



June 24, 2025

Inflation Reduction Act – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund – Solar for All

DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

I. Introduction

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has released a draft Request for Proposals (draft RFP) for Solar for All Technical Assistance Providers and is requesting written comments to inform the draft RFP prior to its final release. This is not a final RFP seeking bids.

II. Background

DEEP applied for Solar for All funding through the Inflation Reduction Act in October 2023 with an application called “Project SunBridge: Connecting Communities to a Solar Future,” which was developed in collaboration with the Connecticut Green Bank, the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the Connecticut Department of Housing, the Connecticut Department of Economy and Community Development, and others.

On April 22, 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected DEEP to receive \$62.45 million in Solar for All funding. This funding must be used to increase access to distributed solar and energy storage technologies for “low-income and disadvantaged community” (LIDAC) households, as defined by EPA, and requires a minimum household energy savings of 20 percent for all participants.¹

III. Program Updates

Consistent with the requirements of the EPA, Project SunBridge includes funding for both financial assistance and technical assistance, with at least 75 percent of the funding going toward financial assistance. DEEP revised its workplan and budget through public meetings and written comments and has received final approval from the EPA to begin program implementation.

¹ EPA described customers eligible to benefit from Solar for All funding as “low-income and disadvantaged communities” in the Solar for All Notice of Funding Opportunity. This includes (1) communities identified as “disadvantaged” through the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool ([CEJST](#)); (2) using [EJScreen](#), census block groups that are at or above the 90th percentile for any of EJScreen’s supplemental indexes when compared to the nation or state, or geographic areas with Tribal lands as included in EJ Screen; (3) individuals/households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI) and 200% of the federal poverty level or those currently approved for income-based or income-verified federal assistance programs, with an award letter within the last 12 months; or (4) multi-family housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units and with an active affordability covenant from a federal or state housing assistance program or naturally occurring (unsubsidized) affordable housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of the residential units.

DEEP will use the results of the final RFP to select one or more entities to provide technical assistance for community outreach and engagement and for tools and technical support for communities, funded by and subject to the terms and conditions of the EPA’s Solar for All grant. DEEP’s workplan must be fulfilled by August 31, 2029.

DEEP seeks: (1) one or more community groups or cohorts to provide outreach and education to low-income and disadvantaged communities about how solar can be used to lower energy costs and the current financial offerings available through Project SunBridge, Connecticut’s Solar for All program (Core Service A); (2) one or more entities that can act as a solar ambassador – someone that people can call or email with questions about solar and energy storage programs and that will act as a leader for the cohort of entities selected for Core Service A to facilitate a network of solar educators within communities (Core Service B), and (3) one or more entities that can provide solar and energy storage permitting assistance to municipalities for residential single and multifamily solar, including but not limited to SolarApp+ integration and permitting checklists for larger systems (Core Service C). The entity(s) will be selected through the process required by state and federal laws, regulations, and procurement practices. Proposers (sometimes also referred to as “Respondents”), may be companies, individuals, firms, or other entities that meet the technical qualifications specified in this RFP.

The draft RFP provides submission instructions for respondents and information on awards, eligibility, service expectations, performance measures, and contract provisions. Once the final RFP is released after receiving written comments on this Draft RFP, DEEP intends to select the most qualified entity(s) for an initial project cycle of up to four years, with the option to extend the contract(s) for an additional period.

IV. Timeline

The timeline beyond the “Draft RFP comment deadline” is subject to change.

Release Draft RFP for Bidder/Stakeholder Comment	June 24, 2025
Draft RFP Comment Deadline	July 8, 2025
Release Final RFP to Bidders	July 18, 2025
RFP Conference	July 30, 2025
Deadline for the Submission of Written Questions	August 8, 2025, 4:00 PM
Deadline for DEEP to Post Q and A on DEEP’s Website	August 22, 2025, 4:00 PM

Due Date for Proposal Submissions	September 19, 2025 at 4:00 PM ET
Selection of Bidders	Quarter 4, 2025

V. Written Comments

DEEP is releasing this draft RFP for written comments before seeking bids. In addition, in order to inform the final RFP, DEEP requests written comments on the questions below, and additional input stakeholders choose to share beyond the specific questions asked. Written comments on the draft RFP and questions below may be filed no later than **July 8, 2025 by 4:00PM ET** by emailing DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov with the subject line “Solar for All Technical Assistance Provider draft RFP Written Comments.”

All comments and materials submitted by stakeholders in this proceeding will be posted publicly on DEEP’s Energy Filings Page under the proceeding title “Inflation Reduction Act – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund – Solar for All.” Any questions can be directed to DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov.

VI. Questions and Prompts for Stakeholders and Community Members

- 1) The draft RFP describes the scope of each proposed Core Service (listed below). Are there any areas requiring clarification or further detail? Are there any concerns or considerations that DEEP should be aware of in terms of ability to accomplish these Core Services? Are there technical assistance needs not covered by these Core Services that should be considered? Please explain your answer.
 - a) **Core Service A – Engagement:** One or more community groups or cohorts to provide outreach and education to low-income and disadvantaged communities about how solar can be used to lower energy costs and the current financial offerings available through Project SunBridge, Connecticut’s Solar for All program.
 - b) **Core Service B – Solar Ambassador:** One or more entities that can act as a solar ambassador – someone that people can call or email with questions about solar and energy storage programs and that will act as a leader for the cohort of entities selected for Core Service A to facilitate a network of solar educators within communities.
 - c) **Core Service C – Permitting:** One or more entities that can provide solar and energy storage permitting assistance to municipalities for residential single and multifamily solar, including but not limited to SolarApp+ integration and permitting checklists for larger systems.
- 2) In addition to the Minimum Qualifications listed in Section I.B.7. of the draft RPF, what qualifications or characteristics should be considered for each of the Core Services? Please explain your answer.

- 3) How can DEEP measure the success or effectiveness of outreach and technical assistance efforts in each of the Core Services? What metrics or indicators, beyond those listed in Section II.D. of the draft RFP, should be included in reporting requirements to ensure transparency and accountability?
- 4) Is the current RFP timeline sufficient for community groups and other entities to respond? If not, please propose an alternative, suitable timeline and explain your answer.
- 5) Please share any additional recommendations, concerns, or insights that you believe would improve the structure, clarity, inclusiveness, or effectiveness of the final RFP.