



# IRA HOMES & HEEHR Rebate Program

Docket No. Q023100733

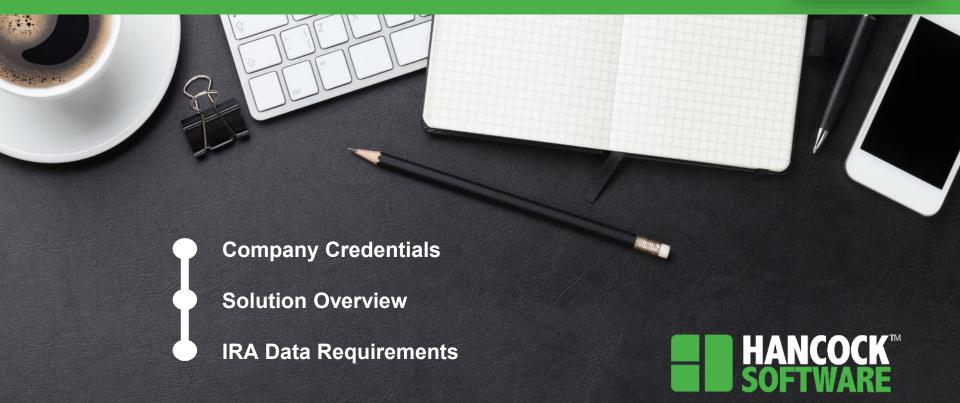
May 21, 2024



### Contents







### Program Delivery Solution



#### **New Jersey Board of Public Utilities**

is seeking input on how best to deliver federal HOMES program and HEEHR program formula funding alongside current efficiency and electrification incentives in New Jersey in order to advance the electrification of 400,000 additional residential dwelling units and 20,000 additional commercial spaces

There are a number of equally valid approaches to serving the energy efficiency needs of buildings in low-income communities. This response details a solution for ensuring efficient delivery of these programs with respect to the data collection, verification, outreach, contractor adoption, and customer experience.

# We believe Hancock Software is uniquely suited to address NJBPU HOMES & HEEHR Rebate Program needs:

By providing proven out-of-the-box PaaS capability that can be configured to operate all residential, small business, large commercial and industrial energy efficiency programs in one platform while facilitating the collection and reporting on the data requirements to ensure compliance with all the different program rules.



## Solution Scope



This RFI seeks responses to a number of questions regarding the approach, suitability, and overall design of programs for the efficient distribution of IRA funding. Hancock Software is being used successfully to implemented eighteen statewide DOE funded income eligible single family and multifamily energy efficiency and electrification programs. While we do not design programs, we provide a configurable platform-as-a-service that facilitates the life-cycle qualification, assessment, installation, inspection, reporting and compliance assurance of multiple simultaneous energy efficiency programs no matter the chosen approach or program design. Hancock Cloud is already proven in its ability to deliver on all of the data collection, tracking and reporting needed throughout the course of the two residential rebate programs authorized by Sections 50121 and 50122 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and fully supports the DOE/PNNL workflows and APIs for rebate processing.





## Proven Experience



DOE did not develop the "IRA Home Energy Rebates; Data & Tools Requirements Guide" in a vacuum. Though adjusted for certain new statutory requirements (like BPI 2400 compliant energy modeling), the program guidelines are in large part modeled after the highly successful Weatherization Assistance Program that has evolved since its inception in 1976.

Hancock Software's solutions have enabled State Housing Offices in their delivery of WAP assistance for more than 20 years. This includes the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs which has been using Hancock Software since 2012. Today, Hancock Software is responsible for the distribution of more than one-third of DOE's WAP funding nationwide in eighteen states.



## Hancock Software Background





34 Utilities with Energy Efficiency Programs using Hancock Software



## Residential EE Program Success





- Statewide program for income eligible Wx and home repair
- Brings together Utility and DOE funding in one home visit
- BGE, Delmarva Power, FirstEnergy, Pepco, SMECO and Washington Gas



Empowering you to make smart energy choices

- Statewide Home Energy Solutions Program
- Market and income eligible residential jobs
- On-bill financing options
- DOE Home Energy Score integration
- Eversource Electric, Eversource Gas, United Illuminating, CNG, and Southern CT Gas



- Statewide income eligible Wx program
- Electric, Gas, Health & Safety measures
- Multiple funding sources
- Same platform used also for DOE multifamily Wx, and Bill Pay
- Fourteen PUs, COOPs, and Municipal Utilities







### Hancock Cloud



Hancock Cloud is a proven platform consisting of services that can be enabled by Hancock Software's customer success team to support any type of income qualified energy program. In the Hancock Cloud platform, the various program's managers, support staff, fuel vendors, community action agencies, end clients, energy services providers, assessors, installation contractors and crews conduct their activities online providing deep program transparency and real-time access to all work in process.

Delivered in a modern, secure, scalable, Microsoft Azure PaaS environment, Hancock Cloud is easily configurable by program administrators for tracking residential, small business, multifamily, and large commercial energy efficiency rebate programs with NO custom coding required.



