

Solar for New Mexico NOFO Questions

1. Is there a cap per project?
 - a. There is no cap on the amount that may be requested per project, the total amount available through this NOFO is \$4,900,000.
2. Would you please define more precisely "near shovel ready" or "near-implementation ready"?
 - a. Due to the short time frame that these funds are available (the funds must be expended by June 30, 2028) this NOFO is designed for projects that have undergone initial planning, such as engineering and/or design studies, which should be included in the application. Applicants should demonstrate that the project will be able to be completed in the timeframe available in the Timeline portion of the application.
3. If an entity proposes putting a solar array on a government, community, or non-residential building and provides LMI households with the benefits of the energy produced, would it be allowed?
 - a. Yes, community solar on a government building that supports LMI household bills would be allowed. The design of this NOFO builds from previous work developing the Solar for All program, where the focus was on direct benefits to LMI households.
4. Is there a preference for projects that include a battery storage/ESS/etc., component, or are grid-tied systems given equal weight/preference?
 - a. Projects with a battery storage component will not be given extra preference compared to projects without storage. Likewise, whether or not a project is grid-tied is not part of the scoring criteria.
5. If a community building (e.g., clinic, or senior center) owned by the Tribal Government supports LMI households, can that be included?
 - a. A community building may be included in a project, but the applicant should provide an explanation of how benefits will directly be provided to LMI households. The goal of the Solar for All program was to provide benefits commensurate with 20% of households' historic energy expenditure. Applicants are responsible for documenting and reporting data utilized in calculating household savings, including for households which do not have individual electricity bills.
6. Can a Tribal Energy Development Organization owned by a Pueblo qualify as an eligible applicant or must the Pueblo government itself be the applicant?

- a. Tribal entities, including housing authorities and TEDOs, applying on behalf of Tribal governments, must provide a letter of authorization from the Tribal government to qualify as eligible applicants.
- 7. Regarding whether community buildings benefiting LMI households but not residences qualified: a ground-based solar array mini-grid providing energy to residential homes and community buildings is allowable but one that only serves community buildings is not. Is that correct?
 - a. A mini-grid providing energy to residential homes and community buildings is eligible. A project only serving community buildings may be eligible, but the application would have to demonstrate how the benefits would be shared with LMI households.