



Wes Moore, Governor  
 Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
 Kelly Speakes-Backman, Director

# Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) FY27 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program

Type of Program:	First-Come, First-Served Grant Program
Target Audience:	Maryland counties, cities, towns, and other Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs)
Program Webpage:	<a href="https://energy.maryland.gov/govt/Pages/SolarAPP.aspx">https://energy.maryland.gov/govt/Pages/SolarAPP.aspx</a>
Issue Date:	07/01/2026
Modification Date:	Not Applicable
Application Deadline:	<b>3:00 PM ET, November 18, 2026</b> through the JotForm application portal. The online application portal may close to new applications prior to the Application Deadline, if the total budget requested exceeds the available Program Budget.
Application Submission through JotForm:	<a href="https://form.jotform.com/GridProgramTeam/fy-2027-maryland-solarapp">https://form.jotform.com/GridProgramTeam/fy-2027-maryland-solarapp</a>

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1. Program Purpose:

The Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program helps local governments automate the permit and plan review process for residential solar and energy storage systems. Grant funding supports the implementation costs associated with adopting the free-to-use SolarAPP+ permitting software<sup>1</sup>.

The requirement for counties and municipalities to adopt automated permitting software was established by the Brighter Tomorrow Act of 2024, modified by the Utility Relief Act of 2026, and codified in §1–1320 of the Local Government article, Annotated Code of Maryland.<sup>2</sup> The compliance deadline is August 1, 2027.

2. Type of Grant Program

This grant program is offered statewide on a first-come, first-served basis.

3. Application Deadline:

3:00 PM ET, November 18, 2026. The online application portal may close to new applications prior to the Application Deadline, if the total budget requested exceeds the available Program Budget.

4. Program Description:

The FY27 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program (“the Program”) offers grants on a first-come, first-served basis to Maryland counties and municipalities to defray the cost of adopting the free-to-use SolarAPP+ automated residential solar and energy storage permitting software.

SolarAPP+ software was developed by the National Laboratory of the Rockies (formerly NREL), with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and support from local governments and industry stakeholders. Currently, SolarAPP+ is managed and maintained by the non-profit SolarAPP+ Foundation, at no cost to local jurisdictions.

The adoption of SolarAPP+ (or another automated permitting tool) satisfies the requirement in Maryland law<sup>3</sup> to adopt software to automate the permit and plan

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gosolarapp.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=glq&section=1-1320&enactments=false>

<sup>3</sup> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=glq&section=1-1320&enactments=false>

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review process for residential solar and energy storage systems by August 1, 2027.

5. Program General Provisions:

MEA will enter into a grant agreement with the grantee that includes standard requirements referred to as “Program General Provisions”. MEA provides a copy of these provisions (“General Provisions v3 2.11.22”) on its website [here](#)<sup>4</sup>, and is provided as Attachment A to this FOA.

Federal Special Terms and Conditions apply to grants under this Program. In the event of a conflict between MEA standard provisions and federal terms and conditions, the federal terms and conditions control. A copy of these federal terms and conditions is provided as Attachment D to this FOA.

6. Law and Regulations:

MEA implements grant programs under the authority provided by State Government article § 9-2003.

The FY27 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program is federally-funded by the U.S. DOE State Energy Program, covered by the special terms and conditions described in Section 5, “Program General Provisions”.

7. Anticipated Program Budget:

MEA anticipates up to \$3,800,000 will be available from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) State Energy Program (SEP) for grants awarded under this Program. The total amount awarded may be more or less, depending on the funding sources, the amount available and restrictions on each funding source, and the number and quality of applications received.

See Section 10 “Eligible Activities” and Section 12 “Minimum Eligibility Requirements” below for the allowable uses of funding and restrictions on funding.

8. Grant Amount:

The grant amount will be calculated based on a base incentive and the total number of housing units using the following formulas in Table 1:

Table 1: Grant Amount Formula

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<sup>4</sup> [energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf](http://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf)

Grant Amount Formula	Minimum Individual Grant Amount	Maximum Individual Grant Amount
Base incentive of \$10,000 and a scale factor of \$0.95 per housing unit, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s July 1, 2025 estimate for the county <sup>5</sup> or municipality <sup>6</sup>	\$10,000	\$100,000  Note: An applicant may request a grant that exceeds the maximum. MEA may consider awarding a grant that exceeds the maximum on a case-by-case basis, if the applicant demonstrates need with sufficient justification and funding is available.

