

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS #2

RFP #2023-019

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Grants for Community Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Projects Providing Direct Benefits to
Low and Moderate Income Residential Electric Customers

	Questions	Answers
1.	Are these grants limited to projects 1 MW and below?	Grant funds may be awarded to projects greater than 1 MW that can fully demonstrate that they meet both the eligibility requirements of the RFP and the definitional requirements of RSA 362:1-a, II-c.
2.	If two eligible communities in the same utility service territory separately applied for a grant but used a single project site and constructed a single, larger solar array to take advantage of project economies of scale, but separately complied with the grant conditions, would a single site project like this qualify as one project with a funding cap of \$400,000, or as two projects each with a \$400,000 cap?	As per RFP Section B. Definitions. As used in this RFP, the term “project” includes both the equipment and facilities comprising the solar PV system, and the management and administration of financing, funding, operations, maintenance, benefits provision, participating customer income verification, admission, replacement, education, communications, and other related matters. Consequently, the joint venture described in the question would comprise one project for award purposes.
3.	Is a project that will be located at a ROC location using an existing cooperative meter (ie: water pump) eligible to apply for this grant? This project would determine the annual behind the meter and exported solar savings and apply 100% of the savings to lot rent reduction for the residential subscribers.	<p>Per RFP 2023-019, Section C. Basic Project Eligibility Requirements, No. 1. Proposers must propose <u>new</u> resident-owned or third party-owned ground--mounted, carport, or rooftop, community solar PV projects, including, but not limited to, those located in or otherwise serving affordable multi-family rental housing or resident-owned manufactured housing communities. The RFP contains no eligibility requirements that prevent interconnecting behind an existing utility meter.</p> <p>We recommend contacting your utility to determine eligibility and technical requirements of potential interconnection points.</p>

4.	Is a project eligible for this grant if the design is to use only 85% of the solar savings for rent reduction?	<p>Per RFP 2023-019 Section C. Basic Project Eligibility Requirements, No. 11. Projects requesting full funding through this RFP must demonstrate that a minimum of 75% of the project’s net revenues from electric generation will directly benefit LMI participants.</p> <p>Proposal selection scoring criteria includes 40 of 100 points based on a proposal’s net direct benefit to LMI participants, see section III, Proposal Selection Process and Criteria.</p>
5.	Can an existing meter be used for the project so that a new meter doesn't need to be installed?	<p>The RFP contains no eligibility requirements that prevent interconnecting behind an existing utility meter. We recommend contacting your utility to determine technical requirements of potential interconnection points.</p> <p>However, note that per RFP 2023-019, Section C. Basic Project Eligibility Requirements, No. 1. Proposers must propose <u>new</u> resident-owned or third party-owned ground-mounted, carport, or rooftop, community solar PV projects, including, but not limited to, those located in or otherwise serving affordable multi-family rental housing or resident-owned manufactured housing communities. Expansions of existing net metering systems are not eligible to receive funding through this RFP.</p>
6.	Is a single-family home eligible for this RFP?	<p>No, per RFP 2023-019 eligibility requirement #2, “Projects must utilize grant funds primarily for capital investments in new solar PV projects that will result in a quantifiable direct benefit to a <u>minimum of five residential electric customers</u> or to residents of a public housing authority or housing project within the same electric distribution utility service territory and where at least the majority of participants must be LMI.” While a project model working with multiple single-family homes, at a minimum of five, may be eligible, one single family home does not meet the above eligibility requirements.</p>
7.	How is this application different since the last RFP?	<p>The purpose of the Q&A is to clarify aspects of the current RFP, and the Department will not provide a comparison. RFP 2022-006 and RFP 2023-019 are publicly available for review here Requests for Proposals NH Department of Energy.</p>