## Hancock Cloud Overview

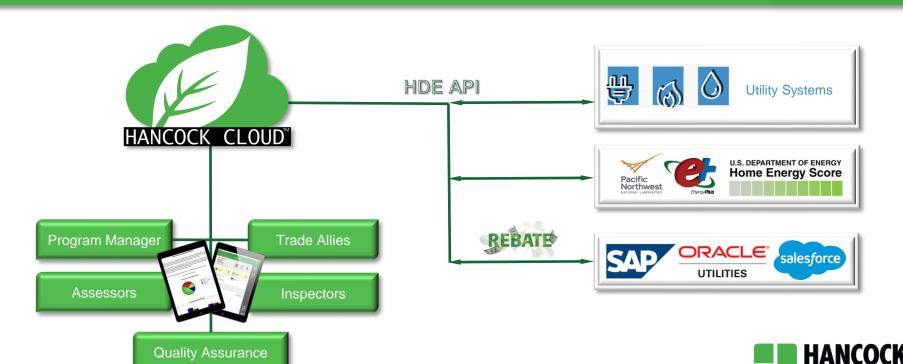


Application	Program Qualification	Potential Measures	Measure Validation	Installation	Inspection	Incentive Payment
Residential Income Eligible Multi-family Small Business Commercial Industrial	Territory Income Energy Usage Building Size Building Type Assignment	<ul> <li>Lighting</li> <li>Electric</li> <li>Water</li> <li>Gas</li> <li>Direct Install</li> <li>Prescribed</li> <li>Engineered</li> <li>Solar</li> <li>Resilience</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Safety</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Assessment</li> <li>TRM Based</li> <li>Single Measure</li> <li>BPI Modeling</li> <li>DOE SIR</li> <li>Photos</li> <li>Proposals</li> <li>Incentives</li> </ul>	Work Orders     Assignment     Job Tracking     Change Orders     Inventory     Re-calculate     Contractor     Management	<ul> <li>Assignment</li> <li>Schedule</li> <li>Pass/Fail</li> <li>Comment</li> <li>Photos</li> <li>Certification</li> <li>Verify Savings</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Calculation</li> <li>Job based</li> <li>Measure based</li> <li>Fixed per item</li> <li>Percent saving</li> <li>Max Benefit</li> <li>PNNL API</li> <li>Payment</li> </ul>



### Solution Overview





### Hancock Cloud Benefits



- > Proven off-the-shelf energy efficiency program management platform
- Client portal for homeowners/building owners to apply and collaborate with program stakeholders
- ➤ Offline mobile application used by assessors, installers, and inspectors facilitates data and photo collection and organization that promotes better adoption by trade allies and other program stakeholders while delivering uniform customer experience
- ➤ Guided workflow management tailored for IRA Sections 50121 and 50122 rebates and fully supports the DOE/PNNL workflows and APIs for rebate processing.
- Qualification rules engine that enables braiding of disparate funding sources into one retrofit project while collecting necessary data to ensure compliance.
- Guided mobile data collection accelerates training and workforce development



## Planning for IRA with Hancock Cloud

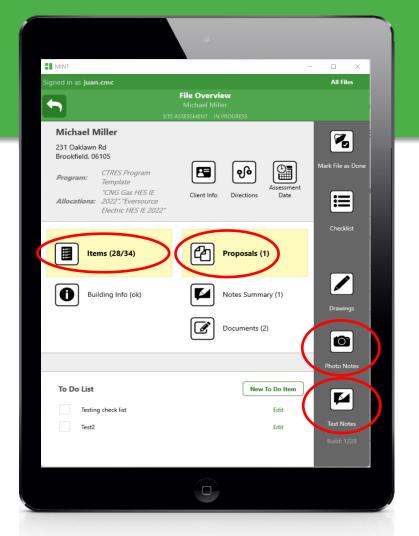




### Meeting IRA Challenges

- Coordinate IRA funds with state and utility programs and tax credits
- 2. Flexible modeled savings analysis and quality assurance
- 3. Multi-family weatherization
- 4. Accelerating workforce development





### MINT<sup>tm</sup> Mobile Tool

### Easy to Use

- Offline guided navigation expedites field data collection with no Internet connection needed
- ✓ Data collection, savings analysis, and proposals in one visit for energy efficiency retrofits
- ✓ Full catalog of energy savings measures
- Capture notes with native device microphone
- ✓ Assessment, Installation, and Inspection modes



## Data Security



By definition, income eligible programs require the collection of sensitive personal information. DOE program guidance is explicit in the urgency of maintaining the security of the information collected to qualify and verify homes for rebates. The statute mandates that programs facilitate data sharing between stakeholders while in an environment that meets the most stringent security protocols that are regularly audited for compliance. Vetting households and buildings can *NOT* be secured when done in spreadsheets or other offline tools.

Protection of PII data has been at the core of Hancock Software solutions throughout our history. Hancock Cloud leverages the most advanced and continuously improving technologies and methods for securing your clients data.



## Security as a Service





## Security as a Service

- Simplified management
- Threats blocked in the cloud
- Enforce Internet use policies
- Security provided by experts
- · Always up-to-date

#### Security Challenges

- Exposure of confidential data
- · Malware threats
- · Spam
- Complex security environment

### Advantages of SaaS

- No hardware or software to purchase or manage
- · Lower TCO
- · Scalability
- · Greater reliability







## IRA Data Requirements in Hancock Cloud



The DOE first published the "IRA HOME ENERGY REBATES: DATA & TOOLS REQUIREMENTS GUIDE" on October 13, 2023. Right from the start, Hancock Cloud was already able to implement almost the entirety of these requirements right out of the box based on our years of DOE WAP experience. Since the release of the guidelines, we have been developing the few new isolated features needed to fulfill all of the requirements.

Integral to these requirements were a series of workflows the DOE/PNNL team has developed to define how rebate transactions will occur, create plans for data collection and reporting, and implement these programs in accordance with the DOE program and data requirements. The workflows outline step-by-step actions that various rebate participants undertake, how their actions relate to one another, and what data is collected and/or reported at each step. Hancock Cloud is able to administer all of the 50121 and relevant 50122 workflows for rebate processing.