Regardless of the calculated total grant amount, grant funds are disbursed as reimbursements in arrears and will be limited to eligible expenses with supporting evidence, such as receipts and invoices.

9. Eligible Applicants:

9.1. The following types of entities are eligible to apply:

9.1.1. Incorporated towns, cities, and counties of Maryland and other Maryland residential solar permitting Authority Having Jurisdictions (AHJs)

9.2. See Section 10 “Eligible Activities” and Section 12 “Minimum Eligibility Requirements” below for the allowable use of funds and restrictions on funding.

10. Eligible Activities:

Funding awarded under this Program may only be used for the following specific expenses related to the implementation of the SolarAPP+ software:

<sup>5</sup>[https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/SiteAssets/Census\\_Estimates/Housing\\_Units/County-1A%20Total%20Housing%20Units.aspx](https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/SiteAssets/Census_Estimates/Housing_Units/County-1A%20Total%20Housing%20Units.aspx)

<sup>6</sup>[https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Documents/Census/Census2020/Redistricting/tables/2020-Housing\\_Units-Municipalities.pdf](https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Documents/Census/Census2020/Redistricting/tables/2020-Housing_Units-Municipalities.pdf)



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- 10.1. Staff time for training;
  - 10.2. Staff time to develop new procedures;
  - 10.3. Staff time or contractual support to integrate with existing systems;
  - 10.4. Staff time to account for potential fee adjustments; and
  - 10.5. Staff time or contractual support related to IT resources.
11. Ineligible Applicants and Activities:
- 11.1. Ineligible applicants and ineligible activities under this FOA may be eligible for other incentive programs instead. To learn more:
    - 11.1.1. A copy of the [General Notice of Intent for Fiscal Year 27 \(FY27\) Maryland Energy Administration Energy Programs](#)<sup>7</sup> is available on MEA's website.<sup>8</sup>
    - 11.1.2. A library of Maryland incentive programs for buildings is also available on the Maryland Clean Buildings Hub webpages here:
      - 11.1.2.1. [Clean Buildings Hub homepage](#)
      - 11.1.2.2. [Clean Buildings Hub financial resources](#)
  - 11.2. Specific ineligible applicants and ineligible activities under this FOA include but are not limited to:
    - 11.2.1. Any staff time or other expenses unrelated to SolarAPP+ implementation;
    - 11.2.2. General expenses such as monitoring, oversight, and administrative costs, which are expected to be covered by the grantee;
    - 11.2.3. Applications from federal or state agencies.
  - 11.3. MEA programs will not award grants to projects that violate or conflict with

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<sup>7</sup> Please note the General Notice of Programs is provided for planning purposes only. Each individual Program Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will include specific program requirements. Program names and details may change based on the final program design and stakeholder feedback.

<sup>8</sup><https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/FINAL%20FINAL%20ACCESSIBLE%20FY27%20General%20Notice%20of%20Upcoming%20Programs.pdf>

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the Fossil Fuel Policy. For more information, please review the Fossil Fuel Policy provided as FOA Attachment B.

- 11.4. **Prior Expenses Restrictions:** MEA will not disburse grant funds for costs incurred prior to the Effective Date of the Grant Agreement unless MEA agrees otherwise in writing.

