

# Solar for New Mexico Program

Pre-Application Conference: May 20th, 2026

N E W M E X I C O



Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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# INTRO to ECAM

The Energy Conservation and Management Division (ECAM) is leading the charge to power New Mexico with clean energy and protect New Mexicans' health and safety as the climate changes.

ECAM is committed to developing and deploying solutions that will maximize New Mexico's renewable energy resources and improve energy efficiency and transportation standards. ECAM develops and implements effective clean energy programs to promote economic growth, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and stewardship of our natural resources.



# Solar for New Mexico Grant Program Authority

In 2025, the New Mexico Legislature created the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) in Section 6-4-37 NMSA 1978. ECAM was awarded CBF funds to develop or enhance energy efficiency technology, renewable energy technology, batteries and other systems capable of retaining, storing and delivering energy by chemical, thermal, mechanical or other means and any interconnection equipment required to safely interconnect these systems with the electric grid for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2028.

In 2026, ECAM allocated \$4,900,000 of the CBFA funds to establish the Solar for New Mexico grant program to support solar deployment projects from Tribal entities.

# Program Goals

**Policy Goal:** Solar energy production is needed in order to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) in NM and help transition the state to 100% zero-carbon electricity resources.

**Solar for New Mexico Project Goal:** Increase solar power deployment in the state

# Program Objectives & Eligibility

## Objectives

1. Lower electricity bills for low/moderate income residents (80% AMI).
2. Support resilience, clean energy development, and state-based solar industry
3. Reduce GHG emissions

## Eligible Entities

- Governments of Indian Nations, Tribes and Pueblos

We encourage collaborative partnerships.  
(i.e. your local public utility, community input and negotiations)



# Application

1. Contact information
2. Project Information
  - Design documents, site maps, engineering specs can be emailed as attachments
3. Budget
  - Supplemental budget documents can be provided as an optional attachment
4. Timeline
5. Technical Capabilities
  - Resumes/CVs are an optional additional attachment that can be emailed in addition the application
6. Community Benefits Plan

ECAM has developed a fillable form for entities to use to apply for this grant funding opportunity.

All answers to application questions should be directly entered into the downloadable fillable form.

Applicants will email the completed fillable form along with any supplemental attachments to the ECAM contact listed in the NOFO.

Separate emails for large files is acceptable.

[Solar for New Mexico NOFO & Application](#)

# Compliance Requirements

- All selected Applicants shall provide a statement to demonstrate acknowledgement of **compliance** with all applicable federal, state and local environmental laws, including but not limited to the Cultural Properties Act, NMSA 1978 §§ 18-6-1 through 18-6-17, and the Endangered and Protected Species Act NMSA 1978 §§ 17-1-14 through 17-5-21.
- In 2025, the New Mexico Legislature created the Community Benefit Fund (CBF). ECAM was awarded CBF funds to develop or enhance energy efficiency technology, renewable energy technology, etc. for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2028. The CBF specified that projects receiving CBF funds must document that **two meetings** were held within the overburdened community affected by the proposed project or complete a negotiated community benefits agreement (see Attachment 1 on NOFO).

# Exclusions

## Funding may not be used to:

- Install solar systems on government office buildings;
- purchase land, buildings, or structures, or any interest therein;
- subsidize utility rate demonstrations or state tax credits for energy conservation or renewable energy measures; nor
- conduct research, development, or demonstration of energy efficiency or renewable energy techniques and technologies not commercially available, or purchase equipment for the conduction thereof.

# Application Submission and Scoring

Applications are due by 5:00 PM July 15th, 2026. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2028.

Project applications will be scored according to the following rubric and placed in a queue from highest to lowest score. Applications must be complete and meet all criteria to be funded.

# Project Proposal Scoring Rubric and Evaluation Process

The evaluation process will follow the steps listed below:

A. The Program Manager will document the contents of competitive applications after the submittal deadline.

B. The Evaluation Team will review applications for compliance with the mandatory requirements stated within this NOFO. Applications will be sorted according to project type and scored against like projects. Funding will be allocated to the highest scoring projects in all categories until the funding is fully allocated.

C. The Evaluation Team will evaluate responsive applications based on completeness and the criteria in Section IX, Funding Application Evaluation Criteria.

Score	
-1	Non-responsive
1	Responsive/meets minimum threshold
2	Strong case/outcomes likely but not demonstrated
3	Demonstrates proof of concept and expected results
4	Strong case/outcomes likely and mostly demonstrated
5	Exemplary proof of concepts and expected results

No.	Description of Evaluation Criterion	Points Available (50 total)
1	Capability to meet the scope of work described in the following sections: Appropriateness of project timeline & milestones including demonstrated ability to complete the project in the required timeframe	20
2	Qualifications of the project team members (including subcontractors)	5
3	Ability to complete the project financially if the total budget exceeds the amount requested	5
4	Ability to increase access to solar and storage for LI households	5
5	Ability to provide benefits which are commensurate with 20% of household' historic energy expenditures	5
6	The applicant demonstrated compliance with the CBF or if selected, will be in compliance with the CBF before going under contract with EMNRD based on the following:	10 (Total points for 6.1 -6.5)
	6.1 Identification of overburdened communities	2
	6.2 Community Input and Negotiation	2
	6.3 Social Benefits	2
	6.4 Economic Benefits	2
	6.5 Environmental Benefits	2

**Applications will be accepted electronically to this email:**

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# Questions?

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