

Solar for Savings: MI SOLAR FOR ALL PILOT OPPORTUNITIES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Issue Date: April 22, 2025

Staggered Review Deadlines until All Funds Awarded:

Responses will be reviewed in three rounds. Applications submitted by each deadline by 5:00 PM EST will be considered in that review cycle. If funds remain, subsequent rounds will proceed as scheduled.

- **First Review Deadline: May 30, 2025**
- **Second Review Deadline: June 30, 2025**
- **Third Review Deadline: July 30, 2025**

**Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933**

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Solar for Savings:

MI Solar for All Pilot Opportunities Request for Proposals

PART 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Purpose

As part of the **MI Solar for All (MI SFA) Program**, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Office of Climate and Energy (OCE) is offering grants for **MI SFA pilot projects** under the **MI Healthy Climate Challenge: Solar for Savings** initiative. The MI Healthy Climate Challenge grant program will release a series of "Challenges" throughout the year, each targeting different barriers and priority areas for accelerating the deployment of clean energy and climate projects across the state. These Challenges are designed to identify key barriers to project deployment while unlocking opportunities to secure federal funding and drive transformative action, ensuring that Michigan remains a leader in the clean energy transition. The **Solar for Savings** initiative is the first grant competition of the **MI Healthy Climate Challenge**.

Expanding access to renewable energy, particularly through residential and community solar, is essential for meeting the goals of the MI Healthy Climate Plan. The Solar for Savings projects are intended for organizations and entities interested in developing and implementing eligible MI SFA pilot projects that reduce energy costs and improve energy reliability and resiliency for eligible low-income households across Michigan. The funded pilots will help ensure that low-income Michiganders and communities receive savings from solar implementation, while also supporting air quality improvements, increased resiliency, and job creation.

The Solar for Savings projects aim to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of the MI SFA Program. Lessons learned from these pilot projects will support development of additional MI SFA program offerings and help program administrators understand and address potential issues. These efforts will support successful full deployment of MI SFA.

The OCE anticipates the grant period will begin by October 1, 2025, or earlier and will end August 30, 2028. Though it is expected that pilot projects will be completed sooner, pilot grant periods may be extended through January 31, 2029, given extenuating circumstances. Please see Section 1.3.2. for more information on submission deadlines.

1.2 Program Description

The MI SFA program aims to help reduce energy costs and improve energy reliability and resiliency for low-income families and communities by implementing residential-serving

community solar, residential rooftop solar, enabling upgrades, and energy storage projects that provide benefits to participating low-income households that are equivalent to an annual average 20% reduction on the average household electricity bill.

The MI SFA program is administered by EGLE's OCE. Executive Directive 2020-10 charged the OCE with developing the MI Healthy Climate Plan, the state's action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition toward economy-wide carbon neutrality. The MI Healthy Climate Challenge: Solar for Savings initiative aims to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of the MI SFA Program through MI SFA pilot projects.

EGLE will award funds to applicants that agree to the terms set forth in this Request for Proposals (RFP) and a grant agreement. The OCE will be the primary contact with selected applicants to negotiate the scope of work, budget, reporting periods, report format, and reporting content.

Solar for Savings, the MI SFA Pilot program, is funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Solar for All Grant Program (EPA-R-HQ-SFA-23-01) and incorporates all subrecipient requirements related to federal assistance listing 66.959 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Section 134(a)(1) - Zero Emission Technologies Grant Program.

All requirements of the U.S. EPA Solar for All terms and conditions are non-negotiable. Additional information is available here: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/348957>. Current U.S. EPA Solar for All programmatic terms and conditions apply. More information on U.S. EPA Solar for All programmatic terms and conditions may be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grant-terms-and-conditions>.

1.3 Grant Award

1.3.1. Funding Amounts

A total of \$8,875,000 is available to fund the Solar for Savings initiative's MI SFA pilot projects. The available pilot funding amount, anticipated funding per grant, and number of anticipated awards are listed below by topic area. Please see Appendix B for program definitions.

- **Residential rooftop solar**
 - Total funding available: \$1,000,000
 - Anticipated funding per grant: up to \$500,000
 - Number of awards: Two or more awards
- **Residential-serving community solar**
 - Total funding available: \$6,500,000

- Anticipated funding per grant: up to \$6,500,000
- Number of awards: One or more awards
- **Enabling Upgrades with eligible solar project¹**
 - Total funding available: \$1,000,000
 - Anticipated funding per grant: up to \$500,000
 - Number of awards: Two or more awards
- **Associated storage with eligible solar project²**
 - Total funding available: \$375,000
 - Anticipated funding per grant: up to \$375,000
 - Number of awards: One or more awards

Due to limited current MI SFA program staffing, grant proposals that aggregate single-family residential rooftop solar projects are preferred.

1.3.2. Response Date

Proposals will be accepted until all funding is expended, or until 5:00 p.m. EST, May 30, June 30, and July 30, 2025.

There will be three rounds of reviews. Any application submitted before the relevant review deadline will be considered in that particular review round. If not accepted in an initial review round, projects will be considered in future review rounds. Awards will be granted at the discretion of the OCE and program priorities.

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|-------------------------------|--|
| RFP Posted: | Tuesday, April 22, 2025 |
| Round 1 Responses Due: | 5:00 PM EST, Friday, May 30, 2025 |
| Round 2 Responses Due: | 5:00 PM EST, Monday, June 30, 2025 |
| Round 3 Responses Due: | 5:00 PM EST, Wednesday, July 30, 2025 |

1.4 MI Solar for All Program Objectives and Priorities

Applicants must consider the following program objectives and priorities in the planning of their proposal.

¹ Enabling upgrades must be part of a MI SFA residential rooftop solar or residential-serving community solar pilot project.

² Associated storage projects must be part of a MI SFA residential rooftop solar or residential-serving community solar pilot project.

1.4.1 Program Objectives

- a. **Help reduce energy burdens experienced by low-income households** by delivering a benefit (directly or indirectly) equivalent to, at a minimum, an annual average 20% electricity bill reduction from implementation of MI SFA program investments (solar, storage, and enabling upgrades) and evaluate the impacts of the benefits provided to participating low-income households. The benefits provided to program beneficiaries must be inclusive of any costs they incur to participate in MI SFA program offerings.
- b. **Increase access to wealth building opportunities and solar ownership** by helping to address ownership barriers through different financial strategies and other program assistance.
- c. **Install new renewable energy generation and energy storage** to help Michigan reduce carbon emissions and increase energy resiliency.
- d. **Seek partnerships and additional funding sources to expand the program's impact and reach** through activities like stacking and braiding of resources and integrating with complementary programs.
- e. **Reduce potential risks to program investment performance** by developing plans to ensure quality control of assets funded by MI SFA and promoting adoption of best practices and industry standards for quality installations as well as operations and maintenance of program funded assets.
- f. **Support high-quality, high-wage careers** through workforce training and industry development investments in program related areas and create opportunities for low-income individuals.
- g. **Develop flexible community assistance and educational opportunities to support Michigan communities** to address needs pertinent to MI SFA program design and deployment.

