Evaluation of Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative Application Process

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Energy Resiliency

- Grid Vulnerability
- Climate Change
- Resilient Systems

Winter Storm Nemo in Springfield, 2013

Hurricane Sandy in Marblehead, MA, 2012
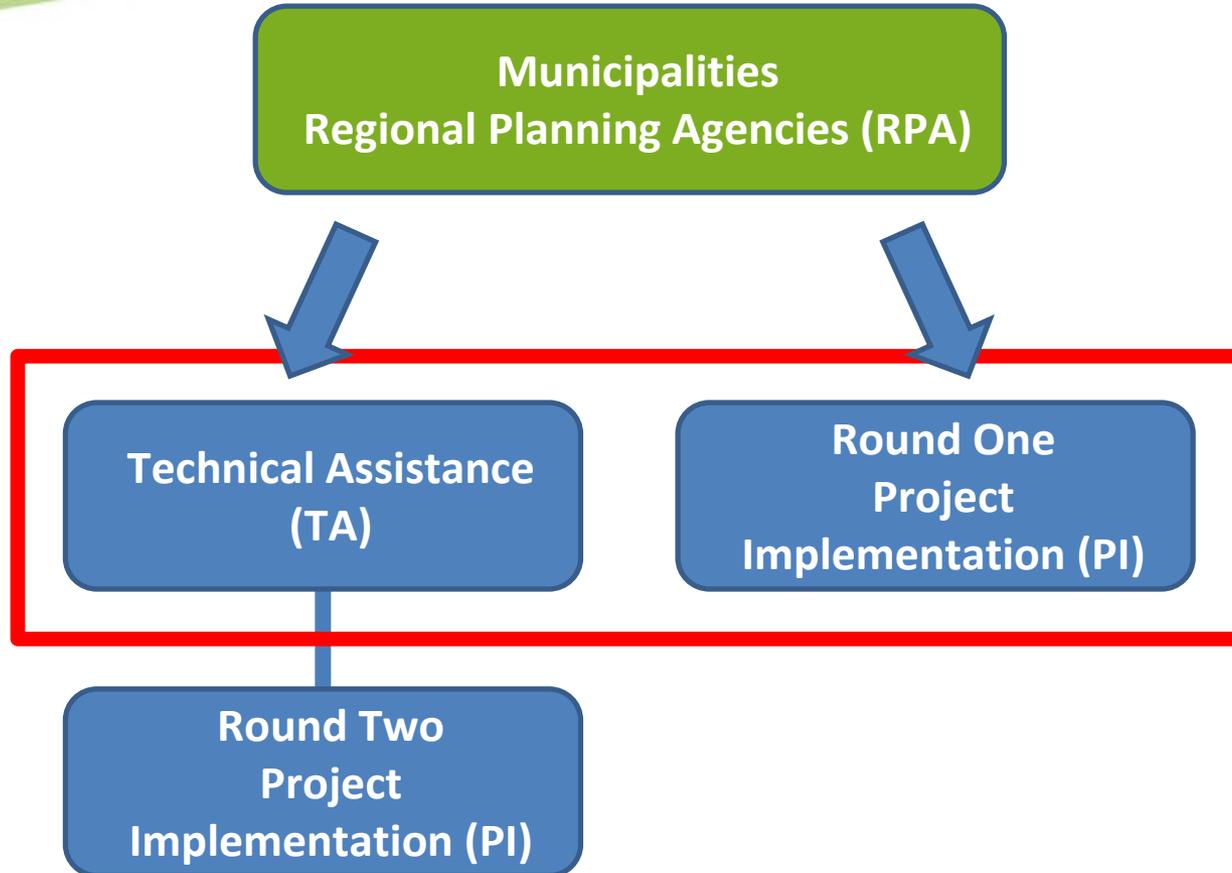
Climate Change Preparedness

GOVERNOR PATRICK ANNOUNCES $50M FOR COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVES

Includes $40M to harden energy services

Governor Patrick makes an announcement relative to climate change preparedness in the Commonwealth at the New England Aquarium. (Photo: Taylor Nealand /Governor's Office)

Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative

Project Goal

Evaluated the grant application process within the Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative and provided recommendations for future grant programs within the Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

