

Solar for All FAQs

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Kentucky with a \$62,450,000 Solar for All (SFA) grant to deliver solar to low-income and disadvantaged households and communities state-wide. The Kentucky Office of Energy Policy (OEP) went through the process of revising the proposed program from the initial application requesting \$100 million and has submitted the revised documents as of 9/26/2024.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Solar for All?

Solar for All is a grant opportunity for states, territories, Tribal governments, municipalities, and eligible nonprofits to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities that have access to residential and community solar. Solar for All is managed by the EPA and authorized by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in the Inflation Reduction Act.

How will the program work?

Our SFA plan aims to reach low-income households in disadvantaged communities across the state, providing access to renewable energy and jobs/training in renewable energy. An average monthly energy savings of 20 percent is expected for homes that participate.

Funds have been awarded. After the revised documents are approved a one-year planning period will begin in which, OEP will curate a comprehensive approach with input from low-income disadvantaged communities (expected to begin December 2024). Within this period, OEP will also work with key stakeholders and partners to determine optimal program design. Money could be dispersed for some projects as soon as early 2025. The entirety of the grant is five years which includes the one-year planning period.

A webinar/video is available via the OEP newsletter and website with more detailed information on the program.

Will there be job or workforce development opportunities?

Yes, one of the goals of our SFA plan is to “... invest a significant portion of funds into local workforce development programs to support the successful deployment of the Solar for All program, improve the number of available qualified technicians and installers, and create new high-quality job opportunities statewide.”

Scholarships for certifications, apprenticeships, wrap around services, etc. are all components of our solar workforce development plan.

What projects will be eligible to be funded?

The program will support residential rooftop solar installations in eligible single-family homes and residential-serving community solar programs. There are also plans to include a multi-family housing pilot program in the revised workplan. EPA’s Solar for All guidance allows up to 20 percent of the funding to be used on enabling upgrades to prepare residences for solar installations if needed.

What factors will determine eligibility?

OEP will disperse funding to projects that benefit low-income individuals and families, with a focus on serving disadvantaged and underserved communities. Per EPA's definition, low-income and disadvantaged communities include [Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool \(CEJST\)-identified disadvantaged communities](#), [EJScreen-identified disadvantaged communities](#), and geographically dispersed low-income households and properties providing affordable housing. For more information on this, please visit [EPA's Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map](#).

OEP will also be using programs like LIHEAP and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to determine eligibility, as they have the same or higher level of income verification.

Individuals will not need to apply directly with the Office of Energy Policy. Funds will be distributed to partners who will handle consumer outreach and participation.

Are there any IRA benefits I can access now?

Federal residential energy tax credits (including both energy efficiency and solar power) are currently available through the IRS for certain qualifying projects. Visit [DOE's Homeowners Guide to Residential Solar Tax Credits](#) or consult your tax professional for more information. Additionally, visit the [Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency](#) to find other energy incentives that you may be eligible for.

Where can I learn more about Solar for All?

Read the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's FAQ](#) to keep up to date on developments at the federal level, and for more detailed information.

For program updates, visit these websites and sign up for our newsletter:

[Solar for All | Office of Energy Policy - Project Explorer \(arcgis.com\)](#)

[Energy - Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet](#)

[Signup Form \(constantcontactpages.com\)](#)

If you have additional questions, send them to emma.strong@ky.gov . (Last updated: 10/1/2024)