#### IRA HOME ENERGY REBATES: DATA AND TOOLS REQUIREMENTS GUIDE

#### Introduction

This guide is intended to assist states and their designees in developing and executing data collection, tracking, and reporting plans as needed to effectively implement two residential rebate programs authorized by Sections 50121 and 50122 of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The guide is into five parts; parts 1, 2, and 3 address data requirements while parts 4 and 5 focus on data systems and rebate process workflows. These requirements are in collaboration with and will be included on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist (FARC) as part of the award package.

This document provides the program requirements as determined by the DOE to meet the statutory requirements of IRA Section 50121 and Section 50122. States must develop programs that comply with the programmatic requirements presented in this document.

### Utilization of DOE/PNNL API

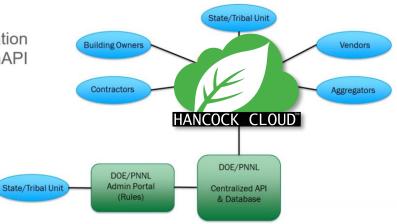


#### **DOE/PNNL Centralized Draft API Overview**

- A REST API
- OpenAPI (Swagger) Documentation
- Seeking feedback on draft OpenAPI spec for the API

#### Design Philosophy:

- · As simple as possible to use
- · As flexible as needed



### Utilization of DOE/PNNL API



BOUT

NEWS & MEDIA

CAREERS

EVENTS

SEARCH

RESEARCH

PEOPLE

PARTNER WITH PNNL

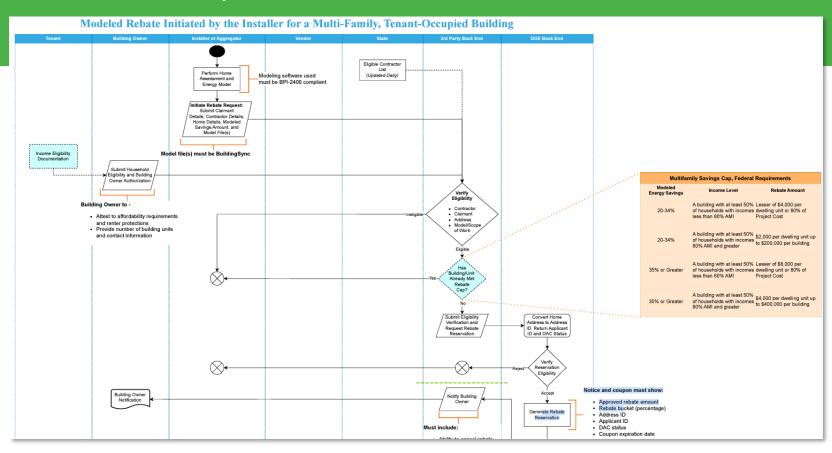
FACILITIES

#### **Process Workflows**

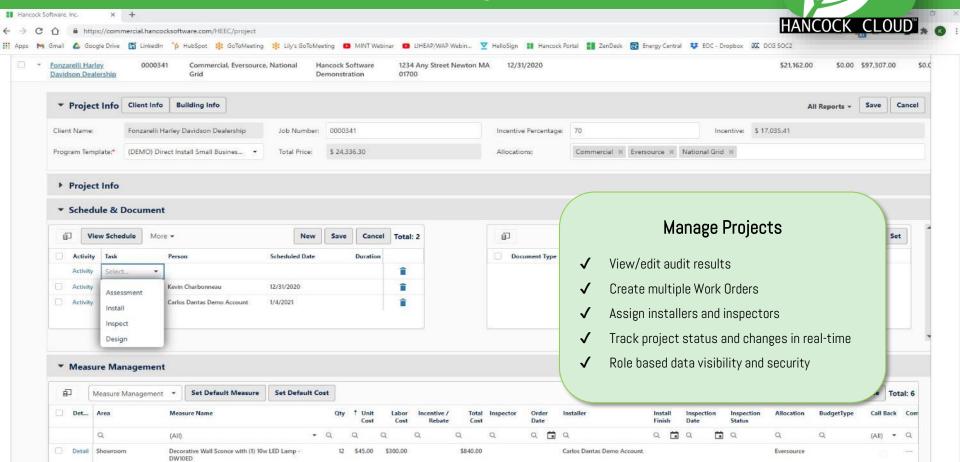
PNNL recognizes that the success of the Home Energy Rebate programs hinges not only on a robust API but also on actionable workflows. These workflows define the step-by-step procedures that relevant stakeholders (such as state energy offices, implementers, and vendors) planning to use the DOE Rebate API will follow to participate in and administer the program effectively. The table below outlines the possible avenues to claim Home Energy Rebates, and each hyperlink leads to the proposed workflow.

May 8,
2024
May 8, 2024

### Utilization of DOE/PNNL API



## Hancock Cloud Workflow Management



### Modeled or Measured?



NJBPU is seeking input on whether modeled or measured analysis is the best approach for multifamily buildings. We believe this is a false choice.

First, there will be different cases where one or the other method will be more suited. Hancock Cloud enables either the modeled or measured pathway for rebates to be decided on a case-by-case basis and then collects and organizes the appropriate data for rebate processing accordingly.

Second, in practical application, every multifamily building will be modeled AND measured regardless of the rebate pathway selected. In the measured pathway, you will first need to model energy savings to determine the appropriate conservation measures, and in the modeled pathway you will need to come back and verify at least 70% of the savings.

