

Energy & Social Justice

NEADA Annual Meeting
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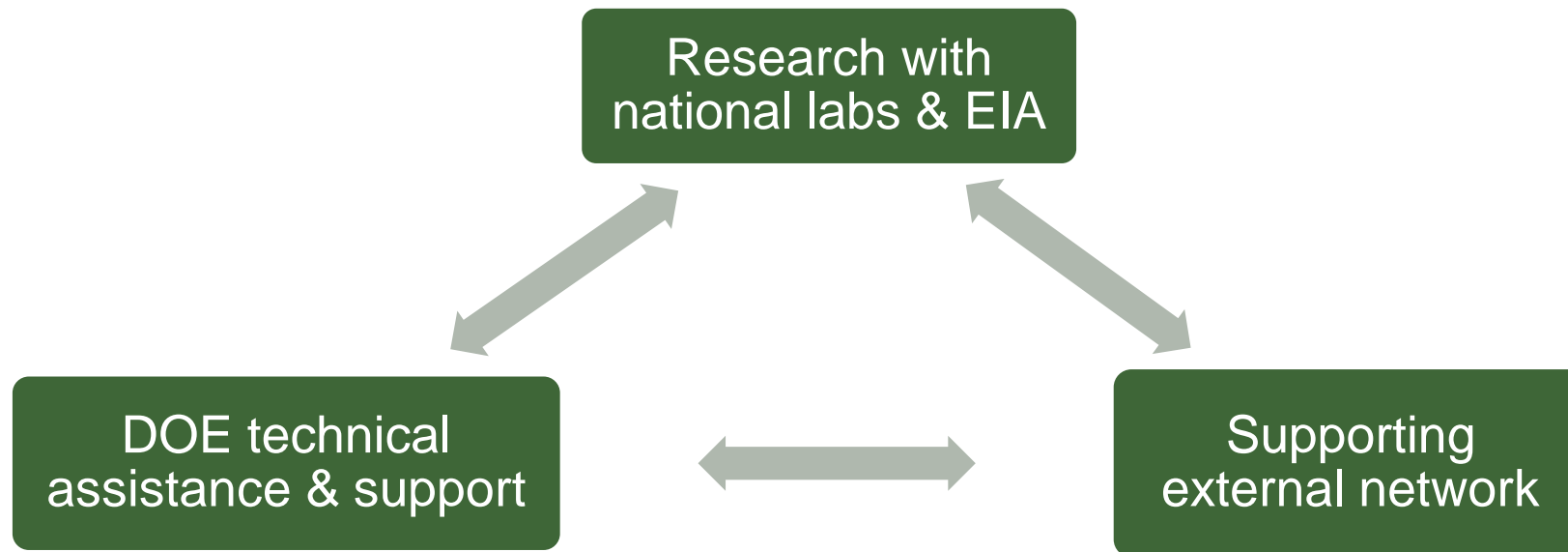
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
Energy Justice & Equity

DOE's Office of Energy Justice & Equity

1978 National Energy Conservation Policy Act created:

- Office of Minority Economic Impact (now EJE) & EIA to energy program impacts on LMI households
- WAP & LIHEAP, energy codes and standards, & LMI retrofit loans

