



Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) FY27 Community Solar Grant Program

Type of Program:	Competitive Grant Program
Target Audience:	Community Solar Projects
Program Webpage:	https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/pages/communitysolarlmi-ppa.aspx
Issue Date:	09/22/2026
Modification Date:	Not Applicable
Application Deadline:	3:00 PM Eastern Time December 15, 2027 through the My MEA portal.
Application Submission through My MEA:	MEA.maryland.gov
Anticipated Notification of Grant Award or Non-Award:	Spring 2027



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1. Program Purpose:

The Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”) FY27 Community Solar Grant Program (“Program”) supports the development, construction, and interconnection of community solar projects¹ in order to increase energy affordability for low-income subscriber households and promote renewable energy in the state.

2. Type of Grant Program:

This grant program is offered statewide on a competitive basis.

3. Application Deadline:

3:00 PM Eastern Time December 15, 2026

4. Program Description:

4.1. The applicant may submit one or more applications. Each application is for one project site, as defined by the Public Service Commission under the Maryland Community Solar Program

4.2. The applicant must request funding for a project site through one of two areas of interest:

- Both areas of interest provide grants to support the development, construction, and interconnection of community solar projects that deliver electricity bill savings for low-income subscriber households. “Low-Income” has the following definition, according to §7-306.2(a)(8) of the Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland²:
 - having an annual household income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; or
 - being certified as eligible for any federal, State, or local assistance program that limits participation to households whose income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- **Area of Interest #1 (AOI1):** The project must guarantee at least fifteen percent (15%) of the energy output from the community solar system is subscribed to Low-Income subscribers, with minimum cost savings to those subscribers of twenty-five percent (25%) from the utility’s CSEGS credit rate (or equivalent).
- **Area of Interest #2 (AOI2):** The project must provide at least fifty

¹ <https://psc.maryland.gov/regulated-utilities/electricity/renewable-energy/community-solar-program/>

² <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gpu§ion=7-306.2&enactments=false>

percent (50%) of the energy generated by the community solar system at no cost to designated Low-Income subscribers, and the remaining energy subscribed with a twenty-five percent (25%) cost savings from the CSEGS Credit Rate to Low-Income subscribers. Furthermore, AOI2 projects must be sited on a Maryland landfill, rubble-fill, or brownfield site suitable for the community solar system installation.

- 4.3. A list of landfill sites is identified in the Maryland Landfill Solar Assessment documents posted on the [MEA Solar on Maryland Landfills and Brownfields page](#)³; however, any landfill, rubble-fill, or brownfield sites may be proposed.

5. Program General Provisions:

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) will enter 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](#)⁴, and is provided as [Attachment A](#) to this FOA.

6. Law and Regulations:

MEA grant programs funded by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) are subject to section 9-20B-05 of the State Government article and the regulations found in COMAR 14.26.02. To access these regulations, click [here](#)⁵ and use the sidebar “Regulations by Title” to navigate to: 14 - Independent Agencies → 26 - MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION → 02 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program.

7. Anticipated Program Budget:

MEA anticipates up to \$42,500,000 will be available from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (“SEIF”) 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.

³ <https://energy.maryland.gov/business/Pages/Solar-Landfills.aspx>

⁴ <https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf>

⁵ dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/COMARSearch.aspx

8. Grant Amount:

- 8.1. The grant amount will be calculated using a formula, based on the area of interest (AOI) and the variables described in Table 1.
- 8.2. The minimum and maximum individual grant amount is shown in Table 1.
- 8.3. The applicant must utilize FOA Attachment D: Project Workbook to calculate the grant amount.

