

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?

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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.

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8. Can you confirm whether the solar applications require any minimum applicant cost share or matching funds?

A: Applications are welcome to mention cost share or matching funds, but there is no requirement for this funding opportunity.

9. Is there an application I can share with interested members?

A: The grant application is available at this link:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/ecmd/solar-for-nm-grant-application-final/>

10. Is there funding for assessment and installation?

A: Allowable costs include environmental and regulatory assessments, equipment, supplies, construction, inspection and initial monitoring of the solar energy technology performance. The grant is primarily designed to fund project installation, but may fund some assessment costs if the project will be completed within the timeframe laid out in the NOFO.

11. How does the solar project get integrated into a household's current energy bill?

A: We do not require a particular method of integrating the project into energy bills, as long as low-income households are benefiting from the project. This NOFO is designed for tribal entities to apply, not individual households.

12. Is this a partnership with PNM?

A: It is not a partnership with PNM.