

2026-2027 Joint Cooperation Memorandum:

California Choice Energy Authority (CalChoice)
and
Inland Empire Regional Energy Network (I-REN)

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Introduction

For their 2026-2027 energy efficiency portfolios, California Choice Energy Authority (CalChoice) and Inland Empire Regional Energy Network (I-REN) will collaborate with each other to support program adoption. This Joint Cooperation Memorandum (JCM) documents areas of potential program overlap by sector, with details about collaboration methods that can be used to mitigate customer confusion, streamline customer referrals, and avoid duplication.

Background/Regulatory Guidance

The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Decision (D.)18-05-041 requires Energy Efficiency (EE) Program Administrators (PAs) with overlapping service areas to submit a JCM to coordinate program activities. Specifically, the directive states:

We will require the PAs (RENs, IOUs, and CCA) to develop a joint cooperation memo to demonstrate how they will avoid or minimize duplication for programs that address a common sector (e.g., residential or commercial) but pursue different activities, pilots that are intended to test new or different delivery models for scalability, and/or programs that otherwise exhibit a high likelihood of overlap or duplication and are not targeted at hard-to-reach customers. For such programs, each PA must explicitly identify and discuss how its activities are complementary and not duplicative of other PAs' planned activities.¹

Furthermore, CPUC D.23-06-055 establishes additional requirements for PAs submitting JCMs. The decision states in ordering paragraph (OP) 35:

This decision supersedes D. 18-05-041 and D.21-05-031 with respect to the timing and submission of Joint Cooperation Memoranda (JCM). Portfolio administrators must submit JCMs every two years, within 60 days after Commission approval of the last of each JCM's portfolio administrator's true-up advice letters and mid-cycle advice letters (as applicable), to the California Energy Data and Reporting System, with notice to the service list of Rulemaking (R.) 13-11-005 or a successor proceeding.

Additionally, CPUC Resolution E-5464 (July 2, 2026) OP 4 states:

California Choice Energy Authority shall engage in Joint Cooperation Memorandums with Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, Inland Regional Energy Network, and Southern California Regional Network within 90 days of the issuance of this Resolution. The Joint Cooperation Memorandums shall include a plan to avoid customer confusion between similar EE offerings.

Program Administrators (PA) Commercial Sector

Program Comparison

CalChoice does not expect program overlap with I-REN, detailed below.

CalChoice's Perform and Save program primarily targets commercial customers through a population-based Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC) framework that is technology- and measure-agnostic and focused on measured energy reductions. I-REN's Public program only serves public agencies.

Table 1 below describes the similarities and differences between the PAs' programs.

Table 1: PAs Program Comparison

Category	CalChoice Perform & Save	I-REN Public Sector Program
Customer Type	Commercial Customers	Public agencies (local governments, schools, public facilities)
Primary Fuel	Electric	Electric
NMEC Approach	Pop NMEC	Site NMEC
Sector	Commercial (small business)	Public
Expected Overlap with CalChoice	N/A	No overlap expected due to CalChoice not service public agencies

Program Differentiation:

CalChoice Commercial Sector

Program Summary:

The Perform and Save Program will provide cost-effective energy efficiency retrofits, using a population-based normalized metered energy consumption (NMEC) approach to serve CalChoice's customers. As an alternative to the traditional "custom" or "deemed" programs, the population NMEC program approach enables program administrators to provide incentives for energy efficiency retrofits using an overall reduction in metered consumption. CalChoice's program will largely target small commercial customers. Targeting may be done for administrative considerations, such as ensuring there is no overlap with other programs in the territory.

Customers and/or service providers can participate in the Program with a range of measures that generate verifiable energy savings. The Program offers a payment for energy reductions that values a range of resources equally to ensure that incentives flow to projects with verifiable impacts and allow for different behind-the-meter solutions to work together in a coordinated way.

The Program is technology and measure agnostic by design. It can integrate a wide range of measures including traditional efficiency such as lighting and HVAC retrofits. Other solutions that generate verifiable results can also be accommodated without administrative requirements.

By offering payment for energy impacts that value technologies and strategies equally, the Program ensures that incentives are directed towards the technologies and providers that can deliver energy impacts most effectively, thereby minimizing performance risk to the program and optimizing the deployment of demand flexibility solutions.

I-REN Public Sector

I-REN's Public Sector program does not target small commercial customers and therefore has no potential sector overlap with CalChoice's program.

General Portfolio Coordination

In the case that there are changes to programs, PAs will discuss potential changes to their programs as soon as possible and prior to the change going into effect so there is no overlap of customers enrolled in each PAs program.

Appendix

Appendix A: CalChoice Summary of Programs Offered:

Program Name	Sector	Annual Budget	Eligible Measures
Perform and Save	Commercial	2026: \$270,300 2027: \$1,621,800 2028: \$810,900 Total: \$2,703,000	Lighting HVAC retrofit