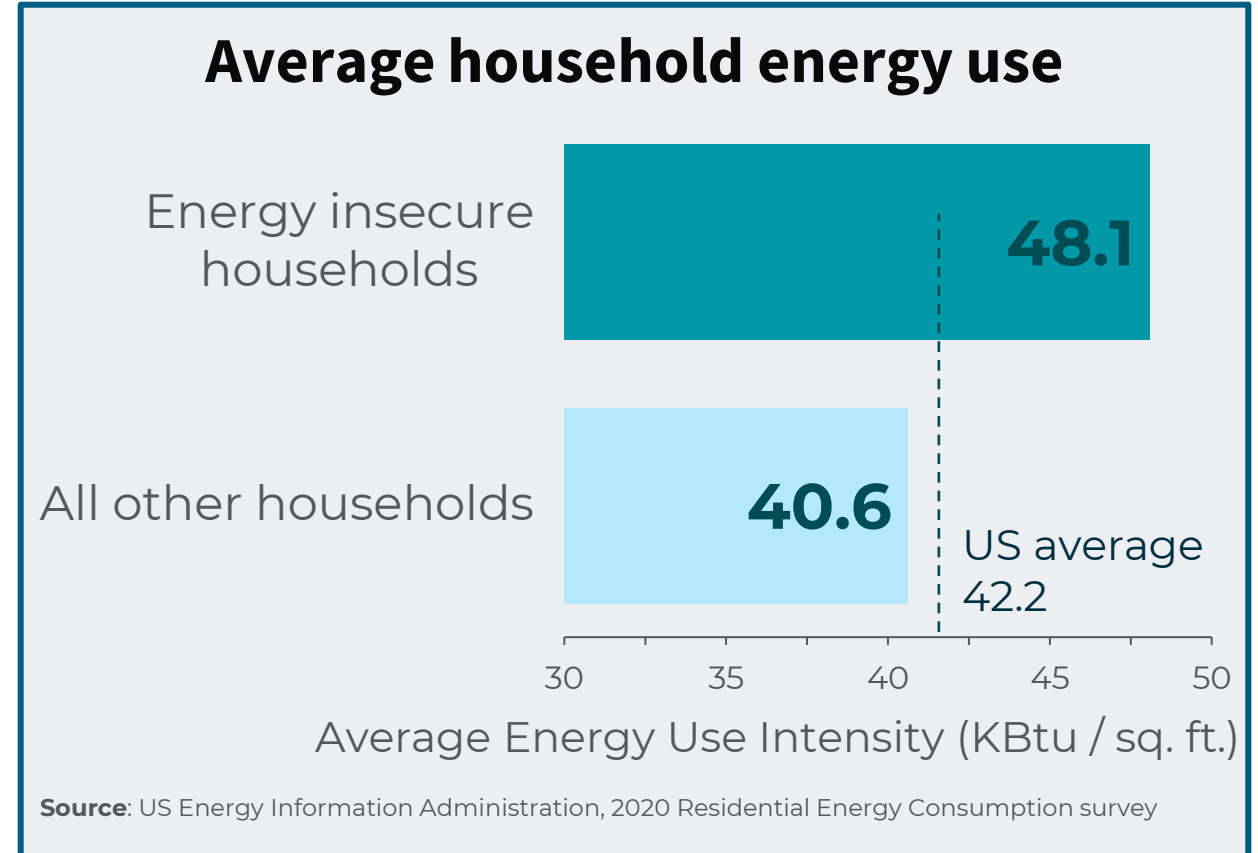


Energy insecurity is closely tied to inefficiencies within our housing stock

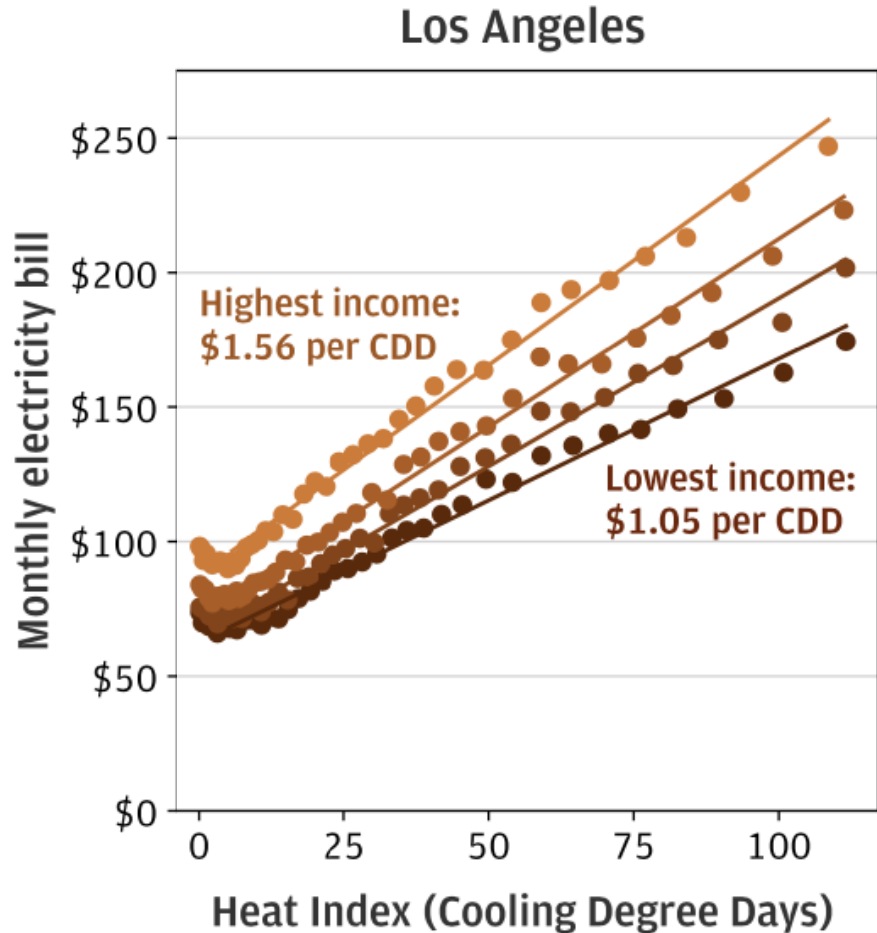
Energy insecure households* are over:

- Twice as likely to live in poorly insulated homes
- 1.5x more likely to lack AC

*As reported in Energy Information Administration's Residential Energy Consumption Survey



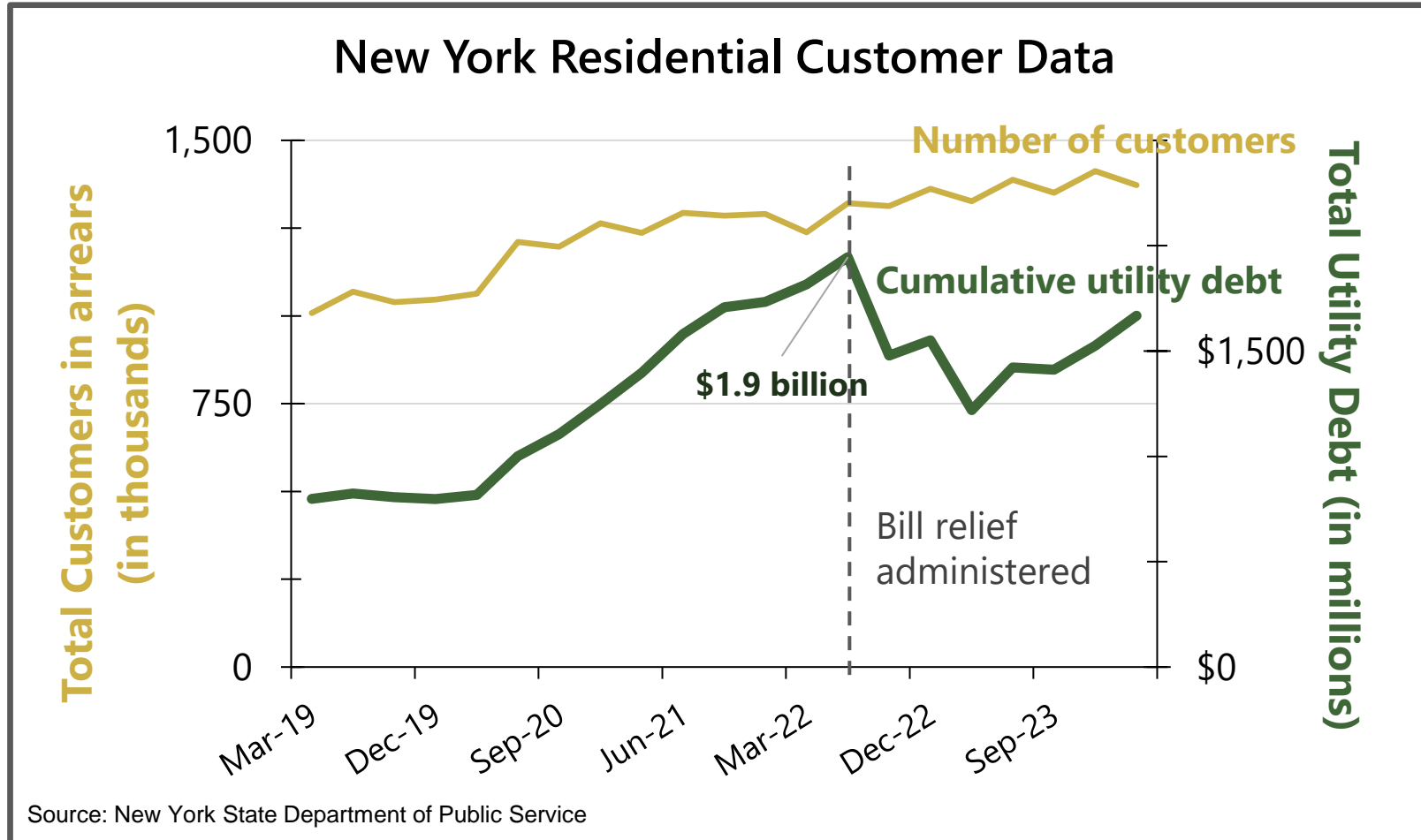
Efficiency improvements are needed to address underconsumption & energy limiting behavior