12. **Minimum Eligibility Requirements:**

To be considered a complete application and to be evaluated as set forth in Section 14 “ Evaluation Criteria”, the following requirements must be met:

- 12.1. **Ability to Comply with General Provisions:** The General Provisions are provided as FOA Attachment A.
- 12.2. **Ability to Comply with Fossil Fuel Policy, if applicable:** The Fossil Fuel Policy is provided as FOA Attachment C.
- 12.3. The applicant must have an established Employer Identification Number (“EIN”, sometimes referred to as a “taxpayer identification number,” or “TIN”) when the application is submitted.
- 12.4. **Compliance with Relevant Certifications, Licenses, and Requirements:** The Grantee shall be responsible for compliance with the following:
- 12.4.1. **Authority to Operate in Maryland:** All work performed on behalf of the Grantee pursuant to a Grant Agreement shall be carried out by the Grantee’s staff and contractors holding all necessary Maryland certifications and licenses. Any business or nonprofit organization operating in Maryland with which the Grantee contracts or partners to carry out the purposes of the Grant shall be registered and in good standing with the [Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation](#)<sup>9</sup>, if applicable.
- 12.4.2. All work performed pursuant to a Grant shall comply with all applicable local, State, and federal building codes and other applicable laws and regulations.
- 12.5. **Prior Expenses Restrictions:** MEA will not disburse grant funds for costs incurred prior to the Effective Date of the Grant Agreement unless MEA

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<sup>9</sup> [dat.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx](http://dat.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx)

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agrees otherwise in writing.

- 12.6. **Duplicate Funding Restrictions:** An applicant cannot receive more than one MEA incentive for the same project scope at the same location.
  - 12.7. **Ability to Enter into a Grant Agreement:** Each applicant awarded a grant under the Program must enter into a formal Grant Agreement with MEA, before requesting payment of any grant funds.
  - 12.8. **Grant Implementation Period:** Any project funded under the Program must complete the project, including all milestones and required reporting documents, within approximately twelve (12) months of an executed grant agreement.
  - 12.9. If MEA determines that any activity undertaken violates or conflicts with the Grant Agreement, MEA may rescind the Grant or take any other appropriate action, as determined by MEA.
  - 12.10. **Project Narrative:** The applicant must respond in the JotForm online application to all of the following prompts, as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents”:
    - 12.10.1. Summary of Proposed Project
    - 12.10.2. Overview of Existing Residential Solar Permitting Process
    - 12.10.3. Type of SolarAPP+ Integration Desired
    - 12.10.4. Staff Time Description
  - 12.11. **Budget Workbook:** The applicant must upload a Budget Workbook as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents”.
  - 12.12. **Implementation Timeline:** The applicant must upload an Implementation Timeline as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents”.
  - 12.13. **Census Tracts:** The applicant must upload a spreadsheet with a list of census tracts in the jurisdiction, as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents”.
13. **Required Application Documents:**  
To be considered complete, an application must include the following documents. Failure to submit any of the required documents may result in the application being considered incomplete. MEA will not consider applications it deems incomplete. Each application to the Program must include the following:

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- 13.1. **Application:** Applicant must provide a complete and accurate application.
- 13.2. **Self-Verification of Minimum Eligibility:**
- 13.2.1. The applicant’s authorized representative must sign an attestation of the following, and provided as Attachment D of this FOA:
    - 13.2.1.1. I have reviewed the General Provisions.
    - 13.2.1.2. I have reviewed the Fossil Fuel Policy.
    - 13.2.1.3. I have reviewed all requirements of this program, as specified in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.
    - 13.2.1.4. To the best of my knowledge, all information provided in this application is complete, accurate, and true, and all work performed pursuant to a Grant shall comply with the terms and conditions of the Program, the General Provisions, the Fossil Fuel Policy, and all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and building codes.
  - 13.2.2. MEA may request documentation confirming the authorized representative.
- 13.3. **IRS Form W9:** The applicant must provide a complete, accurate, and signed IRS Form W9 for the entity that will be executing the grant. The IRS Form W9 organization name, address, and employer identification number (“EIN”, sometimes referred to as a “Taxpayer Identification Number,” or “TIN”) will be used to execute a grant agreement, if the project is selected for a grant. The applicant’s name and address provided on the IRS Form W-9 and on the application must match, and the address must be the billing address (rather than the project installation address or mailing address, if different). The grant will be in the name of the entity in Line 1 of the W-9. This is the company that will receive the grant funding. A blank copy of the most recent IRS Form W9 can be found on the [IRS Form W9 webpage](#)<sup>10</sup>.
- 13.4. **Project Narrative:** The applicant must respond to all of the following prompts directly in the JotForm online application:

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<sup>10</sup> [irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9](https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9)

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- 13.4.1. **Summary of Proposed Project:** The applicant must provide a brief summary of the proposed project by responding to the following prompts:
- 13.4.1.1. **Total Requested Grant Amount (\$)**
  - 13.4.1.2. **Total Project Cost (\$):** including the requested MEA grant amount and leveraged funds from other sources
  - 13.4.1.3. **Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:** a clear, concise title that summarizes the project, e.g. "Jurisdiction Name SolarAPP+ Implementation Support"
  - 13.4.1.4. **Brief Summary of Project Purpose:** a brief summary describing the purpose of the project(s) included in this application. This should be a high-level overview rather than a detailed funding narrative; program-specific details may be requested elsewhere in the application.
  - 13.4.1.5. **Proposed Project Impact:** Describe the expected impact of your project, including who will benefit, what will be implemented, and estimated results such as households served, energy savings, utility cost savings, or greenhouse gas reductions.
  - 13.4.1.6. **Proposed Project Start Date**
  - 13.4.1.7. **Proposed Project End Date:** this date should be when SolarAPP+ is anticipated to be live and fully integrated into your jurisdiction's permitting process.
  - 13.4.1.8. **Primary Project Location:** indicate which county, city, or town the project will take place
- 13.4.2. **Overview of Existing Residential Solar Permitting Process:** The applicant must provide an overview of their current residential solar permitting requirements and procedures by responding to the following prompts:
- 13.4.2.1. Identify the specific online software currently used for residential solar permitting, if any;

- 13.4.2.2. List the steps necessary to successfully issue permit(s) required by the County or Municipality under the current process; and information for data collection including:
- 13.4.2.2.1. Permitting volume and residential solar adoption rates in the jurisdiction
  - 13.4.2.2.2. Permitting timelines
  - 13.4.2.2.3. Staff Time and Resource Use
  - 13.4.2.2.4. Inspection Outcomes
- 13.4.3. **Type of SolarAPP+ Integration Desired:** The applicant must specify which of the following types of SolarAPP+ integration is desired:
- 13.4.3.1. **Stand-alone model:** SolarAPP+ serves as the primary permitting platform, automatically issuing permits upon approval, with permit fees paid directly within the SolarAPP+ portal.
  - 13.4.3.2. **Integrated model:** SolarAPP+ serves as a supplement to the jurisdiction's existing permitting platform, automatically generating approval documents, with final permit issuance and fee payment completed through the jurisdiction's existing permitting platform.
- 13.4.4. **Staff Time Description:** The applicant must provide a description of the anticipated staff hours, broken out by staff category and all-in hourly rate, required to implement SolarAPP+. This should include staff hours in the following categories:
- 13.4.4.1. Anticipated staff time for training;
  - 13.4.4.2. Anticipated staff time to develop new procedures and to integrate with existing systems;
  - 13.4.4.3. Anticipated staff time to account for potential fee adjustments; and
  - 13.4.4.4. Anticipated staff time related to IT resources.
- 13.5. **Budget Workbook:** The applicant must upload a budget workbook that breaks down the intended use of grant funds and other leveraged funds.
- 13.5.1. Applicants must provide a breakdown of contractual support and
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staffing costs necessary for successful integration of SolarAPP+ with each line item listed with its associated cost, for which MEA funding is requested.