Table 1: Grant Amount

Area of Interest	Grant Basis and Calculation	Min & Max Individual Grant Amounts
AOI1	The AOI1 grant amount is based on the net present value of the benefit provided to Low-Income subscribers over the first 20 years of the project. The calculation with FOA Attachment D: Project Workbook requires the following inputs: (1) size of the Low-Income portion of the array to the nearest kW, (2) the estimated kWh-ac/kW-dc ratio for the array, (3) the cost of electricity for the utility service territory (\$/kWh), and (4) the percent savings for the subscriber below the Community Solar Energy Generating System (CSEGS) credit rate (or the utility Standard Offer Service retail rate for Potomac Edison that credit kWh directly).	Minimum \$50,000 Maximum \$1,000,000
AOI2	The FOA Attachment D: Project Workbook calculates the total AOI2 grant amount in two parts: - The “base grant amount” is calculated first for every AOI2 project. The formula is \$2,000 per kW-dc up to a maximum base grant amount of \$6,000,000. - A “supplemental amount” is calculated second (if applicable). AOI2 projects may request a supplemental amount if both of the following conditions are met at the time the application is submitted to MEA: (a) the applicant uploads documentation from the utility identifying the interconnection point, as described in Section 13 and (b) the distance	No Minimum Maximum Base Amount: \$6,000,000 Maximum Supplemental Amount: \$3,000,000 (interconnection)

	between the interconnection point and the project reclosers is greater than one mile. The maximum supplemental grant amount is \$3,000,000. Total Grant Amount = base amount + supplemental amount	
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8.4. **Grant Payment Condition:** Billing is in arrears and grant funds will be disbursed based on the demonstration of completed milestones as stated in the Grant Agreement.

9. Eligible Applicants:

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

- 9.1.1. Businesses and limited liability companies;
- 9.1.2. Incorporated Nonprofit entities; or
- 9.1.3. Incorporated towns, cities, and counties of Maryland

9.2. **The applicant must be the entity that will execute the MEA grant agreement and be designated as the grant funding recipient.** (A parent or subsidiary company may assist with application materials and communicate with MEA but cannot sign and submit the application.)

9.3. 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:

- 10.1. Eligible project types are limited to solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays registered with the Maryland Community Solar Program, administered by the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC).⁶
- 10.2. Grant funds may be used for costs related to the development, construction, and interconnection of community solar projects, including but not limited to: interconnection, permitting, earthmoving, landscaping, solar modules, racking, inverters, cables, connection boxes, other materials, labor, contractual expenses, other costs that are normal and proper for the installation of the specified array at the specified location by the specified date. .

⁶ <https://psc.maryland.gov/regulated-utilities/electricity/renewable-energy/community-solar-program/>

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 Programs⁷ is available on [MEA's website](#).⁸

11.2. Specific ineligible applicants under this FOA include but are not limited to:

- 11.2.1. Regulated energy utility companies;
- 11.2.2. Maryland state government agencies;
- 11.2.3. Units of federal or foreign governments;
- 11.2.4. Local education agencies
- 11.2.5. Maryland Institutions of Higher Education.

11.3. Specific ineligible activities under this FOA include but are not limited to:

11.3.1. Income verification activities.

11.4. MEA programs will not award grants to projects that violate or conflict with the Fossil Fuels Policy. For more information, please review the Fossil Fuel Policy provided as FOA [Attachment B](#).

11.5. **Duplicate Funding Restrictions:** An applicant cannot receive more than one MEA incentive for the same project scope at the same location.

11.6. **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 "Competitive 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](#).

⁷ 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.

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

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- 12.2. **Ability to Comply with Fossil Fuel Policy, if applicable:** The Fossil Fuel Policy is provided as FOA [Attachment B](#).
- 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](#)⁹, 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.
- 12.4.3. The applicant must upload specific staff certifications from the National Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP), as described in Section 13: “Required Application Documents”.
- 12.5. **Cover Letter:** The applicant must upload a cover letter, as described in Section 13: “Required Application Documents,” including the subscriber savings guarantee and information about data accessibility.
- 12.6. **Company Organizational Chart:** An organizational chart is required as described in Section 13: “Required Application Documents”.
- 12.6.1. **Subscriber Organization:** The organizational chart must identify the Subscriber Organization. The subscriber organization must have a subscriber organization number issued by the Maryland Public Service Commission.
- 12.7. **Nonprofit applicants only:** Ability to provide a letter from the Internal Revenue Service attesting to the tax-exempt status of the organization. If a letter from the Internal Revenue Service attesting to tax exempt status is

⁹ dat.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx

not available, an applicant may provide alternative documentation for MEA to review on a case-by-case basis.