Objective 1

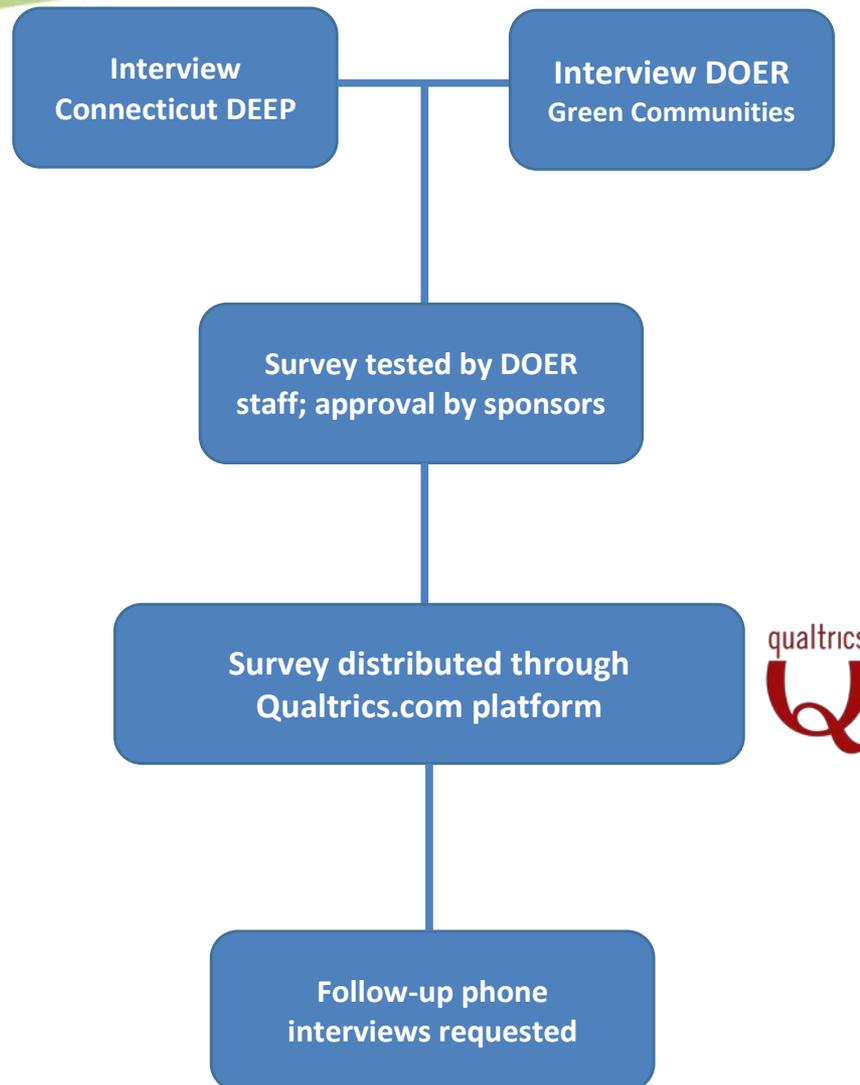Created online survey and follow-up interview questions for both TA & PI awardees
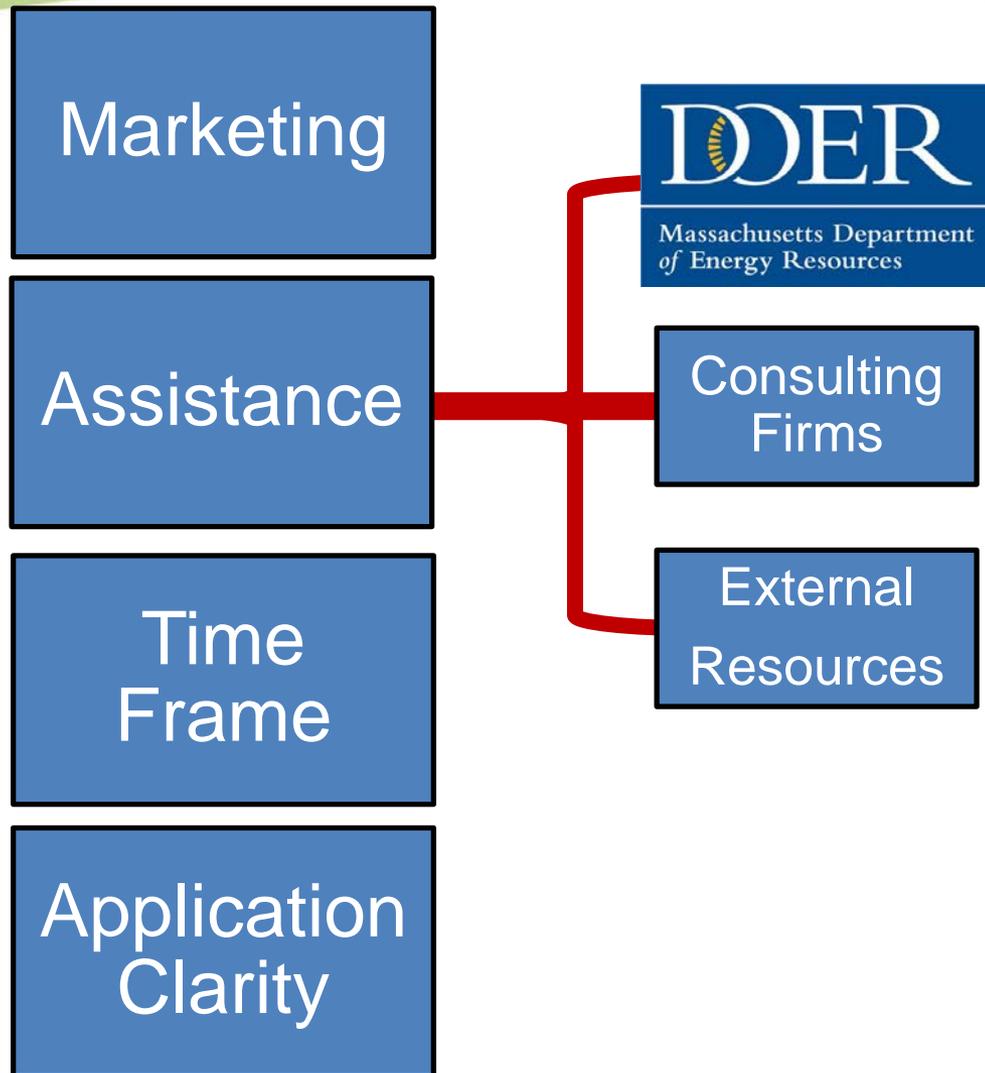
Technical Assistance

