



Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”) FY25 Maryland Solar Access Program

NOTICE as of December 14, 2024

The Maryland Solar Access Program (“MSAP”) Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”) will not be effective until the MSAP formally opens for applications in January 2025. It has been provided early for informational purposes only, specifically to give Maryland residents and the clean energy industry time to review the FOA and understand all requirements. MEA will post an updated version of this FOA on the [MSAP webpage](#)¹ when MSAP begins accepting applications.

Program Description: The Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”) FY25 Maryland Solar Access Program (“MSAP”, the “Program”) provides grants to help Maryland residents realize the benefits of solar photovoltaic (“PV”) systems for their homes. Grants are offered to help fund the cost of these systems and make them more accessible to Maryland’s low-to-moderate income, overburdened, and underserved communities.² MSAP was established through the Maryland General Assembly’s passage of the Brighter Tomorrow Act (Chapter 595, 2024 Acts of Maryland), a landmark piece of legislation that established many incentives and resources for solar energy in the state. This Program replaces the solar portion of the previous MEA Residential Clean Energy Rebate Program and offers a more meaningful incentive to increase the affordability of consumer solar PV systems. Further, solar PV contractors must meet the requirements of the Maryland Solar Access Program Consumer Protections Policy and be registered with the MSAP Participating Contractor List in order for solar PV systems that they install to be eligible for MSAP funding consideration.

¹ <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program.aspx>

² “Overburdened” and “underserved” communities are defined as they appear in § 1-701 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

Type of Grant**Program:**

Noncompetitive (First-come, first served); with a **two-step** application process. **Note:** An application must be submitted **before** the solar PV system is installed. See the “Application Process” section of this FOA for further information.

Application Deadline:

3:00 P.M. ET, June 13, 2025³

Program Budget:

\$15,000,000 is available from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF),⁴ in accordance with the requirements of the Brighter Tomorrow Act.

Grant Formula:

Each Maryland Solar Access Program grant is provided at **\$750 per kW_{DC}**, up to a maximum individual grant of **\$7,500**, in accordance with the Brighter Tomorrow Act.

Partial Grants:

Partial grants are not provided by the Program. If the solar PV system installed has a nameplate electrical capacity that exceeds the capacity reserved, the award will not be increased. If the solar PV system installed has a nameplate electrical capacity that is below the capacity reserved, the award will be recalculated and reduced according to the Grant Formula.

Eligible Applicants:

Maryland residents that meet the household income requirements in the “Household Income Requirements” section of this FOA. Grants are provided to install solar PV systems on their homes. A grant can be applied for as follows:

- **Direct Resident Application:** The Maryland resident can submit an application to MSAP directly; OR
- **Third-Party Application:** A third-party can submit the application **on behalf of** the Maryland resident. **NOTE:** The Maryland resident must provide written consent, and the third-party must provide a copy of this consent at the time of application.

³ Or until budgeted funding is exhausted, whichever comes first.

⁴ [https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Strategic-Energy-Investment-Fund-\(SEIF\)-.aspx](https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Strategic-Energy-Investment-Fund-(SEIF)-.aspx)

Both options allow the Maryland resident (applicant) to receive the grant directly or reassign payment of the grant to their solar PV installation contractor.

Household Income Requirements:

MSAP grants are limited to eligible applicants whose annual household income does not exceed the limits in the table below, based on household size. An applicant is required to attest that they meet these income requirements as part of the application. **Note:** MEA reserves the right to verify household income requirements upon request⁵.

Household Size	Maximum Gross Yearly Income
1	\$128,430
2	\$146,715
3	\$165,090
4	\$183,375
5	\$198,090
6	\$212,715
7	\$227,430
8	\$242,055

Eligible Activities:

An MSAP grant is provided to an eligible applicant to help pay the costs of installing a qualified solar PV system at the eligible applicant’s Maryland residence. **Note:** The application for an MSAP grant must be submitted to MEA **before** the solar PV system is installed, per the requirements of the Brighter Tomorrow Act.