### Eligibility Verification

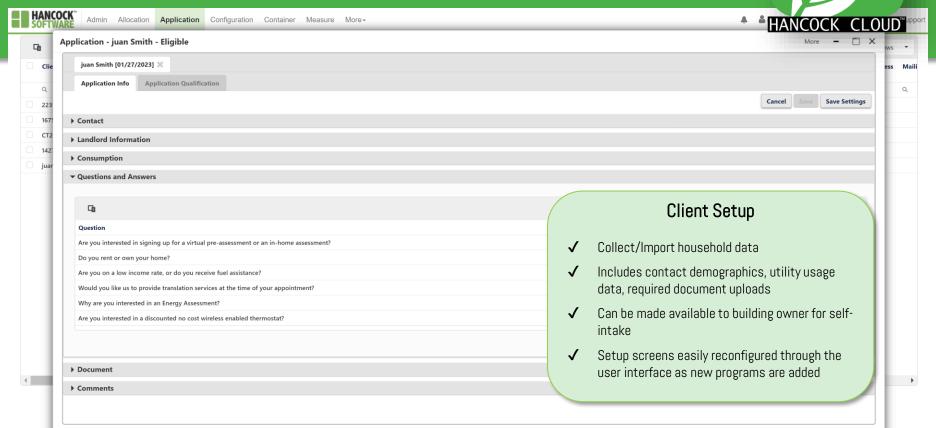


### IRA Challenges

- > States are encouraged to allow applicants to establish their eligibility through a variety of means, including categorical eligibility, documentation of income, and self-attestation.
- Documentation must demonstrate that the State imposes income requirements equivalent to or less than 80% AMI, or less than 150% AMI, or that a participating multifamily building has at least 50% with households less than 150% AMI.
- When stacking benefits, other program's eligibility requirements must be enforced simultaneously



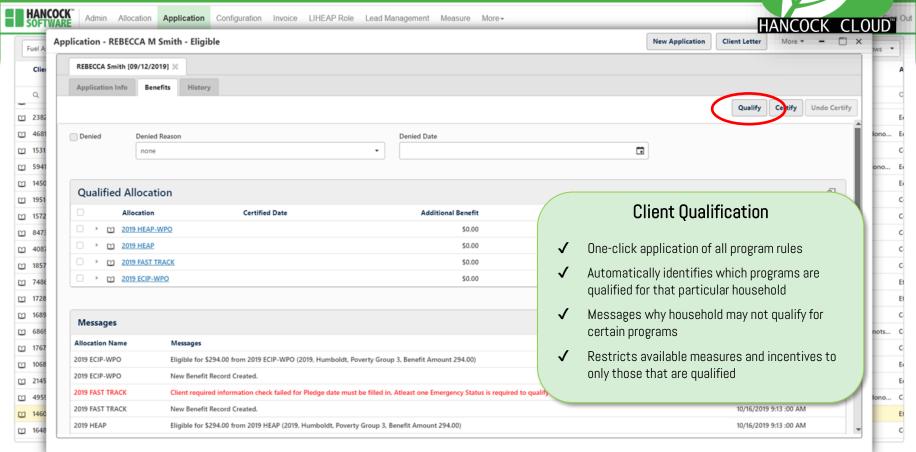
## Hancock Cloud Client Setup



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## Hancock Cloud Client Qualification



## Proposed Improvement Eligibility

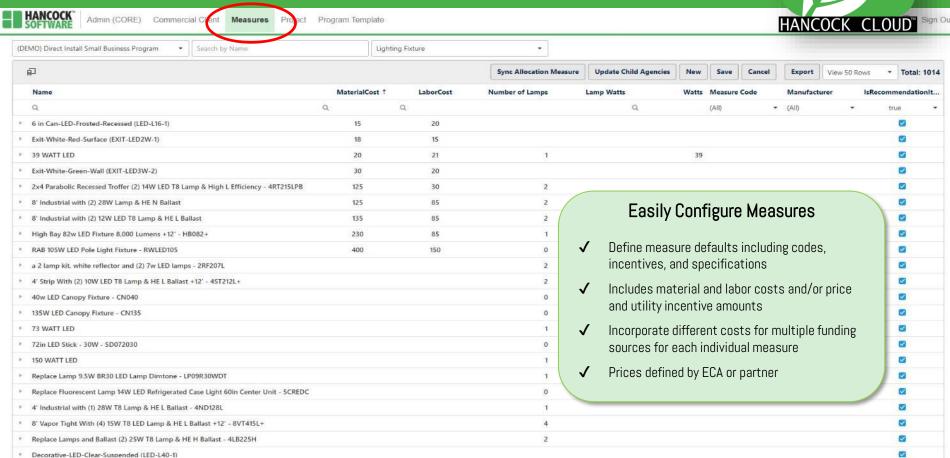


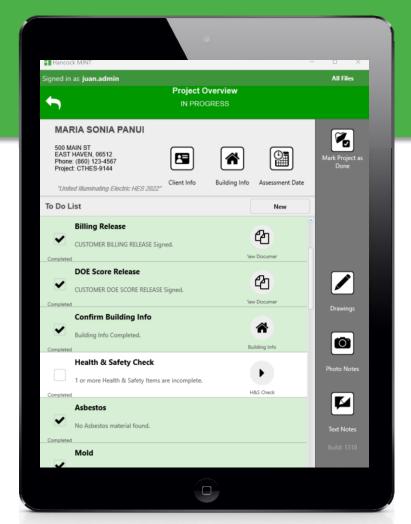
### **IRA Challenges**

- Ensure that rebates are not applied to specific energy efficiency upgrades funded with other Federal grants or rebates.
- Document and photo original components and upgraded replacement measures.
- Ensure the rebate does not exceed the total project cost when combined with other permissible/eligible program rebates.
- Model energy savings based on the data and information collected in the home.



