



# IRA TECHNICAL MEETING – BUILDING ENERGY RETROFIT FUNDING LANDSCAPE

Presented by: Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy

# HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS (HES) & HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS – INCOME ELIGIBLE (HES-IE)

HES and HES-IE are Utility-run home energy assessment and weatherization programs (Eversource and UI)

Core Services (Average home receives about \$1,000 in services and realizes up to \$200 in annual energy savings):

- Seal air leaks and ductwork
- Hot water pipe wrap
- Faucet aerators
- Low-flow showerheads

Additional upgrades available in HES/HES-IE (HES-IE usually no cost): insulation, water heaters, heating equipment, windows, refrigerator and/or freezer or vouchers, advanced duct sealing.

# WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP)

- Federally funded weatherization program
- Assists low-income households in minimizing energy-related costs and fuel usage through retrofits and home improvement measures at no cost to the residents
- Eligible households: less than 60% state median income (SMI)
- Historically has served mainly single-family homes, but multifamily program is being developed
- Typical measures include air sealing, insulation, bath fan installation, and weather stripping at no cost to household
- Administered by DEEP and implemented by CET, CRT, and ICAST
- Link: [Weatherization in Connecticut](#)
- Contact your local [Community Action Agency \(CAA\)](#) to fill out a Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) [application](#)

# RESIDENTIAL ENERGY PREPARATION SERVICES (REPS)

- New program to remove health and safety barriers (asbestos, mold, knob-and-tube wiring, etc.) to enable weatherization work for income-eligible households
- Eligible households: those deferred from Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Home Energy Solutions-Income Eligible Program (HES-IE)
- Administered by DEEP and implemented by ICAST
- Link: [Residential Energy Preparation Services \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/reps)
- To get started request an energy assessment from [WAP](#) or [HES-IE](#)
- For questions, email [CT@icastusa.org](mailto:CT@icastusa.org) or call (844) 843-4585

# RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS (RRES; SINGLE FAMILY)

- Statewide incentive program that compensates residential solar owners for the power their systems produce and provide to the local electric grid
- Eligible projects cannot exceed 25 kW (AC) and must be on a 1-4 family property
  - RRES recently expanded to include multifamily affordable housing
- Administered by Eversource and United Illuminating
- There are two incentive rate structures, each with a 20-year term, that are designed to provide a similar return on investment
  - Buy-All: Eversource or UI purchases all energy and renewable energy credits generated by the project at a fixed rate for 20 years
  - Netting: Eversource or UI purchases the excess energy produced (“netted” monthly) at the current retail rate (standard service)
- RRES has incentive adders for low-income customers ( $\leq 60\%$  state median income) and customers located in distressed municipalities (as defined by DECD)
- Customers can get more information about how to participate in those programs on the website of their respective electric utility ([Eversource](#) and [UI](#)).

# RRES (AFFORDABLE MULTIFAMILY)

- Incentive program to encourage solar on affordable multifamily buildings (5+ units)
  - Qualify for income-eligible adder
  - Buy-all tariff
- At least 20% of solar tariff must be passed on to tenants
  - For individually-metered properties → tenants receive on-bill credit
  - For master-metered properties → upfront building upgrade installed or reoccurring service provided (proposal under review by PURA)
- Administered by [Eversource](#) and [United Illuminating](#)
- Market rate multifamily can receive solar incentives through Non-residential Renewable Energy Solutions (NRES)
  - No tenant benefits required

# SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY PROGRAM (SCEF)

- Customers "subscribe" to the SCEF program to receive a \$0.025/kWh on-bill credit for energy produced by clean energy resources procured by Eversource and United Illuminating (UI)
- Each customer has a unique credit amount based on their average historic electricity consumption and receives the same amount each month
- 80% of subscribers will be automatically enrolled based on income eligibility by their electric utility on an "opt-out" basis and 20% of subscriptions will be available for customers to apply on an "opt-in" basis
- Customers do not need to re-verify their eligibility during the life of the program
- Administered by Eversource and UI; overseen by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
  - [Eversource](#) subscription information
  - [United Illuminating](#) subscription information



# PROJECT SUNBRIDGE (SOLAR FOR ALL)

- CT was awarded \$62.45 million through the Solar for All competitive grant program as part of EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
  - The program aims to increase access to distributed solar and storage for low income and disadvantaged community households and aims to achieve a minimum household energy savings of 20% for participants
- Funding will leverage existing incentive programs in CT (such as RRES and ESS) to further their reach and impact to multifamily affordable housing and low-income residents
- EPA is expected to work with awardees and provide applicant-specific feedback this summer
  - Funding must be spent within 5 years of award date (September 1, 2024)
- As we determine how these funds will be deployed, there will be opportunities for public comment and community engagement
- If you would like to stay updated about engagement opportunities, please email [DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov) to be added to our Project SunBridge email distribution list
  - Link: [Project SunBridge \(Solar for All\)](#)



# REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Connecticut Public Act 23-205, sections 90 and 91 charges the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) with the establishment of a revolving loan fund to be known as the “Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan Fund” (RLF).

- The RLF must serve multi-family residences located in environmental justice communities or alliance districts.
- These properties must not be owner-occupied and must be occupied by tenants.
- DEEP must prioritize properties that benefit any resident or prospective resident who is a low-income resident as defined in the Act.

Funds distributed through the RLF are to be used for energy-related improvements in eligible properties. Allowable improvements must fall under the following three categories:

- Energy efficiency improvements and/or energy upgrades
- Energy efficiency health & safety barrier remediation
- Services aiding residents and building owners to access and implement this program or other state or federal programs that enable the implementation of energy efficiency retrofitting.