27 Awardees
43 Contacts

Project Implementation (Round One)

6 Awardees
12 Contacts

Evaluation Design
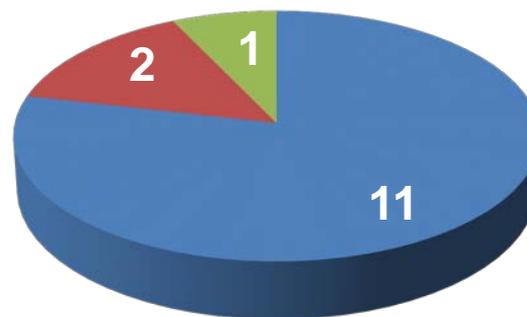
Survey & Interview Topics

Confidentiality

- Respondents were provided with confidentiality between them and the WPI Team.
- Survey results & interviews are presented without identifying information

Objective 2

Collected & Analyzed Data from TA and PI Contacts, DOER Webinar and Q&A Documents

Marketing the Initiative

How did you find out about this initiative?

- Email
- DOER Website
- Other

Rate the marketing of this program to eligible applicants on a scale of 1 - 5.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Responses
1	Program Marketing	2.00	5.00	3.50	14

DOER Assistance to Applicants

Did the DOER respond to all questions you had throughout the application process?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Yes, my question was answered		12	86%
4	I did not have any questions		2	14%
	Total		14	100%

"I was happy with it, I was happy that DOER got back to me in a timely fashion when I had questions for them."