## Hancock Cloud Measures Setup



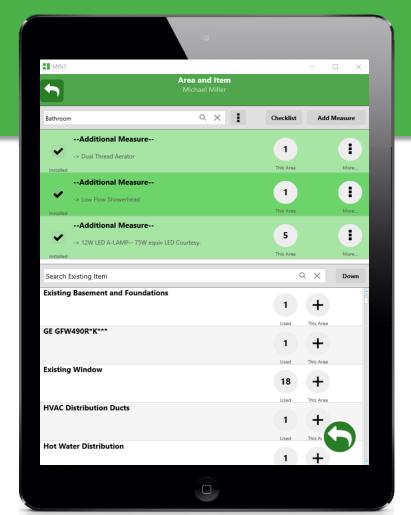




#### MINT<sup>tm</sup> Guided Audit

- Offline data collection, analysis, and proposal
- ✓ Checklist of mandatory audit objects
- ✓ All fields required for valid energy analysis
- ✓ Includes health & safety measures/tests
- ✓ Prompts for signatures for releases, etc.
- ✓ Assures successful audit in one visit
- ✓ Enables lower skilled audit staff







### Comprehensive EE Measures

- Supports residential, small business, large commercial and industrial EE measures catalog
- ✓ Recommend replacement items
- ✓ Use on desktop or remotely while offline
- User friendly clipboard enables guided data collection
- Easily configured savings and rebate calculations



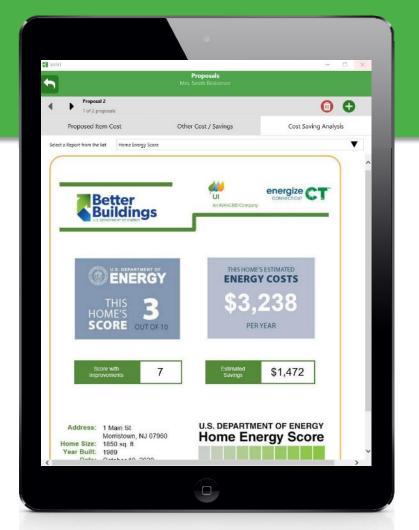
## Modeled Energy Savings



### **IRA Challenges**

- Estimate savings with DOE Approved BPI 2400 compliant energy modeling software
- Single family home assessment to determine eligible measures and final energy savings model reflecting only completed energy improvements.
- Collects and reports the data and information required for original components and replacement measures
- > Uses representative climate zone, weather, home characteristics, and actual energy usage data







### Flexible Energy Modeling

- ✓ Dynamic proposal of options while offline
- ✓ DOE approved analysis of energy savings
- ✓ BPI 2400 calibrated modeling
- ✓ HOMES and HEEHR rebate measures
- ✓ Health & Safety and Readiness measures
- ✓ Also runs TRM calculations for utility programs



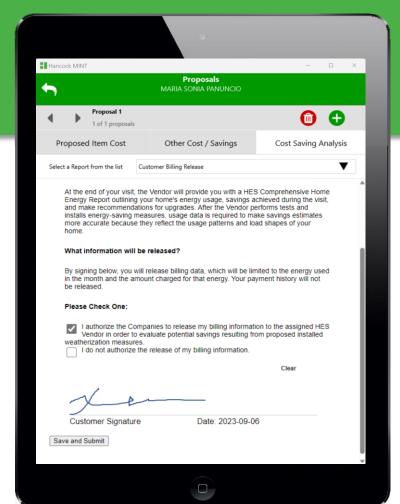
### Signature Collection



### IRA Challenges

- Authenticated, secure collection of client signatures
- > Billing release, installation contract, financing application, health & safety acknowledgements
- Claimant will be required to sign an affidavit attesting to the validity of all information provided (e.g., enrollment documents, household income, number of full-time occupant, etc.)
- Building owner signature to confirm that improvements were made at the address specified







### MINT<sup>tm</sup> Signatures

- ✓ Sign and save directly on tablet
- ✓ Billing release
- ✓ Contracts and work orders
- ✓ Financing applications
- ✓ Self attestations
- Automatically sync and store with household record

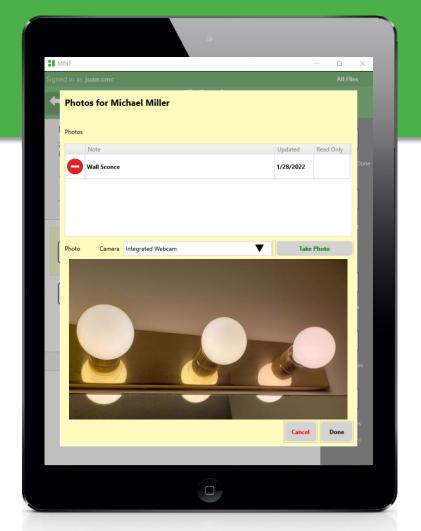


### Geolocated Photographs



- Collect, organize, and store photos of original components
- Record and store images of health and safety issues in the home
- Must show proof of quality installation at designated address for all measures
- Photos should be geotagged to verify location of work completed







#### **Photos**

- Capture photos at item or job level
- ✓ Images automatically tagged with item data
- ✓ Voice input notes description
- ✓ Syncs to cloud with audit and geolocation data
- ✓ Automatically organized and securely stored
- ✓ Easily retrieved for work orders, reports, etc.