8.	Who can apply for these funds? Should it be a housing authority or can it be a manufacturer/vendor?	There is no restriction on the type of entity that may submit a proposal, so long as that the project provides direct benefits to low, moderate, or low and moderate income residential electric customers who reside within the same electric distribution utility service territory that meet the eligibility criteria set forth in RFP 2023-019, Section C., Basic Project Eligibility Requirements. Also, note that proposal selection scoring criteria includes 40 of 100 points based on a proposal's net direct benefit to LMI participants, see RFP 2023-019, section III, Proposal Selection Process and Criteria.
9.	Are annual income surveys are required, or is it acceptable to complete income surveys only when a new member joins? Alternatively, may income surveys can be conducted on a less than annual basis, e.g. biennially or every 5 years?	<u>Grantees must provide documentation that income verification has been performed annually.</u>
10.	A number of design and construction firms have asked for clarification about how the NH DOE cost-reimbursement works. I have the language from the RFP, but do you have further guidance?	<p>Contract documents are publicly available on the Governor and Executive Council website below. See Exhibit C, Grant Amount Terms, and Methods of Payment, which includes detailed information relating to the reimbursement process. Examples of payment term documents for past grant awardees in this program include those approved at the Governor and Executive Council meeting held June 14, 2023 and may be found at the links below,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>086 GC Agenda 061423.pdf (nh.gov)</u> • <u>087 GC Agenda 061423.pdf (nh.gov)</u> • <u>088 GC Agenda 061423.pdf (nh.gov)</u> • <u>089 GC Agenda 061423.pdf (nh.gov)</u> <p>When all terms for a contract have been met, the awardee must submit a payment request and support documentation demonstrating requirements have been met. If the Department determines that all terms and requirements have been met for payment, a check is then issued from the State to the awardee. Note payment is issued on a reimbursement basis only.</p>

<p>11.</p>	<p>Do the statements on page 4, IA, first full paragraph and on page 8, Section D:4i mean that we cannot include multi-family buildings under master-metered arrangements because the bill is not received “in the customers name”? Can it be assumed your statement in on page 4 (mentioned above) is really saying that the <u>resident</u> of the unit must receive an electric bill in their name to meet the “customer” definition on page 8 (mentioned above)?</p>	<p>Per RFP 2023-019 Section C. Basic Project Eligibility Requirements, No. 2. Projects must utilize grant funds primarily for capital investments in new solar PV projects that will result in a quantifiable direct benefit to a minimum of five residential electric customers <u>or to residents of a public housing authority or housing project within the same electric distribution utility service territory and where at least the majority of participants must be LMI.</u> Consistent with RSA 362-F:2, X-a, “LMI” is defined as end-user customers whose income is at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. For the purposes of this proposal, moderate income participants are defined as end-user customers whose income is more than 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines but less than or equal to 300 percent of those guidelines.</p> <p>The eligibility requirements above include both residential electric customers, meaning individual customers with electric bills in their names, OR residents of a public housing authority or housing project. Residents of eligible affordable housing units are not required to have a bill in their name.</p>
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<p>12.</p>	<p>How can question On Page 7, section 1:iv be responded to without knowing if all customers must be served by the utility that the solar farm is sited in. I will need to address the utility territory for each resident in these buildings and identify each customer address by utility?</p>	<p>RFP 2023-019 contemplates that a project model has already been established, including participant identification and participant electric distribution utility service territory. Per RFP 22023-019 page 11 of 23, Proposal Selection Process and Criteria, Proposals will be deemed incomplete, nonconforming, and ineligible for grant funding if information required under this RFP is not included in the proposal. Proposals that fail to meet the following criteria will be deemed ineligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing of a timely proposal in the required manner; • <u>Propose a project for community solar photovoltaic that will provide direct benefits to low, moderate, or low and moderate income residential electric customers who reside within the same electric distribution utility service territory;</u> • <u>Present a comprehensive plan that clearly demonstrates and quantifies the net direct benefits to participating LMI customers;</u> • <u>Present a comprehensive plan that clearly outlines project participant management plan including responsible parties and including group registration and ongoing group management plan for projects using group net metering.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential contractors and subcontractors, if applicable, or a detailed process and timeline to identify and engage them; • Listing of key project milestones and the associated timeline and project schedule; and • Identification of other funding and financing sources, or in the alternative a statement that there are no other funding or financing sources, and related letters of intent or commitment
<p>13.</p>	<p>Would submitting a response by copying the “Proposal Submission Requirements” from pages 5-10 into a Word document with responses to each requirement make my submission non-compliant in any way?</p>	<p>Per RFP 2023-019, page 2 of 23, No. 3.1, Electronic Proposals, Proposals must be submitted electronically to: RFP@Energy.NH.Gov. <u>Proposals must be submitted in PDF format as a file attachment to an email and must be searchable.</u></p> <p>A proposal that is submitted in any format other than the above will be deemed ineligible.</p>