- 12.8. **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.
- 12.9. **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.
- 12.10. **Grant Implementation Period:** Any project funded under the Program must complete the project, including all milestones and required reporting documents, within approximately 48 months of an executed grant agreement.
- 12.11. 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.
- 12.12. **Site Control:** The project must be on property either owned, leased, or otherwise legally controlled by the applicant. Applicants must provide documentation of ownership as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents.”
- 12.13. **Project Workbook:** The applicant must complete and upload the Project Workbook, as described in Section 13: “Required Application Documents.” The Project Workbook template is provided as FOA Attachment D and is available to download from the [program webpage](#).
- 12.14. **Implementation Timeline:** The applicant must upload an Implementation Timeline as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents”.
- 12.15. **Site plan:** The applicant must upload a site plan, as described in Section 13: “Required Application Documents”
- 12.16. **Google Earth map or equivalent:** The applicant must upload a google earth map or equivalent, as described in Section 13: “Required Application Documents”

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- 12.17. **System Output:** The applicant must upload documentation of expected first-year system output, as described in Section 13: “Required Application Documents”
- 12.18. **Energy Cost:** The applicant must upload a documentation of energy cost, as described in Section 13: “Required Application Documents”
- 12.19. The project must be structured under a Subscription model, with the subscriber paying for energy credited to his/her electric bill on a dollar per kilowatt-hour (\$/kWh) basis.
- 12.20. **Subscriber List:** At least 10 working days before submitting the final invoice, the Grantee must provide a list of subscribers, including name, address, percent of array output or kW subscribed, and method of income verification. The grantee must also provide a detailed explanation of how the grantee or a third-party conducted the verification.
- 12.21. **Community Solar Capacity Issuance from the Utility (secured or requested):** The applicant must upload documentation verifying “capacity issuance” is already secured or requested as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents.”
- 12.22. **Technical Standards:** Any community solar system funded by the Program must meet minimum system requirements as specified in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (“IEEE”) standard 1547 and the National Electric Code (“NEC”). Further, each community solar system must have all components listed or labeled by a recognized national testing laboratory.
- 12.23. **Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs):** Projects must register for the Maryland SREC Program, administered by the Public Service Commission. Grantees will be required to verify the successful registration of projects with the Maryland Public Service Commission and with PJM Interconnection. For information concerning SREC registration, consult the [PJM EIS website](https://www.pjm-eis.com/).¹⁰
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

¹⁰ <https://www.pjm-eis.com/>

being considered incomplete. MEA will not consider applications it deems incomplete. Each application to the Program must include the following:

- 13.1. **Application:** Applicant must provide a complete and accurate application.
- 13.2. **Contact Information:** directly in the online application, provide contact information for the primary contact, the secondary contact, and the authorized signatory.
- 13.3. **Applicant Organization Information:** directly in the online application, provide information about the organization applying for grant funding. The applicant must be the entity that will execute the MEA grant agreement and be designated as the grant funding recipient.
- 13.4. **Funding Recipient Information:** directly in the online application, enter funding recipient information needed for payment and tax reporting.
- 13.5. **Self-Verification of Minimum Eligibility:**
 - 13.5.1. The applicant's authorized representative must sign an attestation of the following, and provided as [Attachment C](#) of this FOA:
 - 13.5.1.1. I have reviewed the General Provisions.
 - 13.5.1.2. I have reviewed the Fossil Fuel Policy.
 - 13.5.1.3. I have reviewed all requirements of this program, as specified in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.
 - 13.5.1.4. 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 will 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.
 - 13.5.1.5. All information provided in the future in connection with this application will be complete, accurate, true and compliant with the terms and conditions of the Program. Information will be corrected and updated as necessary. This obligation is binding on all representatives of the applicant.
 - 13.5.2. MEA may request documentation confirming the authorized representative.
- 13.6. **IRS Form W9:**
 - 13.6.1. **If the Funding Recipient is a Federal Income Tax Paying Entity:**

The applicant must submit a complete and accurate IRS Form W-9. The IRS Form W-9 organization name, dba name if applicable, 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).