1.4.2 Project Priorities

Current MI SFA project priorities are detailed below:

- a. **Eligible Households:** Maximize participation across single-family homes, manufactured homes, multifamily buildings for properties that are both master metered (the entire building's energy usage is measured through a single meter) or individually metered (tenants pay their own utility bills), and for rented or owned properties.
- b. **Geographical distribution:** Optimal distribution of projects statewide in urban, suburban, and rural areas in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas.
- c. **Innovative and Scalable:** Explore innovative and replicable models that can help scale MI SFA program to benefit and improve access to all eligible households.
- d. **Energy Resiliency:** Enhancing electric grid reliability and resiliency through strategic deployment and energy storage integration.

- e. **Cost Savings and Investment Opportunities:** Explore projects and opportunities that help with cost savings (e.g., deployment in unused lots, maximizing group/bulk buy opportunities etc.), support longevity of program benefits where savings or profits from solar generation are reinvested into the community for future projects, workforce development, or home repairs.
- f. **Workforce and Contractor Development:** Support local communities by investing in training programs to expand Michigan’s solar workforce and ensure equitable access to job opportunities across the state.
- g. **Community Assistance:** Design support programs (e.g., technical assistance, education and outreach, customer support, partnerships) to address specific gaps or needs that help with successful SFA deployment.

1.4.3 Preferred Project Types

Preferred pilot project types, in addition to meeting all U.S. EPA Solar for All requirements, should include one or more of the following attributes:

- Project is initiated due to community need/desire and demonstrates support or buy-in from the community.
- Project leverages other existing programs or funding sources to maximize benefits for households or communities.
- Project supports households and communities with frequent power outages and/or high electricity costs.
- Project serves vulnerable populations (i.e. households with children under five years old, individuals with a disability, individuals over 60, and individuals who have experienced homelessness in the last 12 months).
- Project provides other social benefits (e.g. workforce training, educational opportunities, local health improvements, community engagement opportunities, etc.).
- Project provides other environmental benefits (e.g., supports agricultural production, pollinator habitats, reduced water runoff, etc.).
- If serving households, project supports necessary household upgrades to allow for solar installation and to maximize solar generation.
- If a residential-serving community solar project, the project adopts an innovative structure, not necessarily on the utility bill, to deliver project benefits/cost savings to eligible low-income participating households.

1.5 Eligibility

1.5.1. Eligible Projects

To qualify for funding, projects must meet the following criteria:

- Support the deployment of one or more of the following project categories, as defined by the U.S. EPA’s Solar for All Terms and Conditions (full definitions in Appendix B-1):
 - Residential Rooftop Solar
 - Residential-Serving Community Solar
 - One of the above eligible solar projects with
 - Enabling Upgrades and/or
 - Associated Storage
- Deliver an average of at least 20% annual electric bill savings (or the equivalent) to eligible low-income households. (See Appendix C for more information on savings calculation details.)
- Ensure 100% of benefits go to eligible low-income households, or, for residential-serving community solar projects, allocate at least 50% of benefits to eligible low-income households. (See Appendix B-2 for low-income definitions.)
- Impacted facilities must be occupied, unless new construction, and have long range plans of continued use.

Please Note: All associated storage and enabling upgrades must be associated with a Solar for Savings-funded residential rooftop solar or residential-serving community solar project.

1.5.1.2 Ineligible Projects

1. Projects deemed illegal under the law or inappropriate under contract management standards.
2. Projects considered scientifically unsound or that significantly increase risks to workers and/or the public.
3. Projects that will not be conducted in Michigan.
4. Projects involving demonstration of non-commercially available equipment and technologies.
5. Projects that do not agree to applicable Davis Bacon and Related Acts requirements as detailed by the U.S. EPA Solar for All program terms and conditions and described in Section 4.10. Current U.S. EPA Solar for All programmatic terms and conditions apply.
6. Infrastructure projects that do not meet Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requirements as detailed by the U.S. EPA Solar for All program terms and conditions and described in Section 4.11. See Appendix F and G for additional information and temporary waiver. Current U.S. EPA Solar for All programmatic terms and conditions apply.
7. Projects supporting deployment of projects that do not meet program definition of eligible technologies described in Appendix B-1. Eligible Technology Definitions.
8. Projects that do not provide benefits to eligible low-income households as described in Appendix B-2. Low Income Definition.

1.5.2. Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Eligible entities include public and not-for-profit entities such as tribes, state and local government, non-profit, municipal and cooperative utilities, and educational entities like K-12 schools, colleges, and universities, and eligible property owners physically located in Michigan. **For-profit entities are not eligible to apply but may be a partner on a project proposal, if an eligible entity is the proposed grantee.**

Eligible nonprofit organizations **must not** be nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities.

1.6 Grant Information

1.6.1. Issuing Office and Point of Contact

This RFP has been issued by EGLE's OCE (Issuing Office) within EGLE's executive office. Questions that arise as a result of this RFP must be submitted to the OCE by **email only**. All questions must be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. (ET), May 8, 2025.

For questions regarding this solicitation, please include the subject line "MI SFA Pilot RFP Question" and send it to:

EGLE-MISFA@Michigan.gov

1.6.2. Changes to the RFP and Responses to Questions

Written answers to questions, changes, and/or clarifications will be posted on the program webpage by May 19, 2025.

1.6.3. Proposals

To be considered, applicants must submit a complete response to this RFP, addressing the Program Objectives, Program Priorities, and Preferred Project Types; submit all required application materials; and use the format and attachments provided in Part 2.

1.6.4 Project Budget

Applicant(s) must provide a complete Budget using Appendix D -Approved [Budget Form](#). Budgets must be itemized and be accompanied by a budget narrative which adequately describes each budget category. This is a reimbursement-based opportunity. Costs must be incurred and paid for before they are reimbursed. The grant(s) awarded from this RFP will be subawards of the EGLE's federal award from the U.S. EPA's Solar for All program. As such, the grant will adhere to all federal grant requirements, terms and conditions flow downs, and ongoing compliance requirements.

Matching funding is not required for this opportunity. However, applicants are encouraged to provide documentation on any applicable leveraged funds for the project, as projects

with higher leverage ratios will be reviewed more favorably. Reference Section 4.1 for details on examples of voluntary match contributions and leveraged funds.

