

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RFP #2024-015

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.	What is the maximum KW size of a rooftop solar project that can be developed whereby we can apply for the LMI grant?	The maximum size of an array is governed by the state's regulatory framework rather than this RFP. To participate in net metering, a solar array cannot exceed 1MW, unless it is considered a municipal host, in which case it must be less than 5MW. Please refer to <a href="#">PUC Order No. 27,074</a> for additional details.
2.	Can some percentage of the power go to a town building (fire/police department or school etc.)?	Yes, it is conceivable that a project could be structured to provide some percentage of power to a town building and still meet the program eligibility requirements; however, if the project were structured improperly in the sole opinion of the Evaluation Team, then the project would be eliminated from consideration without recourse.
3.	In the RFP - Section C11 - it states that "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." How much funding is one permitted to request if, for instance, only 60% of the project's net revenues will directly benefit LMI participants?	There is no set scale for requests below the full amount; however, funding is competitive, and the amount of grant funding requested in relation to the net direct benefits provided to LMI participants is heavily weighted in decisions related to scoring, selection, and cancellation of the RFP.
4.	If a low income community decides not to accept the grant money after applying and being accepted (for instance if a new board comes into office and has a change of mind) is there any penalty?	A successful proposer will be expected to enter into a grant agreement with the State of New Hampshire. There would be no penalty for declining to accept grant money prior to effective date of the grant agreement. If an agreement that has become effective is terminated early for any reason other than completion of the project, the State would pursue monetary damages and equitable relief. That would include, at a minimum, stop payments and pursuing recovery of any funds disbursed.
5.	What happens if the percentage in, for instance, year 3 of LMI benefits drops below a majority level (below 50%)?	The LMI benefits may not drop below the majority level. Awardees will be contractually required to maintain an LMI majority for the useful life of the project. An awardee's method for maintaining the LMI majority level may change, but any changes from those described in the grant agreement would have to be submitted for review and evaluation by the Department.