

# Updated Scope: **RI Energy Navigator Pilot**

***Based on key takeaways from interviews with community organizations, technical assistance from ACEEE, and input from key stakeholders***

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# Project Overview: THEN & NOW

*A community-based approach to increase participation in energy efficiency programs in RI.*

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# URI has been supporting the EEC to increase energy efficiency literacy since 2019…




**Refining our *SYSTEMS CHANGE APPROACH***

We transitioned from targeting ***Structural Change…***

…to targeting **Structural *AND* Relational Change**


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# Updated Approach:
# TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

*Adapting the approach to create a better pilot program and beyond.*

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# Closing the participation gap through a *relational approach*

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Rhode Island's Energy Efficiency Programs have been strengthened through structural changes in *policy, programs and resource flows*.

There is still a gap - people need a trusted messenger and support to overcome participation barriers.

**ADDED VALUE: The RI Community-Based Energy Navigator Program will complement these changes by equipping trusted community-based workers to connect residents with energy efficiency resources.**



# Our original intent was to build a training. What we know we need now is an inclusive, equitable program that connects complementary efforts and honors relationships.

*Based on national best practices, the evolving programmatic ecosystem, and the reality on the ground in Central Falls, an updated scope of work will maximize the effectiveness of the Community-based Energy Navigator Program (C-BEN) in increasing participation in energy efficiency programs among RI's income-eligible ratepayers and landlords.*

# Our Focus Right Now…

## #1: Technical Assistance from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

**Purpose:** National and regional context, program quality, grounding
**Lead:** URI Cooperative Extension
**Partners:** Children's Friend • City of Central Falls Constituent Services • ACEEE • RI Energy
RI Energy Efficiency Council Consultant Team • RI Office of Energy Resources

## #2: Addressing the Absentee Landlord Challenge in Central Falls

**Purpose:** Parallel engagement with renters and landlords, landlord accountability
**Lead:** URI Cooperative Extension, RI Energy
**Partners:** City of Central Falls Constituent Services • Central Falls Housing Authority • Pawtucket Central Falls Development • Central Falls School Department

# Our Focus Right Now…

## #3: Building Momentum and Consensus Through Key Informant Interviews

**Purpose:** Community context and connections, structural landscape
**Lead:** URI Cooperative Extension

### Energy Sector Informants

**Acadia Center** - *Emily Koo*
**City of Providence Sustainability** - *David Ruggiero, Andrew Broccolo*
**CLEAResult** - *Dana Beale, Wade Rya, Matt Francisco, Rita Rose*
**Green and Healthy Homes Initiative** - *Bert Cooper, Bryan Evans, Anabel Espinal*
**HousingWorksRI** - *Brenda Clement*
**KC3** - *Daphany Rose Sanchez*
**Rhode Island Energy** - *Carinel LeGrand, Brendan Dagher*
**RI Office of Energy Resources** - *Steve Chybowski, Georgia Cheney*
**RI Weatherization Assistance Program** - *Timothy Lett*
**The RISE Group** - *Danielle Woody, Nicholas Thibault*

### Public Health Informants

**Brown University Health** - *Carrie Bridges*
**Community Health Worker Association RI** - *Tonya Glantz, Laura Blackwell*
**Health Equity Institute** - *Manuela Barcelos*
**PCF HEZ** - *Jim Logan, Leonardo Carnicelli*

### Community Informants

**Central Falls School District** - *Patricia Martinez*
**Children's Friend** - *Owen Heleen, Claudia Villa*
**PCF Development** - *Andrew Pierson*
**PVDCAP** - *Dayanarah Baez*
**LISC** - *Jim Logan, Leo Carnicelli*

# Our Focus Right Now…

## #3: Building Momentum and Consensus Through Key Informant Interviews

**Purpose:** Community context and connections, structural landscape
**Lead:** URI Cooperative Extension

### Pending Informant Interviews (Sept - Oct 2026)

WAP State Monitors | Progreso Latino | Blackstone Valley Community Health
BVCAP | Meals on Wheels | CrossRoads | Clínica Esperanza | NV5 Consulting
Central Falls Housing Authority | Addison County Energy Navigator Program | CLEAResult Field Monitors
Concord, MA Heating/Cooling Coaches | Providence Preservation Revolving Fund

# Our Focus Right Now…

## #4: Coordinating with the Statewide Energy Navigator Pilot

**Purpose:** Continuity with program navigation, improved data collection, comprehensive resident engagement system
**Lead:** URI Cooperative Extension, *Implementing Organization - TBD*
**Partners:** RI Office of Energy Resources, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC)

### RI Ratepayer Pathway to Home Energy Efficiency

**Trust Building** → **EE Education** → **Process Navigation** → **Home Energy Assessment** → **Weatherization & EE Upgrades**

1. The **Community-Based Energy Navigator (C-BEN)** will build trust and make initiative connections between clients and programs

2. The **C-BEN** will ensure that residents know what their next steps are to continue through the weatherization process

***NEED TO CLEARLY DEFINE THESE ROLES AND ENSURE SEAMLESS TRANSITION FOR RESIDENTS***

3. Residents seek expert guidance from the **Statewide Energy Navigator** about **ALL** energy-related programs in RI

# RI EEC EdComm Strategic Priorities

*Incremental investments in strategies to increase income eligible ratepayer / landlord and renter participation in Rhode Island in partnership with URI Cooperative Extension…*

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## INPUTS (2025-2026)

### EHACoP Key Takeaways
1. "Energy Literacy Learn" curriculum
2. Community engagement strategies

### ACEEE Technical Support Outputs
1. National Landscape Scan
2. Program Tracking Guidance

### Key Informant Interviews; Expert Feedback
1. EEC Feedback: EdComm Meeting
2. ACEEE Feedback on Outputs
3. Regular input from project team participants from NV5 Consulting, RIOER, RI Energy, Children's Friend, and City of Central Falls Constituent Services
4. 30+ Key Informant interviews

## ACTIVITIES / OUTPUTS (2026-2027)

**Stakeholder Engagement & Network Building**

**Alignment with Statewide Energy Navigator Training**

**Community-Based Energy Navigator (C-BEN) Training**

**Coordination with CBOs**

**Roadmap to Weatherization**

**Landlord Outreach**

## OUTCOME

***Comprehensive & Equitable*** **Energy Efficiency Engagement Program**