## Quality and Inspection Records

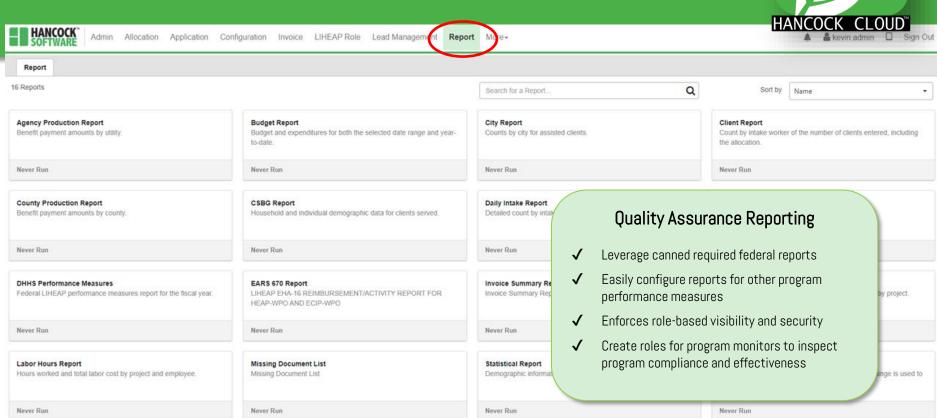


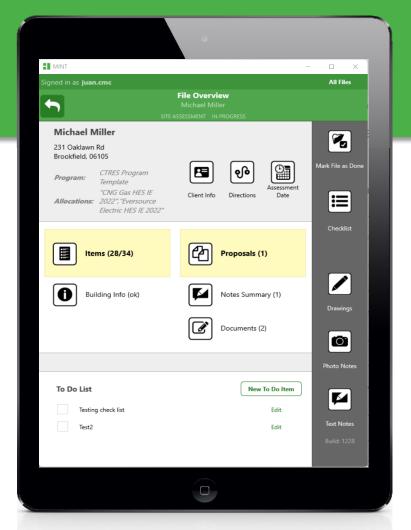
- Maintain records on QC inspections including sampling rates, findings, corrective actions taken, and verification of conformance to requirements
- Proof of quality installation at designated address
- Consumer protection functions including consumer feedback, project verification and inspections
- Reporting to measure and monitor program effectiveness



## Hancock Cloud Reporting







# MINT<sup>tm</sup> Inspection Mode

#### Final Inspection Audit

- ✓ Guided navigation expedites field audit
- ✓ Capture and automatically organize images
- Energy Efficiency and Health & Safety measures
- Capture notes with native device microphone
- Geotagged photos to verify location of installed measures
- ✓ Client surveys for contactor scoring



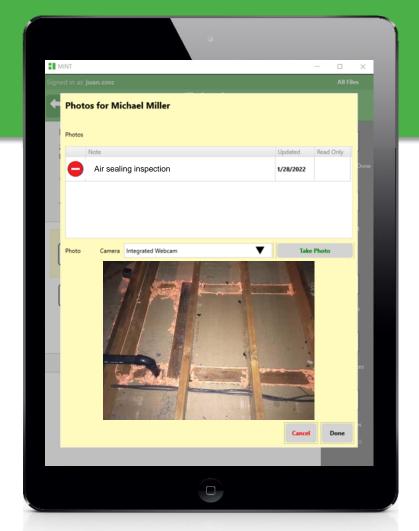
## PNNL Quality Install Tool



PNNL has developed a "Quality Install Tool" in support of the home energy rebate process that aims to standardize the documentation of critical quality details across contractors and contributes to ongoing efforts aimed at standardizing installation quality across various federal, state, and municipal programs. The DOE is recommending use of this tool to assure quality installation work as an integral part of the rebate processing workflow.

MINT<sup>tm</sup> by Hancock Software in the inspection mode can be used in lieu of this tool and will replicate this documentation of critical quality details, but as an embedded integral part of the retrofit project. This eliminates the need to import/export this data to maintain a master job record. This is especially important for multifamily work where inspections may occur over multiple sessions and/or with multiple inspectors.







#### **Inspection Mode**

- ✓ Sync inspectors with same project data
- ✓ Compare installation work with original audit
- ✓ Accept or reject measures one by one
- ✓ Capture photos and notes on same project file
- ✓ Create recall workorders on rejected measures
- ✓ QCI roles for projects and programs



#### Contractor Certifications



- Maintain an updated list of qualified contractor information
- Track performance history of each contractor (# of homes, type of buildings, energy saved, etc.)
- Maintain a record of the training, credentials, and/or qualifications required by the program for each contractor
- Notify stakeholders of expired or pending expiration of credentials



### Hancock Cloud Contractor Management





Admin Allocation Application Configuration Container Measure Project Vendor Contractor Management

demo.programadmin Sign Out Support

	Contractor Name	Trade Type	Contractor Code	Street Number	Street Name	City	State Abbr	ZIP	Active	Customer Rating	g License Number	License Date	Licen Expir
	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q (All)	<b>▼</b> Q	Q	۹ 🖪	Q
[	Crew Lead 7								~				
→ [	Crew Lead 6												
	Crew Lead 5							Contractor Management					
_	Crew Lead 4												
	Crew Lead 3						✓	Track ongoing list of active, past, and potential					
	Crew Lead 2							program contractors					
[	<u>Elysian Energy</u>						✓	✓ Monitor status of individual licenses a				d	
								certifications					
□ U	sers						✓	Ма	intain rating	from customer	feedbacl	(	
Login Name	Full Name	Address	ZIP	City State	Email		✓	ΔΙρ	rt stakeholo	ders to expiring o	redentia	le	
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### Combining Funds



- > States are **strongly encouraged** to design their rebate programs in ways that allow for effective combinations of various funding sources.
- Leverage existing programs through resource braiding, co-funding, and financing.
- Program must collect and maintain sufficient documentation to assure compliance with a variety of legal prohibitions that prevent certain methods of combining funds from different sources
- Include local utility, state, and municipal programs, HUD loans, GGRF grants, tax incentives, etc.