13.6.2. **If the Funding Recipient is a Disregarded Entity for U.S.**

Income Tax Purposes: The applicant must submit a separate complete and accurate IRS Form W-9 for the disregarded entity and for its federal income tax-paying parent.

13.6.2.1. MEA may request additional documentation for the disregarded entity.

13.6.3. A blank copy of the most recent IRS Form W-9 and IRS Instructions can be found on the [IRS Form W-9 webpage](#)¹¹. As the MEA is unable to give tax advice, any tax-related questions should be directed toward a qualified tax professional.

13.7. **Nonprofit applicants only:** The applicant must upload a letter from the Internal Revenue Service attesting to the tax-exempt status of the organization. If a letter from the Internal Revenue Service attesting to tax exempt status is not available, an applicant may provide alternative documentation for MEA to review on a case-by-case basis.

13.8. **Cover Letter:** The applicant's authorized representative must sign a cover letter that includes the following components:

13.8.1. **Subscriber Savings:** the letter must guarantee a fixed percentage savings (no escalators) for the low-to-moderate income (LMI) subscribers¹² for the duration of the term of each subscriber's contract and the term of the MEA grant agreement (20 years after the array commences commercial production), regardless of whether there is a change in control or ownership of the community solar array. The letter shall provide any additional information in the letter that demonstrates the applicant's ability to uphold the guarantee of subscriber savings.

¹¹ irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9

¹² LMI subscribers is defined in §7-306.2(a)(7-10) of the Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gpu§ion=7-306.2&enactments=false>

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- 13.8.2. **Data Accessibility:** the letter must specify if solar array energy output data will be made available to the public. If yes, the letter must describe the proposed method for sharing the data publicly (billboard, website/dashboard, or other means). The display may be as simple as simply showing the energy output (kWh-ac) since the project commenced operation, or may include other data such as energy produced since midnight, or a graphic showing the energy output by hour of the day, or any other information that will help inform and educate the public.
- 13.9. **Company Organizational Chart:** The applicant must upload an organizational chart identifying the project company, the federal tax paying entity, and all other intermediary companies.
- 13.9.1. The project company must be identified as the applicant, proposed Grantee, and funding recipient.
- 13.9.2. The federal tax paying entity must be identified.
- 13.9.3. The subscriber organization and their subscriber organization number must be identified.
- 13.9.4. Other intermediaries or holding companies must be identified.
- 13.9.5. Explain the function of each intermediary company.
- 13.9.6. Identify each entity by its full legal name, DBA name (if applicable), employer identification number ("EIN", sometimes referred to as a "taxpayer identification number," or "TIN"), and mailing address.
- 13.10. **Certificate of Good Standing:** The applicant must provide documentation demonstrating that any business or nonprofit organization identified at the time of the application operating in Maryland with which the applicant will contract or partner to carry out the purposes of the Grant is registered and in good standing with the [Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation](#)¹³, if applicable. Instructions on how to obtain a Certificate of Good Standing are available on [SDAT's website](#).
- 13.11. **Staff Certifications:** The applicant must upload documentation of the following certifications for persons working on the project.:
- 13.11.1. **If the community solar system nameplate capacity is greater than 500 kW-dc:** One member of the design and/or installation team must hold the NABCEP PV Installation Professional (PVIP) Certification; or
- 13.11.2. **If the community solar system nameplate capacity is less than**

¹³ dat.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx

500 kW-dc: One member of the design and/or installation team must hold the NABCEP PVIP Certification, NABCEP PV Design Specialist (PVDS) Certification, or NABCEP PV Installer Specialist (PVIS) certification.