Consumer Protections

⁵ Any income verification activities will be in compliance with the Brighter Tomorrow Act.

**and Customer
Disclosure:**

Per the Brighter Tomorrow Act, the Maryland Solar Access Program guarantees a minimum set of protections and standards to each applicant that receives a grant from the Program (“Maryland Solar Access Program Consumer Protections Policy”). Each participating solar PV provider and installation contractor must agree to abide by the Maryland Solar Access Program Consumer Protections Policy and guarantee these minimum protections and standards to the applicant, as a condition of the applicant receiving a Maryland Solar Access Program grant. Further, each participating contractor shall provide a completed copy of the MSAP Customer Disclosure Form to each applicant prior to execution of a solar PV contract, lease, power purchase agreement, or any other legal agreement between the applicant and the solar PV installation contractor or provider. A copy of the Maryland Solar Access Program Consumer Protections Policy can be found in **Appendix 1** to this FOA, and a blank copy of the MSAP Customer Disclosure Form can be found in **Appendix 2**. They can also be found on the [MSAP webpage](#).⁶

Eligibility Criteria:

The following requirements must be met in order for the applicant or their designated solar PV installation contractor to receive a Maryland Solar Access Program grant (“Eligibility Criteria”).

- 1. Household Income Requirements:** The applicant must meet the household income requirements as defined in the “Household Income Requirements” of this FOA.
- 2. Project Location:** The solar PV system must be installed on a residential property in the State of Maryland. A solar PV system that is installed on a boat, camper, trailer, or other mobile vehicle is ineligible to receive a Maryland Solar Access Program grant.
- 3. Residence Ownership OR Permission to Install:**

⁶ <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program.aspx>

The residential structure and any associated land, if applicable, where the solar PV system is installed must be owned by the applicant; OR if not owned by the applicant, the applicant must have an active and current lease with the property owner, and **must provide a signed and notarized letter from the property owner** that authorizes the applicant to install the solar PV system on the property.

4. **New Solar PV Systems Only:** A MSAP grant shall only be issued for a new solar PV system installed at a residential property where no existing solar PV system is installed or operational. **Note:** New capacity added to an existing solar PV system at the project location is not eligible for a MSAP grant.
5. **Self-Installation Systems:** A solar PV system that the applicant has installed without an MSAP-eligible participating solar PV installation contractor (“self-installation”) is not eligible for a MSAP grant.
6. **System Ownership:** The applicant must either (1) own the solar PV system through cash purchase or financing; or (2) the solar PV system must be provided to the applicant under a third-party solar PV lease or power purchase agreement.
7. **Project Work Restriction:** An application for a MSAP grant must be submitted to MEA, and a Reservation Certificate must be issued to the applicant by MEA, before the solar PV system can be installed.
8. **Project Completion Deadline:** The solar PV system must be installed within **180 calendar days** of the Effective Date of the Reservation Certificate. MEA may issue an extension to this deadline for circumstances that are outside of the applicant’s control, or for good cause shown. **Note: A request for extension, with proper written justification, must be submitted to MEA no later than 150 days after the Effective Date of the Reservation**

Certificate. Submission of a request for extension does not guarantee that MEA will provide an extension.

9. **NABCEP Requirement:** A NABCEP⁷ certified PV Installation Professional (“PVIP”) must be involved in the design, or will be involved in the installation, of the solar PV system. **The NABCEP-certified PVIP’s name, affiliation with the solar PV installer, and NABCEP PVIP certification number must be provided in the application where requested.**

10. **Applicant-Owned Systems Only: Paid-in-full Balance:** If the applicant owns the system, either through cash purchase or financing, the solar PV system must be “paid-in-full” to the solar PV system provider prior to the issuance of any MSAP grant funds.

11. **Third-Party-Owned Systems Only:** The third-party solar PV agreement must specify that the third-party owns the solar PV system, and that the applicant is either a purchaser of the power that the solar PV system produces (PPA), or a lessee (solar lease).