1.6.5 Project Timeline

Applicants must provide a detailed project timeline outlining the key activities and milestones for the proposed project. The timeline should cover all phases of the project, including planning, implementation, and evaluation, and must be structured using the approved Project Timeline (Appendix E). Each activity and milestone should be clearly defined with corresponding start and end dates to demonstrate the project's progress and ensure that all deliverables are completed on schedule.

The timeline should also specify any critical deadlines or dependencies between tasks. It is essential that all activities are realistically planned to align with the funding and project duration requirements. Please note that the timeline will be used to evaluate the feasibility of the project's implementation and to monitor progress throughout the award period.

If applicable, applicants are encouraged to indicate any external factors or resources that may influence project timing, such as permit approvals, coordination with partners, or seasonal considerations.

PART 2 INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM APPLICANTS.

The following information must be submitted by all applicants to be considered. *Failure to attach/include the requested information will result in the rejection of the proposal.*

1. [Online Application](#) (see link and instructions below) (full application can be viewed in Appendix A - Application)
2. [Appendix D – Approved Budget Form](#) (see instructions below)
 - a. If an indirect cost rate is used in the budget, the Appendix I - Certificate of Indirect Costs must be selected, signed, and submitted (see link and instructions below) [if applicable].
3. [Appendix E - Project Timeline Template](#)
4. Material certification [if applicable]
5. Price estimates or quotes for the proposed project [if applicable]
6. Most recent copy of the A-133 or outside audit OR the most recent financial statements (balance sheet and income statement). Applicants that receive cumulative federal funding of over \$750,000, or that receive a single state award over \$500,000 are required to provide an A-133 single audit [if applicable]
7. [State Historic Preservation Office \(SHPO\)](#) Section 106 Review Form (see instructions below) [if applicable]. If your project is located on federally recognized Tribal land and historic preservation is applicable, please note this on your SHPO form.

8. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Form (see Section 4.9 below) [if applicable]
9. Build America, Buy America Waiver Request Form [if applicable]

2.1 Online Application

Complete the [Online Application](#). Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require a response. Applicable materials listed in Section 2 must be uploaded within the Online Application. Applicants can submit their completed Online Application by clicking the “Submit” button on the bottom of the application page. The full application is available for reference in Appendix A. **Please note: Your application will not be considered valid unless the online form is submitted.**

NOTE: Do not close the online application prior to submitting, or else all progress will be lost.

2.2 Approved Budget Form

1. Applicant(s) must use [Appendix D - Approved Budget Form](#). All budget categories must be addressed. Please use “N/A” or “None” to indicate there are no costs associated with a given budget category.
2. The following costs are **disallowed**: sick pay, holiday pay, paid vacation time, payroll taxes, vehicles, computers, real property (e.g., land and buildings), parking, tuition reimbursement/remission, vehicle allowance, car rental, subscriptions, dues, memberships, and repair of buildings and structures not necessary for solar deployment and optimization.
3. **Personnel** – include all staff performing work on the project. For each staff person, provide their name, job title, annual salary/wages, and percent of time dedicated to the grant project. *NOTE: Generally, the State of Michigan will require Davis-Bacon Act or prevailing wage rates to be paid. See Section 4.10 for additional information.*
4. **Fringe Benefits** – allowable benefits typically include health insurance, dental insurance, and optical insurance. For each listed staff person, provide their fringe benefit rate, and confirm their annual fringe benefit cost. Applicants will be required to detail/justify the fringe rates given in their proposed budget prior to an agreement being finalized. If fringe cost rates are approved by a federal agency, identify the agency and date of latest rate agreement, and include a copy of the rate agreement with the application. If fringe cost rates are not approved by a federal agency, explain how total fringe benefit costs were calculated. Your calculations should identify all rates used along with the base they were applied to (and how the base was derived), and a total for each (along with the grand total).

5. **Contractual Services** – include all anticipated service contracts required for the project. All sub-recipients, vendors, contractors, and consultants and their estimated costs should be identified. Provide the vendor or contract name, the service to be provided, and the dollar amounts to be paid using grant funds and/or voluntarily contributed funds. Use “to be determined” if the entity is unknown. Include the basis of cost for each item (competitive, historical, quote, catalog, etc.).
6. **Supplies and Materials** – include items costing less than \$5,000 per unit or with a useful life expectancy of less than one year. Supplies are generally consumed during the project performance. Supply items must be direct costs to the project and not duplicative of supply costs included in the indirect pool that is the basis of any indirect rate applied for this project. Provide the item, unit cost, and quantity of units. Confirm the voluntarily contributed funds amount, if applicable.
7. **Equipment** – include items costing \$5,000 or more per unit and having a useful life of one year or more. Provide the item, unit cost, quantity of units, and the dollar amounts to be paid using grant funds, and/or voluntarily contributed funds. List all proposed equipment and briefly justify its needs as it applies to the objectives of this proposal. If the equipment is being proposed as voluntary match contribution and was previously acquired, provide the value of its contribution to the project and a rationale for the estimated value shown. If it is new equipment that will retain a useful life upon completion of the project, provide a rationale for the estimated value shown. Also, indicate whether the equipment is being used for other projects or is 100% dedicated to this project. Equipment purchases will require additional documentation, such as Lien or Uniform Commercial Code Filing, and the State of Michigan listed as the lienholder/creditor for five years after the reimbursement.
8. **Other Direct Costs** – include all other known direct costs not otherwise categorized or disallowed. Provide the title/name and the cost of each item/service listed.
9. **Travel** – include all mileage, lodging, meals, and other known travel costs. Provide travel costs separately as mileage, lodging, meals, and other known travel costs. All listed travel must be necessary or beneficial to the performance of the proposed project. State of Michigan travel rates must be used for all travel expenses. The most recent State of Michigan Travel Rates are posted by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.
10. **Indirect Rate** – provide the indirect rate (up to five (5) percent maximum) used by the applicant’s organization as a percentage of the **total direct cost**. If the applicant’s indirect cost rate has been approved by a federal agency, identify the agency, along with the date of the latest rate agreement, and submit a copy of the agreement with the application. *NOTE: Applicant(s) will be required to justify their indirect rate given in their budget if it exceeds five (5) percent. Additionally, all applicants including an indirect rate must sign and submit a Certificate of Indirect Costs using [Appendix I – Certificate of Indirect Costs](#).*

11. Incurring Costs – The EGLE/OCE is not liable for any costs incurred by an applicant prior to issuance of a grant agreement. The following documentation will be required by selected applicants to receive reimbursement:

- a. Receipt/Invoice or payroll summary for cost incurred.
- b. Proof of payment via bank statement, ACH payment, or scanned cashed check. *NOTE: All voluntary match contribution types (cash, in-kind, third-party) will be held to the same documentation requirements.*

2.2.1 Additional Budget Information

1. In the event of a partially funded proposal, selected applicant(s) will be required to submit a revised proposal before entering into a grant agreement. The proportion of direct costs to indirect costs will remain the same as in their original request. *New line items to the revised budget are not allowed.*
2. Selected applicant(s) assumes the responsibility for ensuring the grant project is performed within the established timeline.
3. If the entire State of Michigan share of the grant award is expended, the entire in-kind and/or voluntary match funds must be spent and supported by source documentation. If the entire State of Michigan share of the grant award is not spent, the in-kind and/or voluntarily contributed funds may be reduced proportionately by the percentage of the grant award not spent.
4. Selected applicant(s) may not commingle award funds with current or future awards received from the U.S. EPA. Financial assistance from each funding source must be managed, reported, and accounted for separately from all other funding sources.
5. Should selected applicant(s) cease business operations or dissolve the program established under the grant agreement, existing capital must be returned to the State of Michigan.