13.12. Community Solar Capacity Issuance from the Utility (secured or requested): The applicant must upload:

- 13.12.1. documentation demonstrating that the project applied to the applicable electric utility for both interconnection and community solar capacity; or
- 13.12.2. Documentation demonstrating that the electric utility has already issued community solar capacity to the project.

13.13. Site Control:

- 13.13.1. **Applicants that own the property:** must (a) demonstrate property ownership by providing a printout from an online SDAT database, deed, property tax bill, or other comparable documentation and (b) include a signed letter of intent stating that the property owner ensures that these upgrades to the subject property remain in place and operational for at least 20 years after commencement of commercial operation.
- 13.13.2. **Applicants that rent, lease, or otherwise legally control, but do not own, their facilities:** must include a letter of intent signed by the property owner, unless this is already included in the signed rent/lease agreement, stating that: (a) the property owner permits the applicant to install the proposed upgrades; and (b) the property owner ensures that these upgrades to the subject property remain in place and operational for at least 20 years after commencement of commercial operation, regardless of lessee turnover.

13.14. Summary of Proposed Project: directly in the online application, enter the following information to summarize the proposed project:

- 13.14.1. **Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:** Provide a clear, concise title that summarizes the project. This is also referred to as the "Project Nickname" in FOA Attachment D: Project Workbook.
- 13.14.2. **Brief Summary of Project Purpose:** Provide a brief summary describing the purpose of the project 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.

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- 13.14.3. **Proposed Project Impact:** Briefly describe the expected impact of your project, including who will benefit, what upgrades will be completed, and estimated results such as households served, energy savings, utility cost savings, or greenhouse gas reductions.
- 13.14.4. **Proposed Project Start Date:** Date when the project is expected to begin.
- 13.14.5. **Proposed Project End Date:** Date when the project is expected to be completed.
- 13.14.6. **Primary Project Location:** Select one or more Maryland counties or select “All” if the impact is statewide.
- 13.14.7. **Total Requested Grant Amount:** This is the dollar amount calculated based on the formula described in Section 8 “Grant Amount.” The applicant must utilize FOA Attachment D: The Project Workbook to calculate the total requested grant amount.
- 13.14.8. **Leveraged Funds Amount:** (Optional) Leveraged funding refers to financial support the project receives from other sources, such as federal, state, or local programs, grants, or matching funds.
- 13.15. **Project Workbook:** The applicant must complete and upload the template Project Workbook, which is provided as FOA Attachment D and is available to download from the [Program webpage](#)¹⁴. The following are required components of the Project Workbook:
- 13.15.1. Subscriber Organization information to include Subscriber Organization (SO) name, SO number, address, primary point of contact.
- 13.15.2. Project Information, to include the Area of Interest, project nickname (also referred to as the “Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project” in the online application “Summary of Proposed Project”), electrical utility service area, project capacity (kW-dc), expected annual energy output, percentage of energy guaranteed to Low-Income families, total system cost, expected date to begin commercial operation, address, county, and census tract.
- 13.15.3. Incentive Calculation
- 13.15.3.1. **Weighted Cost of Energy:** For AOI1 and AOI2, calculate the weighted cost of energy (only for the electric utility area), to include the estimated CSEGS Credit Rate (as promulgated by the applicable utility) for the last 12 months, and the estimated monthly array generation by month. For utilities that do not use a CSEGS Credit Rate, use applicable

¹⁴ <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/pages/communitysolarlmi-ppa.aspx>

