Elevate Energy Introduction

Smarter energy use for all

We give people the resources they need to make informed energy choices.

We design and implement efficiency programs that lower costs, and protect the environment.

We ensure the benefits of energy efficiency reach those who need them most.
Why Energy Efficiency?

- Lower utility bills (electric, gas, and water)
- Lower maintenance costs
- Increased comfort for staff and families
- Upgrade aging facilities
- Increased health and safety for staff, children, and community served
- Direct valuable resources back to the children and families you serve (programs and services; equipment; staffing)
Paying to waste energy

- We have old, leaky buildings (and extreme seasons!)
- Childcare providers have unique needs
- Poor insulation = no winter coat
- Unsealed exterior = no windbreaker
- Low hanging fruit and cost-effective improvements
Program Overview

Energy Analyst works with you, from start to finish.
Program Overview

Eligibility:

✓ Childcare center providers in ComEd service territory (Northern Illinois)
✓ Any childcare center participating in IL Child Care Assistance Program, Federal Headstart or Early Headstart
✓ Own the building /have owner permission to make upgrades
✓ Pays utilities

Impact:

✓ 224 nonprofit buildings assessed
✓ 42 upgrades complete
✓ Annual savings ranging from 15-30%
✓ Over $1mil funds leveraged
Typical Upgrades and Financing

**Typical Upgrades**
- Air sealing and insulation
- Energy efficient lighting
- Steam balancing
- HVAC system repair/replacement
- Water heater replacement
- High efficiency appliances, toilets and faucet aerators

**Typical Financing**
- Utility incentives
- Grants when available
- Center capital reserves or fundraising
- Loans
Case Studies

- Building expanded over time, resulting in many inefficiencies, very high utility bills and operating costs
- Short-term improvements to improve immediate issues and start saving:
  - Boiler tune-up
  - Disconnect space heaters and humidifiers
  - Lighting retrofit
- Long-term working with architect on major renovation project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short-term Costs &amp; Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-pocket costs:</td>
<td>$1,823</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and incentives:</td>
<td>$3,492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total project cost:</td>
<td>$5,315</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected Annual Utility Savings:</td>
<td>$6,507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payback Period:</td>
<td>7 months</td>
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Case Studies

- 130-year old building operates a year-round bilingual daycare, a food pantry, ESL classes, and offers community service hours and programs
- Boiler malfunctions were causing lots of money, stress and discomfort
- Cost-effective repairs saved the center from needing to replace the entire system – saving on both gas and maintenance costs
- Planning Phase 2 additional upgrades
Case Studies

- Several facilities serving early childhood, youth, adults, and seniors
- Easy maintenance tips and confirmation of existing practices
- Assistance for wide variety of buildings across portfolio
- Helping to plan improvements out over time
Dara Reiff
773.321.2668
Dara.Reiff@ElevateEnergy.org

www.ElevateEnergy.org

Get started:
http://www.elevateenergy.org/for-building-owners-managers/nonprofit-buildings-childcare-centers/

@elevate_energy
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