2.3 Certificate of Indirect Costs

If an indirect cost is included in the proposed budget, it must be certified using the [Appendix I - Certificate of Indirect Costs](#). The certificate must be signed on behalf of the organization by an individual at a level no lower than vice president or chief financial officer of the organization that submits the proposal. This certification is included within the proposal worksheet and must be checked to certify.

PART 3 SELECTION CRITERIA

All proposals received shall be subject to an evaluation by EGLE/OCE and MI SFA staff and contractors. The evaluation will be conducted in a manner appropriate to select the applicant(s) for the purpose of entering into a grant agreement to perform the proposed

project within the established timeline. Initial screening of the applications will be conducted to ensure applicants and projects meet all eligibility requirements.

Proposals failing to meet the eligibility requirements described in Section 1.5, that do not comply with the requirements of the grant agreement, and/or which are incomplete, **will be rejected automatically**. Proposals meeting the eligibility, RFP, and grant program requirements will be evaluated according to the scoring criteria and weighting factors below.

I. Program Objectives (5 Points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on how well they incorporate the objectives outlined in *Section 1.4.1. Program Objectives*. Proposals that address multiple program objectives and demonstrate a clear plan for delivering and evaluating benefits for low-income communities will receive higher scores.

II. Project Priorities (10 Points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on how well they align with the priorities outlined in *Section 1.4.2. Project Priorities*. Projects that address multiple priorities and demonstrate clear strategies to achieving these priorities will receive higher scores. EGLE/OCE will also consider how each proposal contributes to achieving a balanced and comprehensive portfolio across all selected projects to ensure statewide coverage of key priorities.

III. Preferred Project Types (10 Points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on the extent to which they incorporate one or more of the attributes outlined in *Section 1.4.3. Preferred Project Types*. Projects that demonstrate a greater number of these attributes will receive higher scores. Evaluators will also consider the depth and quality of how each attribute is addressed.

IV. Project Work Plan and Impact (35 Points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on the scope of work, its merit, and the quality and depth of detail of information submitted.

V. Project Feasibility (25 Points)

Proposals will be evaluated on their likelihood of success and feasibility to achieve the purpose and tasks required by this RFP. The evaluation will include a review of the identified personnel, if the project will be completed within the established timeframe of the grant, other funding sources that will be used to complete the project, and consideration of potential risks.

- VI. Experience of Organization/Project Team (20 Points)**
Proposals will be evaluated on the experience and qualifications of the organization.
- VII. Percentage State Funds as Proportion of Total Budget (5 Points)**

TOTAL POINTS: 110

3.1 Proposal Selection

Submitted applications will go through an eligibility evaluation, risk assessment, and merit review. Interviews may be held on a case-by-case basis, as needed. Awards will be given at the discretion of the OCE and based on program priorities. Proposal review will occur in three rounds: May 30, June 30, and July 30, 2025. Applications submitted by each deadline will be considered in that review cycle. Should a project not be awarded in a review cycle, it will be included in the next review round. Awards will be made on a first come, first served basis until all the funding is committed or until the application deadline of July 30, 2025.

3.2 Project Clarifications/Revisions

During the proposal review process, applicants may be contacted for clarification and for the purpose of negotiating changes in project activities, timetables, and budgeted costs. The Issuing Office reserves the right to award funds for an amount other than that requested and/or request changes to, or clarification of, the proposed project.

3.3 Rejection of Proposals

EGLE's OCE reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received as a result of this RFP or to negotiate separately with any source whatsoever in any manner necessary to serve the best interest of the State of Michigan and EGLE/OCE. EGLE/OCE will not pay for the information solicited or obtained as a result of a consultant/vendor's response to any RFP.

3.4 Acceptance of Proposal Content

The contents of this RFP and the proposal of the selected applicant become grant obligations if a grant award ensues. Failure of the selected applicant to accept these obligations shall result in cancellation of the award.

The successful applicant(s) will be required to accept all terms, including the applicable U.S. EPA Solar for All Terms and Conditions, and enter into a grant agreement with the State of Michigan within 45 calendar days of being notified of funding availability. The

agreement consists of standard contract language, applicant's work plan, timetable, and budget information, a compensation clause that adheres to guidelines in this solicitation, and terms and conditions that outline additional requirements.

PART 4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4.1 Example of Voluntary Match Contributions and Leveraged Funds

Match or cost sharing is not required. However, projects that provide voluntary match contributions will receive favorable consideration. Applicants may use cash, bond proceeds, tax-exempt leasing, tax-credits, complementary program contributions, and/or financing for some or all of their voluntary contributions or leveraged funds. Other voluntary contributions or leveraged funds not on this list will also be considered. Voluntary contributions may be categorized as in-kind or monetary from a third-party, or in-kind or monetary from the applicant organization. Voluntary contributions are subject to the same backup documentation as expenses incurred.

4.2 SIGMA Vendor Registration

All selected applicants must be registered as a vendor of the State of Michigan on SIGMA Vendor Self Services (VSS) before entering into a grant agreement. If you are an existing vendor and have an account in Sigma VSS, please verify that all your account information is correct. If not, please use Sigma VSS to register. This website is for the exclusive use of the vendors and individuals intent on doing business with the State of Michigan and allows you to be paid in the event that you are awarded a contract. **Your registration may take up to two weeks to be processed.**

4.3 News Releases

News releases (including promotional literature and commercial advertisements) pertaining to the grant or project to which it relates must not be made without prior written State approval, and then only in accordance with the explicit written instructions of the State.

4.4 Disclosure of Proposal Contents

All information in a bidder's proposal and any grant resulting from this RFP is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, as amended, MCL 15.231, et seq.

4.5 Copyrighted Materials

Example grant agreement language below provides a summary of intellectual property provisions.

Unless otherwise specified in this Agreement, the Grantee may release information or material developed under this Agreement, provided it is acknowledged that the State funded all or a portion of its development.