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- portions of the utility residential electrical tariff (as specified by the worksheet).
- 13.15.3.2. AOI1 Incentive Calculation. The AOI1 incentive calculation worksheet required data includes: project name, total project capacity (kW-dc), capacity dedicated to Low Income subscribers (kW-dc), array efficiency (kWh-ac/kW-dc/year), guaranteed Low Income percentage discount below utility retail rate, calculated weighted cost of energy for the applicable utility.
- 13.15.3.3. AOI2 Incentive Calculation: The AOI2 incentive calculation worksheet required data includes: project name, total project capacity (kW-dc), total inverter output limit (kW-ac), array efficiency (kWh-ac/kW-dc/year), distance from the array to the utility point of interconnection.
- 13.15.3.4. AOI2 Data Sheet (optional). AOI2 projects are also asked to provide data to help MEA model large scale solar project costs.
- 13.16. **Implementation Timeline:** The applicant must upload an implementation timeline that aligns with the grant period, including all project milestones and required reporting. The timeline must include (at a minimum) the following project milestones: project start, completion of permitting, notice to proceed, beginning of construction, utility permission to operate (PTO), and substantial completion.
- 13.17. **Site plan:** The applicant must upload a site plan / diagram showing the solar array location on the site.
- 13.18. **Google Earth map (or equivalent):** The applicant must upload a google earth map (or equivalent) showing the location of the solar array with respect to the surrounding roads and community. Ensure the picture includes the latitude and longitude of the site (bottom right corner of Google Earth) in degrees and decimal degrees (not degrees, minutes, seconds) .
- 13.19. **System Output:** The applicant must upload documentation showing expected first-year energy production (PVWatts, PVsyst, or equivalent).
- 13.20. **Energy Cost:**
- 13.20.1. The applicant must upload documentation showing the Community
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Solar Energy Generating System (CSEGS) credit rate for the last 12 months

13.20.2. **Potomac Edison service territory (only):**the applicant must upload the applicable portion of the tariff for the last 12 months.

13.21. **Confidential Information** (optional): To the extent permitted by law, personally identifiable information will not be disclosed. Directly in the online application, applicants should clearly identify and describe any parts of their application that they consider to be confidential, proprietary information or trade secrets and provide any justification why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the State under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA).

14. Competitive Evaluation Criteria:

14.1. The Evaluation Team will competitively evaluate each application meeting the Minimum Eligibility Requirements of this FOA using the following criteria (“Competitive Evaluation Criteria”). MEA will base grant selections on the ranking of applications from highest score to lowest score, subject to Program funding availability.

14.1.1. To ensure an equitable distribution of funds across utility territories, MEA may, at its own discretion, decide not to select an application for a grant despite its ranking, and the application ranked next may be selected instead.

Table 2: Competitive Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Points	Description
Greenhouse Gas	Calculated	Points equal kWh-ac generated per year for Low Income divided by Incentive amount ¹⁵
Low-Income Benefit	Calculated	Points equal: Percentage of the solar array’s energy dedicated to Low-Income subscribers ¹⁶ times the energy cost discount divided by 3.
Energy Storage	Calculated	If co-located energy storage is to be installed, points equal to the

¹⁵ AOI1 worksheet formula equals B9*A22/B18. AOI2 worksheet formula equals A21/B13

¹⁶ AOI1 worksheet formula equals B9/B3. AOI2 worksheet formula equals 100%

		DC/AC ratio for the solar array. ¹⁷
Siting	1	One point if located on a landfill or superfund site (as approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment Land and Materials Administration)
	0.10	0.10 points if located on a rooftop.
Public Display	0.15	0.15 points if the energy output data is to be made available to the public via a sign, website, or other means.
Community Solar Capacity has already been issued by the electric utility	100	100 points if the applicable electric utility has already issued community solar capacity to the project.

15. Review Process:

15.1. MEA will evaluate each application package. The evaluation includes review steps described below.

15.1.1. Program Staff Eligibility Review: The MEA Program Staff reviews the application for eligibility according to Section 12 “Minimum Eligibility Requirements” listed in this FOA. MEA Program Staff may request additional information. An application that does not meet the Minimum Eligibility Requirements will be rejected from grant consideration and the applicant will be notified.

15.1.2. Evaluation Team Member Individual Review: The Evaluation Team will be made up of MEA staff or other individuals. Each Evaluation Team member reviews and scores each application according to the Competitive Evaluation Criteria established in this FOA.

15.1.3. Evaluation Team Group Review and Grant Recommendations: The Evaluation Team convenes for a group review of their scores and makes grant recommendations.