### Stacking Incentives



#### Low-Income Households

Below 200% Poverty Line for WAP eligibility
Below 80% Area Median Income for maximum HOMES/HEEHR rebate eligibility

HEEHR
(HVAC + Electrification)
\$14,000
Up to 100% of project cost

WAP
Energy Conservation
\$8,250

Utility Rebate (as applicable)

#### Moderate-Income Households

Between 80% - 150 % Area Median Income

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (EERLF) Low-interest loan 25C Tax Credit Heat Pump or Heat Pump Water Heater + Insulation \$3,200 / year

HEEHR
(HVAC + Electrification)
\$14,000
Up to 50% of project cost

## HOMES (Modeled)

\$2,000 (20% energy savings)

Up to 50% of project cost

Utility Rebate (as applicable)





Table 1. Summary of retrofit incentives for single-family houses and multifamily buildings in recent federal legislation

Program	Funding	How distributed?	When?	Who is eligible?	What is eligible?	For how much?
HOMES Rebate (DOE)	\$4.3 billion and \$0.2 billion for training	Rebates via SEOs	After DOE guidance and state plans	Homeowners and landlords, all income levels (or aggregators)	Whole-home retrofit projects that reduce energy use at least 15%	Typically \$2,000 to \$4,000, doubled for households below 80% of AMI
High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (DOE)	\$4.5 billion (includes \$0.225 billion for tribes)	Rebates via SEOs and tribes (may be point of sale)	After DOE guidance and state plans	Residents, building owners, or contractors, for households below 150% of AMI	Electrical equipment and insulation. For new construction, to replace non-electric, or first-time purchase.	50% of project cost (100% for households below 80% of AMI) up to \$14,000 total with subcaps
WAP (DOE)	\$3.5 billion in IIJA	Direct install via WAP agencies	50% when state plans approved	Homeowners and landlords, generally household income under 200% of FPL	Whole-home retrofit projects	Typically cost up to about \$8,000 per home
25C tax credit	\$12.5 billion CBO "score" through 2031	Via tax returns	2023–2032 (under old rules in 2022)	Homeowners (for their principal residence)	Efficient equipment and components, energy audits.	30% of cost up to \$1,200/year (\$2,000 for heat pumps and wood stoves), with subcaps
179D tax deduction (retrofit portion)	No separate estimate	Via tax returns	2023–2032 (under old rules in 2022)	Owners of multifamily buildings over three stories (nonprofits and governments may transfer the deduction)	Retrofit projects that reduce building energy use at least 25%	\$0.50–5 per sq. ft. of floor area based on energy savings and labor standards
Energy efficiency in affordable housing (HUD)	\$1 billion	Grants or loans and technical assist	After HUD request for proposals to 2028	Owners of HUD-assisted affordable housing	Measures to improve energy and water efficiency, air quality, and resilience and energy benchmarking	TBD
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (EPA)	\$27 billion (total— portion for housing unknown)	Grants, loans, other financial assistance, and technical assist	To distributing orgs. 2022–2024	Unspecified, but much of it for low-income and disadvantaged communities; distributed via states, tribes, cities, and nonprofit orgs.	Zero emission technologies and projects to reduce or avoid GHG emissions and other forms of air pollution	TBD



## Multiple Funding Sources

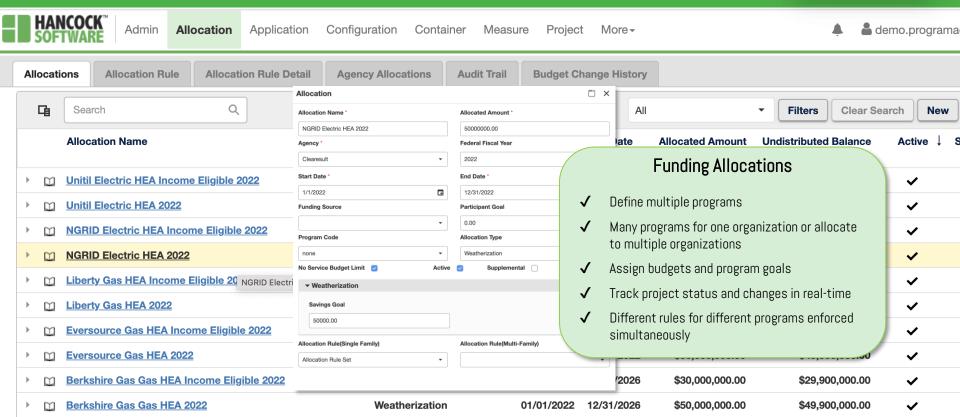


One of the single most significant benefits of Hancock Cloud for energy efficiency program management is the ability to automatically manage multiple funding sources for a given retrofit project simultaneously.

During the application process a home or building leverages a fully configured rules engine to qualify eligibility for any number of funding sources each with their own unique qualification rules. Then during implementation, only eligible funding sources will be applied for each measure, or even combined funding for a single measure where permitted, while ensuring that prohibitions of shared funding by certain programs are enforced. For example, a DOE WAP qualified home might not meet the DOE SIR requirements for a heat pump water heater alone, but when partially funded by a local utility heat pump rebate, the measure is now eligible under DOE rules as well providing deeper savings.