The State, and federal awarding agency, if applicable, retains a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, and use in whole or in part, and authorize others to do so, any copyrightable material or research data submitted under this grant whether or not the material is copyrighted by the Grantee or another person. The Grantee will only submit materials that the State can use in accordance with this paragraph.

Official grant agreement language will be finalized with each grantee upon award and language may change.

4.6 Prime Applicant Responsibilities

The selected applicant will be required to assume responsibility for all grant activities offered in the proposal whether or not that applicant performs them. Further, the State will consider the selected applicant (Recipient) to be the sole point of contact with regard to grant matters, including but not limited to payment of any and all costs resulting from the anticipated grant. If any part of the work is to be subcontracted, the Recipient must notify their grant manager and identify the subcontractor(s), including firm name and address, contact person, complete description of work to be subcontracted, descriptive information concerning subcontractor's organizational abilities, Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), UEI number, and/or state license number. The State reserves the right to approve subcontractors for the project and to require the Recipient to replace subcontractors found to be unacceptable. The Recipient is totally responsible for adherence by the subcontractor to all provisions of the grant. Example grant agreement language below provide a summary of prime applicant responsibilities.

VII. Assignability

The Grantee shall not assign this Agreement or assign or delegate any of its duties or obligations under this Agreement to any other party without the prior written consent of the State. The State does not assume responsibility regarding the contractual relationships between the Grantee and any subcontractor.

VIII. Subcontracts

The State reserves the right to deny the use of any consultant, contractor, associate, or other personnel to perform any portion of the project. The Grantee is solely responsible for all contractual activities performed under this Agreement. Further, the State will consider the Grantee to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the anticipated Grant. All subcontractors used by the Grantee in performing the project shall be subject to the provisions of this Agreement and shall be qualified to perform the duties required.

Official grant agreement language will be finalized with each grantee upon award and language may change.

4.7 Partner Responsibilities

Organizations partnering with selected applicant(s) must comply with the requirements of the solicitation and will be held to the same standards as prime applicants.

4.8 Historic Preservation

4.8.1 National Historic Preservation Act Section 106

If the grant project impacts a historic property, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act compliance is required. Historic properties can include: (a) land or buildings listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; (b) archaeologically sensitive areas or in an area where traditional cultural properties are located; and (c) properties that are associated with significant historic events, are associated with significant people, embody distinctive characteristics, and contain important precontact information.

The selected applicant (Recipient) with projects that impact historic properties must be available to work with EGLE/OCE, MI SFA, and the U.S. EPA on any required consultation processes with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) prior to commencing the project to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

If NHPA compliance is required, necessary Section 106 consultation activities, such as historic or architectural surveys, structural engineering analysis of buildings, public meetings, and archival photographs, can be considered allowable and allocable grant costs.

Projects may be modified to avoid adverse effects to historic properties. Applicant must complete in full the State Historic Preservation Office Application for Section 106 Review if

the applicant is conducting ground disturbing activity or work on a building(s) that is/are at least fifty years of age or older. **Submit [this form](#) with your proposal.**

4.8.2 Archeological and historic Preservation Act (AHPA)

This law applies if archeologically significant artifacts or similar items are discovered after a U.S. EPA-funded construction project has begun, and compliance may be coordinated with the NHPA, discussed above. The AHPA requires federal agencies to identify relics, specimens, and other forms of scientific, prehistorical, historical, or archaeological data that may be lost during the construction of federally sponsored projects to ensure that these resources are not inadvertently transferred, sold, demolished or substantially altered, or allowed to deteriorate significantly. Projects must notify EGLE/OCE if the AHPA is triggered.

4.9 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Projects that are carried out with grants awarded under Section 134 of the Clean Air Act are exempt from NEPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 793(c)(1). However, if a part of a project is also carried out with funding from another federal agency, NEPA may apply to that agency's funding. Grantees should consult with an appropriate representative from the other federal agency to determine whether NEPA applies in such a situation.

4.10 Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Requirements

Selected applicants must acknowledge and agree to Davis-Bacon and Related Acts terms, as detailed in the most current U.S. EPA Solar for All Terms and Conditions. All requirements of the U.S. EPA Solar for All terms and conditions are non-negotiable.

Additional information is available here: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/348957>. Current U.S. EPA Solar for All programmatic terms and conditions apply. More information on U.S. EPA Solar for All programmatic terms and conditions may be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grant-terms-and-conditions>.

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) is a collection of labor standards provisions administered by the Department of Labor, that are applicable to grants involving construction. These labor standards include the:

- Davis-Bacon Act, which requires payment of prevailing wage rates for laborers and mechanics on construction contracts of \$2,000 or more;
- Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act, which prohibits a contractor or subcontractor from inducing an employee into giving up any part of the compensation to which he or she is entitled; and
- Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which requires overtime wages to be paid for over 40 hours of work per week, under contracts in excess of \$100,000.

All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors on projects assisted under MI SFA shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing for the same type of work on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with 40 U.S.C. Subtitle II, Part A, Chapter 31, Subchapter IV (Wage Rate Requirements). Under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the relevant construction type and prevailing wage classifications would be “Building” or “Residential.” The Secretary of Labor’s wage determinations are available at <https://sam.gov/content/wage-determinations>.

The U.S. Department of Labor wage rate report is required to be included with agreements that are affected by the Davis-Bacon Act requirement. If applicable, all positions that are related to an agreement subject to the Davis-Bacon Act must be classified accordingly. Weekly time reporting requirements and necessary forms are listed in the grant agreement, Addendum to Part II. Detailed information about the Davis Bacon Act can be found at the U.S. Department of Labor website on federal Contracts-Working Conditions.

Davis-Bacon and Related Act requirements **do not** apply to any form of financial assistance which meets any of the following criteria:

- Financial assistance which exclusively funds pre-construction (e.g. permitting or design work) or post-construction activities (e.g. subsidies for subscriptions to already constructed solar assets).
- Financial assistance which serves end-users who are individual homeowners or tenants of single-family homes or multifamily buildings when these individual end-users ultimately select the contractor(s) and execute the contract(s) for the construction work, as opposed to the Recipient, subrecipient, or a contractor hired by the Recipient or subrecipients.
- Financial assistance which serves end-users who meet the definition of federally recognized Tribal entities, as defined under this Assistance Agreement, when these federally recognized Tribal entities ultimately select the contractor(s) and execute the contract(s) for the construction work, as opposed to the Recipient, Subrecipient, or a contractor hired by the Recipient or Subrecipient.
- Financial assistance which serves any end-user when such financial assistance is less than \$250,000 for a project and the end-user ultimately selects the contractor(s) and executes the contract(s) for the construction work, as opposed to the Recipient, subrecipient, or a contractor hired by the Recipient or subrecipients

4.11 Build America, Buy America Act Requirements

The Build America, Buy America Act (BABA Act, enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, established a domestic content procurement preference for all federal financial assistance obligated for infrastructure projects after May 14, 2022. The

BABA Act – Public Law 117-58, requires the U.S. EPA to ensure that for any activity related to the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure, “none of the funds made available for a federal financial assistance program for infrastructure, including each deficient program, may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.” (P.L. 117-58, Secs 70911 – 70917).