Low-income households **spent 37–45% less on AC** than high-income households during the hottest summer days.

Source: Wheat, Chris. Daniel M. Sullivan, Alexandra Lefevre, Abigail Ostriker. 2024. "Feeling the Heat: How Households Manage High Air Conditioning Bills." JPMorganChase Institute.

Bill assistance must be paired with energy efficiency to break utility debt cycles



The rate of utility debt increases exceeded the number of new customers in arrears.

Energy efficiency in context



1. Align community needs to energy solutions

- Building envelope improvements → reduce exposure to extreme temperatures
- Heat pump adaption → increase access to efficiency AC
- Solar + storage → mitigate power disruption impacts



2. Tap into broader economic opportunities

- Home improvements can help stabilize communities & spur economic development
- Energy self-reliance (rural Co-Ops)
- Catalyze jobs and business opportunities

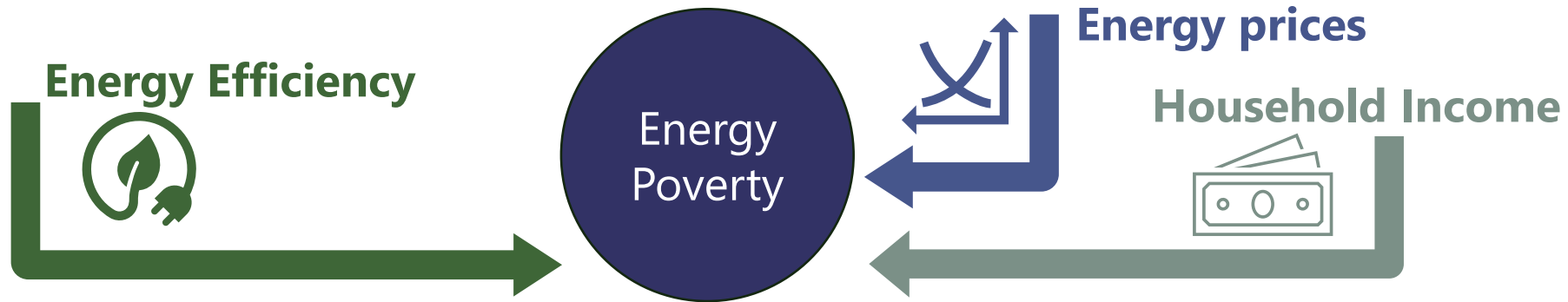


3. Streamline programs for scalability

- Client acquisition & identification with utilities & community partners
- Leverage place-based approach to improve program processes
- Data collection & analysis to improve programming

EJE Project: US Energy Poverty Framework

Energy poverty: Ability of household to affordably meet basic energy services and temperatures



Measure: Extent (# of households) and depth (affordability gap) of energy poverty

Inform: Assess impacts of efficiency, energy assistance, & household finances

Track: Establish baseline & measure progress over time