#### Hancock Cloud Allocation Setup





## Multiple Funding Source Qualification Rules

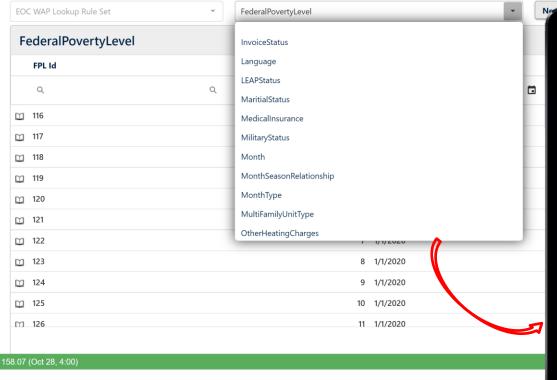


Admin Allocation Application Configuration

Container

Invoice Measure More →

Client Letters / Label **Lookup Tables** 





## DOE WAP Braiding



By definition, households qualifying for Weatherization Assistance Program are also entitled to HEEHR incentives. The proposed budget allocation excludes these single family homes identified by the WAP from further support from the IRA Home Energy Rebates. By allocating 85% of HEEHR program funding into the M-RISE program for multi-family buildings and the remaining 15% for Comfort Partners, BPU may miss opportunities to maximize energy savings and emissions reductions for these disadvantaged households, which is after all the primary objective of this IRA legislation.

BPU should work with the Department of Community Affairs to braid Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funding with the Home Energy Rebates to ensure there is maximal coverage and assist DCA sub-grantees in ensuring that there no overlap between the energy measures used for the programs.

## Multifamily Weatherization



- Complex application process qualifying buildings with partial non LMI occupancy and multiple tiers of benefits based on an AMI that varies from area to area.
- Coordinating activities of multiple contractors and multiple inspections on large energy efficiency retrofit projects that span months or years when compared with single family homes
- Extensive assessment requirements to model whole building energy savings and identify best potential energy efficiency measures for both measured and modeled pathways
- Aggregating energy consumption and allocating split benefits between owners and tenants.



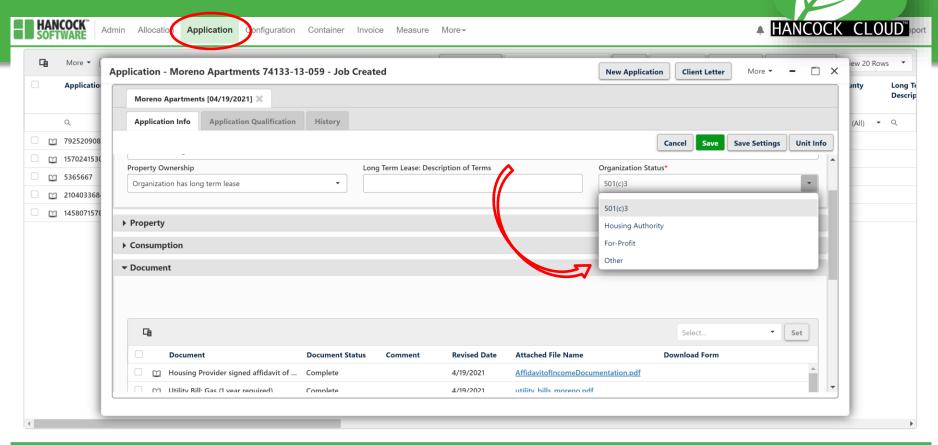
## Hancock Cloud for Multifamily



Hancock Cloud includes a number of features specifically aimed at the challenges of programs that manage large multifamily energy efficiency projects:

- ➤ Choice of individual unit applications that are merged into one or a single central application completed by a building manager
- ➤ Automatically aggregates and tracks income status for the whole building to ensure multiple varying AMI thresholds are met for 50% of the units
- Assessments by multiple assessors and multiple visits are synced automatically into one project record
- ➤ Installation/inspection progress, status, and issues on retrofits that go on for months or years are synced and tracked in single project record
- > Collection of data to support Davis-Bacon Act compliance reporting for braiding with non-IRA funding sources

# Multifamily Energy Efficiency Projects



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## Multifamily Energy Efficiency Projects



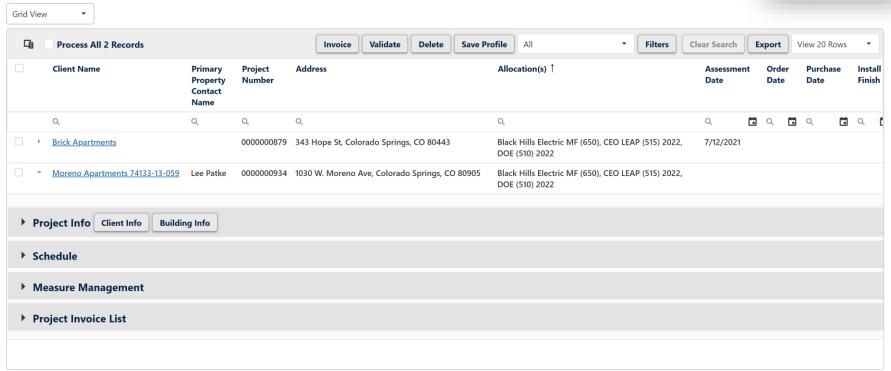


Allocation Application Configuration

Container







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#### Partners Welcome



Hancock Software does not design or manage energy efficiency programs. We have a highly flexible, easily configured platform that can be readily adapted to all manner of energy service programs. As often as not, our solution is deployed on a program in partnership with a program administrator, rather than with the utility directly.

There is no one "best" way to distribute IRA home energy efficiency rebate funding and there will be a broad spectrum of program solutions represented across participating states. We are confident that Hancock Cloud will meet the requirements of these widely varied programs right out of the box. So, instead of trying to build a one-off solution from scratch, we invite all program designers, program administrators, and aggregators to contact us directly and explore how Hancock Software solutions might benefit your plans for an IRA HOMES & HEEHR Rebate Program.



Contact: kevin@hancocksoftware.com www.hancocksoftware.com