¹⁷ AOI1 worksheet formula equals B4/B7. AOI2 worksheet formula equals B4/B6. Battery must capture inverter clipping losses.

16. Full, Partial, and Augmented Grants:

- 16.1. 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:
- 16.1.1. The funding formula must be applied correctly; if the applicant applied it incorrectly, it will be adjusted.
 - 16.1.2. Funding will be awarded only for eligible measures; ineligible measures will not be funded.
- 16.2. A partially funded grant is a grant amount offered that is less than the amount calculated when the formula described in section 8 “Grant Amount” is applied. Partial grants are possible under this Program. The following are possible reasons for giving partial grants:
- 16.2.1. 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.
 - 16.2.2. If funding amount and project outcomes can be scaled down at a proportional rate, one or more grants may be offered partial funding.
 - 16.2.3. There may be additional reasons, at MEA's discretion.
- 16.3. 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:
- 16.3.1. If funding amount and project outcomes can be scaled up at a proportional rate, one or more grants may be offered augmented funding.
 - 16.3.2. There may be additional reasons, at MEA's discretion.

17. Payment and Reporting:

The following requirements apply to each grantee:

- 17.1. 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 [Electronic Funds Transfer/ACH](#)

[for Vendors](#) form¹⁸ 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.

- 17.2. Reporting and Invoicing: Each grantee must ensure timely and current compliance with the Program's reporting and invoicing requirements. The Program reporting requirements will be specified in the grant agreement.
- 17.3. 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 (if the grant recipient is a federal tax paying entity) or the tax paying entity listed on the application (if different from the grant recipient). As the MEA is unable to give tax advice, any tax-related questions should be directed toward a qualified tax professional.

18. Application Submission Instructions:

- 18.1. To apply using My MEA:
 - 18.1.1. Navigate to the [My MEA Portal](#) ¹⁹ and select 'Login' on the top right of the page.
 - 18.1.2. For New Users, create an account by clicking "[Sign up](#)" under "Create an account for your energy project".
 - 18.1.2.1. Complete the questions using your organization's information
 - 18.1.2.2. You will need to verify your account via email.
 - 18.1.3. For Existing User: Select the 'Login' button and enter your existing username and password..
 - 18.1.4. On the My MEA home page, click the Community Solar Grant Program.
 - 18.1.5. Review the information on the page and select "Apply' when ready.
 - 18.1.5.1. Complete the application with the required information. An

¹⁸ <https://www.marylandcomptroller.gov/state-agencies/accounting/eft-ach-for-vendors.html>

¹⁹ [Apply for a program at mea.maryland.gov](#)

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- application can be saved for later.
- 18.1.5.2. Upload all the required documents.
- 18.1.6. Applicants can track application status in the portal and may receive update emails as necessary.
- 18.2. To continue a Saved Application:
- 18.2.1. Navigate to the [My MEA home page](#) and select 'Login' on the top right of the page.
- 18.2.2. Click the 'View More Details' button from the main page to access the Community Solar Grant Program details page.
- 18.2.3. Click the "Manage My Application" button.
- 18.2.4. Scroll down to "My Saved Applications" and Click on the linked application.
- 18.3. To submit using My MEA missing information or documentation:
- 18.3.1. Navigate to the [My MEA home page](#) and select 'Login' on the top right of the page.
- 18.3.2. Click the 'View More Details' button from the main page to access the Community Solar Program details page.
- 18.3.3. Click the "Manage My Application" button.
- 18.3.4. Under "Manage My Application," Click "Continue".
- 18.3.5. To submit Missing Information select 'Provide Missing Information to my Submitted Application.'
19. Questions:
Applicants can direct questions not answered by this FOA to MEA by sending an email to grid.mea@maryland.gov. You can also call MEA's main phone line at 410.537.4000.
20. Attachments:
- 20.1. Attachment A: [MEA General Provisions](#)
- 20.2. Attachment B: [MEA's Fossil Fuel Policy](#)
- 20.3. Attachment C: [Self-Verification of Minimum Eligibility](#)
- 20.4. Attachment D: Project Workbook