External Assistance for Applicants

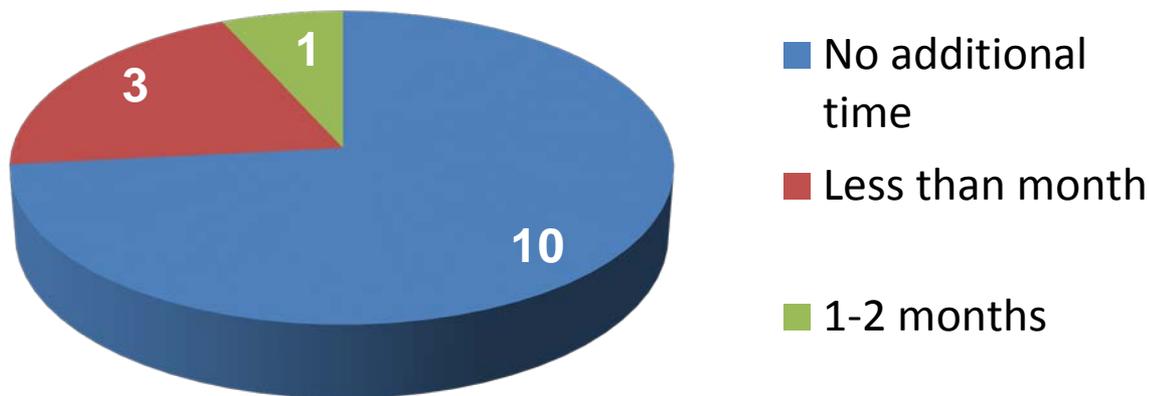**Did you solicit assistance from external sources (other than the DOER) to complete any part of the application?**

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Yes		3	21%
2	No		11	79%
	Total		14	100%

"Going on the website, understanding the program through the website based on my understanding on what they were looking for, I think it was very easy for me to put the application together."

Time to Complete Application

How much additional time would you have preferred to complete the application?

- No additional time — 10
- Less than month — 3
- 1-2 months — 1

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants found it clear who was eligible to apply.

- Outliers
  - Some Webinar questions and Q&A's regarded eligible applicants

"It was very strange because they didn't allow municipal utilities to apply for the grant, even though [municipal utilities] were basically the experts when it comes to energy."

Eligible Technology

Eligible technologies were clear to most applicants.

- Outliers
  - Some Webinar questions & Q&A's regarded technology eligibility clarification
  - Some interviewed found technology eligibility unclear

"A lot of people went into this project assuming the DOER would fund solar power."

Limitations

- Small data set – responses are a minority of the awarded municipalities
  - 8/14 participated in phone interviews

- Limited availability of targeted audience

- Targeted audience was accepted applicants

- Pending Round Two applications

Recommendation: Marketing

- Continue to use email as main method of outreach

- Possible suggestions
  - Paper Mailings
  - Regional Green Communities Meetings & MAPC

MAPC
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

Recommendation: Time

- No Major Changes Necessary

- Determine whether timing kept some municipalities from applying

Recommendation: Assistance

- DOER Assistance:
    - Continue using webinars
    - Q&A Document

- External Assistance:
    - Make a list of contacts available to applicants

Recommendation: Eligibility

- Greater emphasis TA Solicitation does not fund generation
- Glossary of technology terms included in Solicitation
  - "Islanding", "Black Start", "Resiliency"

Conclusion

- Application process worked well
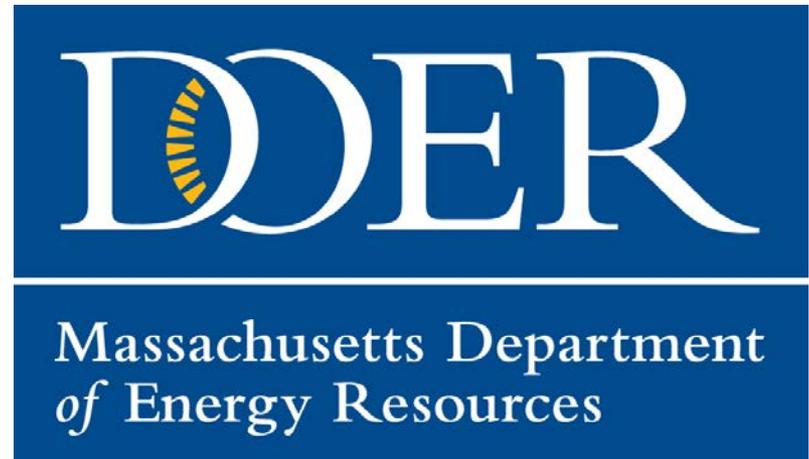
- Clarity was the biggest issue

Acknowledgements

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- Dwayne Breger

Questions?