- 13.5.2. The personnel items listed in the budget should match the description found in the required Staff Time Description documentation detailed under 13.4.4
- 13.6. **Implementation Timeline:** The applicant must upload an implementation timeline that aligns with the grant period, including all project milestones and required reporting.
- 13.7. **Census Tracts:** The applicant must upload a spreadsheet with a list of census tracts in the jurisdiction.
14. Review Process:
- 14.1. MEA will evaluate each application package. The evaluation includes review steps described below:
- 14.1.1. Program Staff Eligibility Review: The MEA Program Staff reviews the application for eligibility according to this FOA.
- 14.1.2. Eligible applications with a grant request amount greater than \$100,000 (Augmented Grants): MEA will assemble an Evaluation Team. The Evaluation Team will be made up of MEA staff or other individuals. Each Evaluation Team member evaluates the merits of the request for an augmented grant. The Evaluation Team convenes to make a recommendation on the grant amount.
15. Full, Partial, and Augmented Grants:
- 15.1. A fully funded grant is a grant amount offered that is the amount calculated when the formula described in Section 8 “Grant Amount” is applied. The following stipulations apply to fully funded grants:
- 15.1.1. The funding formula must be applied correctly; if the applicant applied it incorrectly, it will be adjusted.
- 15.1.2. Funding will be awarded only for eligible measures; ineligible measures will not be funded.
- 15.2. A partially funded grant is a grant amount offered that is less than the amount calculated when the formula described in Section 8 “Grant

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Amount” is applied. Partial grants are possible under this Program. The following are possible reasons for giving partial grants:

- 15.2.1. If the program fund balance is insufficient to offer a fully funded grant, there may be one grant that is offered the remaining budget, until grant funds are exhausted.
  - 15.2.2. If funding amount and project outcomes can be scaled down at a proportional rate, one or more grants may be offered partial funding.
  - 15.2.3. There may be additional reasons, at MEA's discretion.
  - 15.3. An augmented grant is a grant amount offered that is greater than the amount calculated when the formula described in Section 8 “Grant Amount” is applied. Augmented grants are possible under this program. The following are possible reasons for offering augmented grants:
    - 15.3.1. If the applicant demonstrates need with sufficient justification and funding is available, as described in Section 14.1.2.
    - 15.3.2. There may be additional reasons, at MEA's discretion.
16. Payment and Reporting:
- The following requirements apply to each grantee:
- 16.1. Electronic Payments: Participation in MEA grant programs is voluntary. To ensure the secure transmission of grant funds, each grantee is required to receive electronic payments from the State of Maryland. Electronic payments are set up through the State of Maryland's Comptroller's Office. Each grantee must fill out and submit the [“ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization for Vendor Payments Form X-10”](#)<sup>11</sup> to the Comptroller's Office via the submission methods outlined in the X-10 form. ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization for Vendor Payment Form X-10 cannot be sent to MEA. Failure to submit ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization Form X-10 may result in payment being delayed. If an applicant is unable to receive ACH/Direct Deposit payments, MEA may make an exception to this requirement on a case-by-case basis.
  - 16.2. Reporting and Invoicing: Each grantee must ensure timely and current

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<sup>11</sup> [marylandcomptroller.gov/content/dam/mdcomp/md/state-accounting/forms/GADX10Form.pdf](http://marylandcomptroller.gov/content/dam/mdcomp/md/state-accounting/forms/GADX10Form.pdf)

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compliance with the Program's reporting and invoicing requirements. The Program reporting requirements will be specified in the grant agreement.

- 16.3. **1099-G Form:** Grants issued by the State of Maryland may be taxable and may result in the issuance of a 1099-G form to the grant recipient. As the MEA is unable to give tax advice, any tax-related questions should be directed toward a qualified tax professional.
17. Application Submission Instructions:
- 17.1. Each applicant to the FY25 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program **must use the online JotForm Application Portal for the FY27 MEA SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program**, which is accessible in the link below.
- >> [FY25 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program Application Portal](#) <<
- 17.1.1. Complete the application with the required information.
- 17.1.2. Upload all the required application documents.
- 17.1.3. Submit and await feedback.
- 17.2. Applicants may receive update emails as necessary. MEA will notify applicants of grant award or non-award on a rolling basis.
18. Questions:
- Applicants can direct questions not answered by this FOA to MEA by sending an email to [grid.mea@maryland.gov](mailto:grid.mea@maryland.gov). You can also call MEA's main phone line at 410.537.4000.
19. Attachments:
- 19.1. Attachment A: MEA General Provisions
- 19.2. Attachment B: Federal Terms and Conditions
- 19.3. Attachment C: MEA's Fossil Fuel Policy
- 19.4. Attachment D: Self-Verification of Minimum Eligibility