Selected applicants must acknowledge and agree to BABA Act terms, as detailed in the most current U.S. EPA Solar for All Terms and Conditions. All requirements of the U.S. EPA Solar for All terms and conditions are non-negotiable. **Additional information on the BABA Act is available in [Appendix F – U.S. EPA Solar for All Terms and Conditions, Section K. Build America, Buy America](#).** All applicable current U.S. EPA Solar for All programmatic terms and conditions and current U.S. EPA general terms and conditions apply and supersede what is shared below.

More information on U.S. EPA Solar for All programmatic terms and conditions may be found here: U.S. [EPA General Terms and Conditions effective October 1, 2024 or later | US EPA](#). Please see *Section 49. Build America, Buy America – Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials (effective October 23, 2023, and forward)* for more information on BABA Act requirements.

Under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, BABA Act requirements apply to forms of financial assistance that directly fund and are directly linked to specific infrastructure projects that were not completed prior to the date the State of Michigan award funds were obligated by the U.S. EPA.

The U.S. EPA interprets the definition of infrastructure consistent with 2 C.F.R. 184 and M-24-02 (memorandum dated as of October 23, 2023), including the “public function” test, when determining whether projects qualify as public infrastructure, based on the Civil Rights Act definition of public accommodation.

The following types of greenhouse gas reduction projects are deemed infrastructure for the purposes of BABA Act applicability:

1. The public infrastructure portion of any property (e.g., retail in a mixed-use multi-family property) where the principal purpose of the financial assistance is to directly benefit such portion of the property;
2. Privately-owned commercial buildings when they meet the “public function” test;
3. Residential-serving community solar projects, which the U.S. EPA deems “structures, facilities, and equipment that generate, transport, and distribute energy” per 2 C.F.R. 184.4(c).

The following types of greenhouse gas reduction projects **are not** deemed infrastructure for the purposes of BABA Act applicability:

1. Single family homes;
2. Privately-owned, non-mixed-use, multi-family housing properties;
3. Privately-owned residential portions of mixed-use properties;
4. Any privately-owned, behind-the-meter energy generation and storage project that does not otherwise meet the definition of infrastructure.

The inclusion of the following types of funding, support, guarantee, or sponsorship in the funding stack of any Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund project does not trigger the BABA Act, in and of itself or in combination:

1. Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC);
2. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac backed multifamily mortgages;
3. Federal Housing Administration insured multifamily mortgages;
4. HUD Section 8 funding;
5. Other federal, state, Tribal, or local housing assistance funding sources: in general, subsidies issued by federal, state, Tribal, or local housing assistance funding sources that do not confer equity or ownership stakes for the governmental funding source do not trigger BABA Act applicability.

BABA Act applicability is assessed at the time of provision of financial assistance based on the terms, limitations, and requirements of the financial assistance. Applicability does not change retroactively based on a change of use (e.g., if a ground floor apartment is re-zoned for a restaurant). Recipients may not temporarily modify or mischaracterize usage to intentionally avoid BABA Act compliance.

4.11.1 Temporary Limited Nonavailability Partial Waiver

The U.S. EPA issued a temporary, limited nonavailability partial waiver of the manufactured product requirements of Section 70914(a) of the BABA Act included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Pub. L. No. 117-58) for domestically assembled solar modules used in federal financial assistance awarded for infrastructure projects by the Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (OGGRF) within the U.S. EPA Solar for All (SFA) program. The memo on the temporary waiver is available under [Appendix G – Temporary Waiver for Build America, Buy America](#).

The waiver requires domestic assembly versus a waiver of the full manufactured product requirements, which would allow assembly to occur outside the United States. The waiver applies for all new solar modules with final assembly in the United States. Solar modules where final assembly occurred outside the United States are not eligible for coverage under this waiver. The waiver applies to expenditures on solar panels made on or after January 10, 2025, until December 31, 2025, so long as those panels are installed by June 30, 2026.

“Final assembly” means all operations involved in the transformation of individual solar cells and all other module components into a fully functional encapsulated module. For recipient expenditures to be covered by this waiver, the solar modules will need to be installed by June 30, 2026.

“Installed by” means modules being permanently fastened to an outdoor support structure at the project site. This requirement only applies to solar modules covered by this waiver and has no bearing on compliance determinations for other products nor for solar modules not covered by this waiver.

4.12 Contingency

The payment of funds to Recipient under the terms of a grant agreement shall be contingent on the receipt of such funds by EGLE/OCE from applicable state and federal funding sources and shall be subject to Recipient’s continued eligibility to receive funds under the applicable provisions of state and federal laws and EGLE/OCE’s notice of award. If the amount of funds that EGLE/OCE receives from state and federal funding sources is reduced, EGLE/OCE reserves the right to reduce the amount of funds awarded under, or to terminate, a grant agreement. EGLE/OCE also reserves the right to deny payment for Recipient’s expenditures for approved services where invoices and/or other reports are not submitted by the deadlines specified. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude the subrecipient from pursuing other remedies per the U.S. EPA Solar for All Programmatic Terms and Conditions.

4.13 Termination Based on Available Funding

In the event that EGLE/OCE loses funding from the government, EGLE/OCE may immediately terminate a grant agreement to Recipient prior to the project’s end date. In the event of such termination, Recipient will be entitled to payment, determined on a prorata basis, for services satisfactorily performed up to the date of termination. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude the subrecipient from pursuing other remedies per the U.S. EPA Solar for All Programmatic Terms and Conditions.

4.14 Suspension of Work

Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, EGLE/OCE may, by notice to Recipient, suspend all or any portion of the project activities or services to be rendered. Recipient shall stop all such services immediately upon receipt of EGLE/OCE’s suspension order and shall promptly resume the services after receipt of direction from EGLE/OCE to proceed. To the extent permitted under EGLE/OCE’s award, suspension orders issued for conditions or circumstances unrelated to the Recipient’s fault or negligence shall result in a reasonable adjustment in the contract schedule. Conditions or circumstances unrelated

to the Recipient's fault or negligence shall include actions by the government that make performance impossible, such as staffing shortages that result in significant delays in disbursement or funds frozen by the disbursing agency. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude the subrecipient from pursuing other remedies per the U.S. EPA Solar for All Programmatic Terms and Conditions.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Application

Applicants must clearly and succinctly explain how they will accomplish each required task below **during the grant period**. Applicants must fill out the online [application](#) to apply for this funding opportunity.

