



Wes Moore, Governor  
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# FY25 Maryland Solar Access Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

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The following questions are asked frequently regarding the upcoming [FY25 Maryland Solar Access Program](#) (“the Program”), which was established by the Brighter Tomorrow Act of 2024 ([Chapter 595, 2024 Acts of Maryland, 2024 S.B. 783](#)<sup>1</sup>) as the “Customer-sited Solar Grant Program”. This document is provided as a **guidance document only** for future FY25 Maryland Solar Access Program applicants and interested parties (“FAQ Document”). **None of the information in this document should be construed as professional consultation. Further, this document does not override the eligibility requirements of the Program, which will be posted on the Program webpage in a Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”) later in calendar year 2024.** Please direct any questions that cannot be answered by this FAQ Document to the Maryland Solar Access Program Team by sending an email to [SolarAccess.MEA@Maryland.gov](mailto:SolarAccess.MEA@Maryland.gov).

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### ***When will the Maryland Solar Access Program be available?***

**Answer:** The Maryland Solar Access Program will become available in very early 2025. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Brighter Tomorrow Act of 2024.

### ***Can I apply for a Maryland Solar Access Grant for a solar PV system that will be installed before the Maryland Solar Access Program is open for applications?***

**Answer:** No. Maryland Solar Access grants must be applied for prior to the installation of a qualifying solar PV system.

### ***How much are the grants from the Maryland Solar Access Program?***

**Answer:** Grants will be based on the size of the solar system, at \$750/kW, up to a maximum total individual grant of \$7,500. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Brighter Tomorrow Act of 2024.

### ***Can I get a Maryland Solar Access Grant for an existing solar PV system?***

**Answer:** No. Maryland Solar Access grants will be available for new solar PV systems only, and the application for a Maryland Solar Access grant must be submitted prior to installation of the system.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0783>

***Will the Maryland Solar Access Program be an income-qualified program?***

Answer: Yes. The Brighter Tomorrow Act of 2024 limits eligibility to households with a total income that does not exceed 150% of the statewide area median income.

**EXAMPLE ONLY - USING 2023 MARYLAND DHCD INCOME LIMITS**

Per the [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development \(DHCD\) 2023 Maryland Income and Rent Limits document](#)<sup>2</sup>, statewide median income is \$124,500.

**Therefore, the income limit using this figure would be as follows:**

$$\$124,500 \times 150\% = \$186,750$$

**Note:** This figure will be updated annually. **THIS INCOME LIMIT, AS PUBLISHED IN THIS FAQ DOCUMENT, IS NOT LEGALLY BINDING. THE PROGRAM FOA, WHEN PUBLISHED, WILL HAVE THE OFFICIAL INCOME LIMIT DEFINED. THIS CALCULATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS AN INSTRUCTIONAL EXAMPLE ONLY.**

***My household income will likely exceed the income limit for the Program. Are there any incentives that I can apply for if I'm considering solar energy for my home?***

Answer: The Maryland Solar Access Program is a statutorily-mandated income-qualified program. While MEA will not provide an FY25 residential solar incentive for households that exceed the Maryland Solar Access Program income limit, the federal government's solar investment tax credit is still available. The credit is presently set at 30% of the installed cost of the solar system as of the publication date of this FAQ Document. For more information, please visit the U.S. Department of Energy [Homeowner's Guide to the Federal Tax Credit for Solar Photovoltaics page](#)<sup>3</sup>. **Note:** MEA does not administer or have authority over the federal solar investment tax credit. Additionally, an owner of a residential solar PV system, regardless of income, is still eligible for solar renewable energy credits ("SRECs", sometimes referred to as "solar renewable energy certificates"). Please visit the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) [Renewable Portfolio Standard frequently asked questions webpage](#)<sup>4</sup> for more information on SRECs, and how to register for them. **Note:** MEA also does not administer the SREC program. This is fully under the Maryland PSC's jurisdiction.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/HousingDevelopment/Documents/prhp/2023-MD-Income-Limits.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-federal-tax-credit-solar-photovoltaics>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.psc.state.md.us/electricity/maryland-renewable-energy-portfolio-standard-program-frequently-asked-questions/>

***I applied for and received a solar Residential Clean Energy Rebate from the Maryland Energy Administration Residential Clean Energy Rebate Program, or I'm thinking about applying for a solar rebate through that program while the solar rebate portion is still available. Can I also get a Maryland Solar Access Grant for the same solar system?***

**Answer:** No. MEA cannot award a Maryland Solar Access Grant to a solar PV system that has received a Maryland Energy Administration Residential Clean Energy Rebate. No exceptions.

***If I get a Maryland Solar Access grant, can I still receive a Maryland Energy Administration Residential Clean Energy Rebate for a clean energy technology other than solar?***

**Answer:** Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility requirements of the Residential Clean Energy Rebate Program's Funding Opportunity Announcement. Information about the Residential Clean Energy Rebate Program can be found [here](#)<sup>5</sup>.

***How can I apply for a Maryland Solar Access Grant when it becomes available?***

**Answer:** MEA will publish full information on Maryland Solar Access Program requirements and how to submit an application later in calendar year 2024. **Note:** The application process will consist of two (2) steps, per the requirements of the Brighter Tomorrow Act of 2024. The first step will be an initial application for funds **prior to** installation of the solar PV system. The second step will occur **after** solar PV system installation and serve to verify the installation has been completed, so that the Maryland Solar Access Grant can be paid.

***I'm thinking about installing solar. Should I wait for the Maryland Solar Access Program to become available?***

**Answer:** The Maryland Energy Administration is an executive Maryland State agency and cannot advise you on when to install a solar PV system. This is a largely subjective decision, and there are many factors to consider. If you are new to solar energy, the Maryland Energy Administration *strongly encourages* you to review our comprehensive consumer solar guide, [A Maryland Consumer's Guide to Solar](#)<sup>6</sup>. If you believe that your decision to go solar will be largely impacted by the availability of the Maryland Solar Access Program, it is likely worth waiting to install solar until the program opens for applications.

***Can you recommend a solar installer?***

**Answer:** No. The Maryland Energy Administration is an executive Maryland State agency beholden to the Maryland State Ethics Law, and as such, we cannot recommend, endorse, promote, or otherwise give a competitive advantage to any installer. A quick search using a mainstream search engine should be able to provide you with information about available installers.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/CleanEnergyGrants.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> <https://energy.maryland.gov/Reports/A%20Maryland%20Consumers%20Guide%20to%20Solar.pdf>