12. **Complete Application for Reservation Certificate and MEA Approval:** A complete, accurate, and signed application for a Reservation Certificate must be submitted to MEA **PRIOR TO INSTALLATION** of the solar PV system, and MEA must issue a Reservation Certificate prior to the solar PV installation contractor starting any work on the solar PV installation.

13. **Complete Application for Completion Certificate and MEA Approval:** A complete, accurate, and signed Completion Certificate must be submitted to MEA after the solar PV system is installed, and in accordance with the time limits specified in the “Application Process” section of this FOA; and MEA

⁷ North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners. For more information, visit <https://www.nabcep.org>.

must approve the Completion Certificate prior to the payment of any MSAP grant funds.

14. Participating Contractors and Consumer

Protections: The solar PV installation contractor that installs the solar PV system must be approved by MEA and listed on the MSAP Participating Contractor List, which can be found on the MSAP webpage. Participating contractors must be registered to operate in Maryland, must have all licenses, certifications, and requirements agree to abide by the MSAP Consumer Protections Policy.

Application Process: The application process consists of two (2) steps, defined below. Applications must be submitted using the MSAP Application Portal. Applicant registration is required. Please see the portal in the link above for more information.

- **Step 1 - Reservation Certificate:** The applicant or their authorized third-party agent submits an application with all required supporting documents defined in the “Required Application Documents” section of this FOA, to reserve grant funds for the solar PV system that will be paid out after it is installed. MEA will reserve the funds for each eligible application, and the applicant will receive a Reservation Certificate that documents the reserved funds. A **valid, signed solar PV installation contract must be in place** between the solar PV provider and applicant **before an application for a Reservation Certificate** is submitted to MEA. **No installation work can begin until after the Reservation Certificate is issued.**
- **Step 2 - Completion Certificate:** Within **180 days** of the effective date of the Reservation Certificate, the applicant or their authorized third-party agent submits a completion certificate to MEA with all required information and supporting documents defined in the “Required Application Documents” section of this FOA (“Completion Certificate”). MEA

will review all of the information in the Completion Certificate to ensure compliance with the requirements of this FOA. Upon approval, MEA will process payment of the applicant's reserved grant funds to the payee (applicant or solar PV installation contractor) that the applicant designated in their initial application from Step 1.

Required Application Documents:

Step 1 - Reservation Certificate: The following documents must be provided with each application for a Reservation Certificate, to constitute a complete application.

- **Complete Application Data:** The information that is submitted in the application portal must be complete, accurate, and up-to-date, to the best of the applicant's, or their authorized third-party agent's (if applicable), knowledge, information, and belief.
- **Executed Solar PV Agreement:** A fully-executed solar PV installation contract, solar energy power purchase agreement, solar energy lease agreement, or solar energy loan agreement, between the solar PV provider or solar PV installer and the applicant ("Executed Solar PV Agreement"). The Executed Solar PV Agreement must be signed by both parties, and it **must be in compliance with the Maryland Solar Access Program Consumer Protections Policy.**
- **Signed MSAP Customer Disclosure Form:** An MSAP Customer Disclosure Form completed by the solar PV provider or solar PV installation contractor that includes all terms and conditions of the solar PV installation contract, solar energy power purchase agreement, solar energy lease agreement, or solar energy loan agreement must be **signed by** the solar PV customer (MSAP applicant) **before** the solar PV installation contract, solar energy power purchase agreement, solar energy lease agreement, or solar energy loan agreement is signed by the solar PV

customer (MSAP applicant). **This is required by the Brighter Tomorrow Act.**

- **Signed MSAP Authorization Form:** For the reassignment of application or award A MSAP Authorization Form signed by both the third party and the solar PV customer
- **For a property leased by the applicant: Signed AND notarized** letter from the property owner that gives the applicant explicit, written permission to install the solar PV system at the residential property.

Step 2 - Completion Certificate: The following documents must be provided with each Completion Certificate.