- a. Applicant information
 - i. Organization Name:
 - ii. Contact Person:
 - iii. Contact Person Title:
 - iv. Address:
 - v. Email:
 - vi. Phone Number:
 - vii. Type of entity:
 - i. Non-profit
 - ii. Tribe
 - iii. Local government
 - iv. State government
 - v. Municipal or cooperative utility
 - vi. Educational entity (K-12 school, college, university)
 - viii. Recipients cannot be for-profit entities. I attest the applicant organization is not a for-profit entity.
 - i. Yes/No
 - ix. If a nonprofit organization
 - i. I attest the nonprofit organization **is not** a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities.
 - (a) Yes/No
 - x. Has the organization reviewed the Consumer Protection Requirements for Solar for All (Section L in [U.S. EPA Solar for All Terms and Conditions](#))?

- i. Yes/No
- xi. Has the organization reviewed the [terms and conditions for the U.S. EPA Solar for All Program](#)?
 - i. Yes/No
- b. Partnerships and Collaboration (if applicable): List any partners involved in the project, including their roles (e.g., currently identified contractors, developers, community partners, etc.) and contributions (e.g., financial, in-kind contributions etc.).
- c. Project Information
 - i. Project Type: Please select the appropriate project type based on the categories outlined in “Eligible Projects” (select all that apply).
 - i. Residential Solar Pilot Project
 - ii. Residential-Serving Community Solar Pilot Project
 - iii. One of the above solar projects with:
 - (a) Associated Storage
 - (b) Enabling Upgrades
 - ii. Project Status: Please select the current status of the project:
 - i. Project not planned
 - ii. Project partially planned
 - iii. Project planned completely
 - iv. Some of the project is built, but there are plans to expand it
 - v. Project fully built and operational
 - vi. Other (please explain):
 - iii. Location of proposed project (address, county, and census tracts³). If the project is an aggregation of various smaller projects located at different places, please list the individual locations.
 - iv. Electric utility company. Provide the name of the electric utility company that provides service in the project location. If the project is an aggregation of various smaller projects located at different places, please list the individual locations and their associated electric utility company. Also, provide the details on the status of the current engagement and partnership with the local utility company.
 - v. Project description. Provide a brief project summary, including the main objectives, the target community, and main actions. (100-200 words).
 - vi. Select the appropriate eligible project type proposed and total amount (kW or MW) of solar to be installed.
 - i. Residential Rooftop Solar

³ Please use the following site to determine the census tract in which your project would be placed: [2020 Census Tract Identifier](#).

- (a) Total amount installed (kW)
 - (b) Amount installed per household (kW)
 - ii. Residential-Serving Community Solar
 - (a) Total amount installed (kW or MW, please note)
- vii. Describe type of solar technology that will be installed (e.g., solar panels with tracking system)
- viii. Describe where solar will be installed. Select all that apply.
 - i. Rooftop,
 - ii. Ground-Mount,
 - iii. Carport or Pole-Mount,
 - iv. Other (please describe)
- ix. If your proposal includes associated storage and/or enabling upgrades, please select the applicable item below.
 - i. Associated Storage
 - (a) Total capacity installed (kwh or MWh)
 - ii. Enabling Upgrades
 - (a) Estimated dollar amount per household
 - (b) Estimated total dollar amount for pilot
- x. Describe the ownership of the installed solar and/or storage and whether the household and/or community own the installed investments at the start or have opportunities for ownership in the future.
- xi. Describe the facilities (i.e. buildings) on which solar is sited (e.g. house, garage, commercial building, etc.). These facilities must be occupied, unless projects pertain to new construction, and must have long range plans of continued use. In addition, please describe if the site is owned, leased, or planned to be owned or leased.
- d. Background and Rationale
 - i. Explain the specific need for the project and how it will address barriers for the specific low-income community it will serve.
 - ii. Please describe how your organization engages diverse stakeholders and community in setting your priorities and designing your projects/programs (and, if relevant, how your past community engagement shaped the project idea you are proposing in this application).
 - iii. Please describe how you will engage diverse stakeholders and low-income community members in implementing your proposed project to strengthen their voices in the outcomes and enhance the benefits they receive in the process.

- iv. If applicable, describe challenges (e.g., financing, permitting, construction, procurement, and workforce development) that have prevented the project's implementation so far, and how this funding will help overcome them.
- e. Project Implementation Plan
 - i. Project Activities: Outline the key activities and milestones of your project using the Appendix E – Approved Project Timeline Template.
- f. Project Finances
 - i. Total Budget. Provide the total project cost and the amount requested from the MI SFA using Appendix D – [Approved Budget Form](#).
 - ii. Provide a narrative on the project budget, explaining the project cost, details on project match and any stacking or braiding considered in the budget, as well as any administrative or overhead considerations.
 - iii. Leveraging Additional Funding. Please provide information on additional funding this project will leverage, if applicable. This can be provided by applicants, partners, or other programs that the pilot will benefit from.
 - i. Amount of additional private or public funding expected:
 - (a) Solar
 - (b) Associated Storage, if applicable
 - (c) Enabling upgrades, if applicable
 - ii. Evidence of co-investments or complementary funding sources
 - (a) Solar
 - (b) Associated Storage, if applicable
 - (c) Enabling upgrades, if applicable
 - iii. Tax credits anticipated
 - (a) Solar
 - (b) Associated Storage, if applicable
 - (c) Enabling upgrades, if applicable
- g. Project Impacts
 - i. Total number of low-income households to be served by the project.
 - ii. Describe the participating low-income households (i.e., expected income levels, number of individuals in a household) and how the project will/has recruit(ed) eligible participating households according to the program eligibility income limits. See Appendix B-2 of the RFP.
 - iii. Are participating low-income households in the same utility service territory as the proposed pilot?
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No (please explain)

- iv. Provide the average electric bill for the participating low-income households this project will serve.
- v. Provide the estimated annual benefit of at least 20% electric bill savings (USD and %) received by participating low-income households per household and how the benefit will be delivered.
 - i. If the project is a residential-serving community solar project, please also provide:
 - (a) The estimated total economic value from solar project over project lifetime (at least 25 years). This, at a minimum, should include value of renewable energy credits.⁴
 - (b) The percentage of total economic value provided to participating low-income households in the same utility service territory:
 - (c) How and when the benefit will be provided to participating low-income households
- vi. MI SFA investments will deliver economic benefits to the residents they serve, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other harmful outdoor air co-pollutants, and create jobs and economic opportunities for Michigan workers/small businesses. Please describe any other ways that your project will benefit the community/low-income residents you plan to serve.
- h. Demonstrated Track Record and Team
 - i. Organization Capability. Provide evidence of your organization's capability to execute this project, including examples of past successful projects, partnerships, and outcomes that demonstrate your expertise, including whether you have experience with energy projects in the utility service area of your proposed project, or in Michigan. If your organization does not have a proven track record in executing similar projects, please explain why you are still capable of leading this initiative (see question below to provide additional information on project partners and team that will provide necessary capabilities).
 - i. Highlight any relevant skills, unique resources, or partnerships that position your organization to successfully implement the project. Outline your organization's experience with similar development efforts, including the expertise of your team and any external support you may be leveraging, generally and

⁴ Please use <https://www.sretrade.com/markets/rps/srec/> to estimate the value of renewable energy credits produced from the proposed project.

within your utility service area or Michigan as a whole. Discuss your ability to navigate technical challenges, ensure successful implementation, and provide long-term support for the proposed project.