- **Completion Certificate Data:** The Completion Certificate information that is submitted in the MSAP Online Application Portal must be complete, accurate, and up-to-date, to the best of the applicant's, or their authorized third-party agent's (if applicable), knowledge, information, and belief.
- **Utility Interconnection Agreement and Permission to Operate:** A fully-executed copy of the utility interconnection agreement between the utility and applicant, as well as documentation from the utility that gives the solar PV system permission to operate.
- **Purchased Systems Only: Paid-in-Full Documentation:** If the solar PV system is owned by the applicant, documentation that it is paid-in-full must be provided. This is typically in the form of a "zero-balance" invoice from the solar PV installer.

Missing Information Policy:

An application for a Reservation Certificate or Completion Certificate that is missing or has incorrect information or documentation will be placed on standby. The applicant, and their authorized third-party agent (as applicable), will

be notified and asked to provide the missing information or documentation. **The applicant, their authorized third-party agent (as applicable), or their solar PV installation contractor must submit the missing information or documentation within fourteen (14) days after the date that they are notified of the missing information or documentation by MEA.** The application for a Reservation Certificate, or Completion Certificate, as applicable, will be canceled by MEA if the requested information or documentation is not received within that time frame. Applicants whose applications are canceled for this reason are free to reapply.

How to Apply:

Each application for a Reservation Certificate, and each Completion Certificate, must be submitted through the MSAP Online Application Portal in the link below. Each applicant must create an account, or their authorized third-party agent must create one on their behalf, before an application for a Reservation Certificate can be submitted. The Completion Certificate must be submitted under the same account after the system is installed.

NOTICE as of December 10, 2024: The link to the MSAP Online Application Portal will be available and added to this FOA when MSAP formally opens for applications in January 2025.

Disclaimer:

The Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”) is the sole authority on the Maryland Solar Access Program. Any claims made by other parties that are not reflected in this FOA, or in the Brighter Tomorrow Act (Chapter 595, 2024 Acts of Maryland), are not endorsed or enforced by MEA. Questions about the Maryland Solar Access Program requirements should **only be directed to MEA.**

Regulations:

This program is governed by the Strategic Energy Investment Program regulations in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR).

**To access these regulations, click [here](#)⁸ and use the sidebar “Regulations by Title” to navigate to: 14 - Independent Agencies → 26 -*

⁸ <https://dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/COMARSearch.aspx>

MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION → 02 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program.

General Provisions: MEA grant programs are covered by general requirements that will be made part of the grant agreement between MEA and the grantee. A copy of these provisions (“General Provisions”) is available on MEA’s website [here](#)⁹; this document will be incorporated into all MEA grant agreements.

Statutory Requirements: The Maryland Solar Access Program is established under [§9-2016, State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland](#)¹⁰ (“MSAP Statute”). All applicants and associated projects funded through the Maryland Solar Access Program must meet all applicable requirements defined by the statute. If there is any conflict between the provisions of this FOA and the MSAP Statute, the terms of the MSAP Statute shall control.

Questions: Questions about the MSAP should be directed to the MSAP Team at SolarAccess.MEA@Maryland.gov.

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Appendix 1: Maryland Solar Access Program Consumer Protections Policy

⁹ <https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gsg§ion=9-2016&enactments=false>

NOTICE as of December 10, 2024

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is presently reviewing the feedback it received regarding the [DRAFT MSAP Consumer Protection Policy](#)¹¹. The finalized MSAP Consumer Protection Policy will be added to this FOA and posted on the [MSAP webpage](#)¹² as soon as possible and prior to formal opening of the Program.

Appendix 2: MSAP Customer Disclosure Form

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<https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/SiteAssets/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program/DRAFT%20MSAP%20Consumer%20Protection%20Policy.pdf>

¹² <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program.aspx>

NOTICE as of December 10, 2024

The MSAP Customer Disclosure Form is still being developed based on feedback that MEA has received regarding the [DRAFT MSAP Consumer Protection Policy](#)¹³. The finalized MSAP Customer Disclosure Form will be added to this FOA and posted on the [MSAP webpage](#)¹⁴ as soon as possible and prior to formal opening of the Program.

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<https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/SiteAssets/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program/DRAFT%20MSAP%20Consumer%20Protection%20Policy.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program.aspx>