- ii. **Project Partners and Team Experience:** Describe your project partners and team, highlighting relevant experience, skills, and roles for this project. Explain why your team is best suited to lead this initiative and how the collective expertise of your team members will contribute to the project's success. If your team is relatively new or lacks experience in certain areas, explain how you will address any gaps and ensure effective project execution. For projects involving the creation of new software or technical resources, provide details about the technical proficiency of your team, their experience with software development, or expertise in creating training programs.

Appendix B - Program Definitions

The following definitions apply for the MI SFA program and this RFP.

Appendix B-1 - Eligible Technology Definitions

- **Residential Rooftop Solar:** Behind-the-meter solar photovoltaic (PV) power-producing facilities, including rooftop, pole-mounted, and ground-mounted PV systems, that deliver all the power generated from the facilities to residential customers in existing and new single-family homes, manufactured homes, or multifamily buildings. Residential rooftop solar includes behind-the-meter solar facilities serving multifamily buildings classified as commercial buildings so long as the solar facility benefits residential customers either directly or indirectly such as through tenant benefit agreements. Residential rooftop solar includes properties that are both rented and owned.
- **Residential-Serving Community Solar:** A solar PV power-producing facility or solar energy purchasing program from a power producing facility, with up to 5 MWac nameplate capacity, that delivers at least 50% of the power generated from the system – by delivering at least 50% of the benefits (e.g., financial savings, renewable energy credits) derived from the power generated by the community solar system – to residential customers within the same utility territory as the facility.
- **Associated Storage:** Infrastructure to store solar-generated power for the purposes of maximizing residential rooftop and residential-serving community solar deployment that is deployed in conjunction with an eligible residential rooftop solar or residential-serving community solar project.
- **Enabling Upgrades:** Investments in energy and building infrastructure that are necessary to deploy or maximize the benefits of a residential rooftop and residential-serving community solar project. Enabling upgrades must satisfy all of the following criteria to be an eligible zero-emissions technology: (1) an investment in energy or building infrastructure and (2) necessary to deploy or maximize the benefits (i.e., financial savings or resiliency benefits) of a residential rooftop and residential-serving community solar project as defined above.

Appendix B-2 - Low Income Definition

Low-income for this program is defined as individuals/households living in the following areas that meet one or more of the requirements below:

- Metropolitan areas: Incomes not more than 80% Area Median Income (AMI) or 200% Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) (whichever is higher),
- Non-Metropolitan Areas: Incomes not more than 80% AMI, 200% FPL, or 80% Statewide Non-Metropolitan Area AMI (whichever is highest).

Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is defined using the latest publicly available figures from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Area Median Income (AMI) is defined using the latest publicly available figures from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Metropolitan Area and Non-Metropolitan Area are defined using the latest publicly available figures for county-level designations from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Statewide Non-Metropolitan Area AMI is defined using the latest publicly available figures from the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, with an adjustment for household size using HUD’s Family Size Adjustment factor.

Area Median Income (AMI) Data

To find the 80% AMI income limit applicable to program beneficiaries of MI SFA pilot projects, please visit: [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development FY 2024 Income Limits Documentation System](#).

First select “Michigan,” and then select the county where the project will be located. Click the “View County Calculations” button and look at the “Low (80%) Income Limits (\$)” line. The income limits vary based on the number of people in the household.

Note: The income limits are updated annually; please ensure you are using the most up-to-date data available.

Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) Data

Please visit <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines> for the most recent federal poverty guidelines.

There is no state-specific data for FPL and the FPL data is updated annually. Please ensure you are using the most up-to-date data available.

Appendix C - Expected 20% Benefit

The MI SFA program seeks to help reduce low-income household energy burden, and low-income program beneficiaries must receive a financial or equivalent non-financial benefit of 20% or greater of the average household’s annual electricity expenditure. This 20%

benefit should be calculated based on the average household's entire electric utility bill including both the energy and fixed cost portion of the bill.

All projects funded as MI SFA pilots under *Solar for Savings* initiative must meet the minimum 20% benefit described above. The benefit amount per household per year is expected to change over time, in line with changes to the overall average residential electric bill each year.

Innovation solutions to delivering benefits, especially in residential-serving community solar projects, are encouraged. To understand how others have approached delivering benefits in community solar or master metered multifamily solar projects, see examples of financial and equivalent non-financial benefit, which are described in guidance from U.S. [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#).

Appendix D – Approved Budget Form

The Approved Budget Form is available on the MI Healthy Climate Challenge webpage under Appendix D – [Approved Budget Form](#).

Appendix E – Approved Project Timeline Template

The Approved Project Timeline template is available on the MI Healthy Climate Challenge webpage under Appendix E – [Approved Project Timeline Template](#).

Appendix F – U.S. EPA Solar for All Terms and Conditions

The most current U.S. EPA and Solar for All Terms and Conditions apply.

Current U.S. EPA general terms and conditions available at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-general-terms-and-conditions-effective-october-1-2024-or-later>.

U.S. EPA Solar for All Terms & Conditions from December 2024 are available on the MI Healthy Climate Challenge – Solar for Savings webpage under [Appendix F - U.S. EPA Solar for All Terms and Conditions](#).

Appendix G. Temporary Waiver for Build America, Buy America

See the U.S. EPA Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund memo on the temporary, limited nonavailability partial waiver of the manufactured product requirements of the Build America, Buy America Act available on the MI Healthy Climate Challenge – Solar for Savings webpage under [Appendix G – Temporary Waiver for Build American, Buy America](#).

Appendix H. DTMB Schedule of Travel Rates FY25

The Department of Technology, Management and Budget's schedule of travel rates for fiscal year 2025 is available on the MI Healthy Climate Challenge – Solar for Savings webpage under [Appendix H – DTMB Schedule of Travel Rates FY25](#).

Appendix I. Certificate of Indirect Costs

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Certificate of Indirect Costs is available on the MI Healthy Climate Challenge – Solar for Savings Webpage under [Appendix I- Certificate of Indirect Costs](#).