

# Community Power Accelerator Prize Round 2

## PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

September 20, 2023

<u>Agency:</u> Department of Energy (DOE)	<u>Bureau:</u> Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
<u>Application Deadline:</u> October 4, 2023	<u>Max Award:</u> \$400,000 for all 3 phases

### Description

The Community Power Accelerator Prize is a \$10 million prize competition designed to fast-track the efforts of new, emerging, and expanding solar developers and co-developers to learn, participate, and grow their operations to support multiple successful community solar projects.

### Prize Structure

The Community Power Accelerator Prize has three phases (Ready!, Set!, and Grow!), designed to build capacity and guide developers through the steps required for successful community solar project development and financing via the [Community Power Accelerator online platform](#). Up to 25 competitors will be selected in each round.

#### **Phase 1 (Ready!): \$50,000 per winning competitor**

Winning teams will have the opportunity to participate in Phase 2 of the prize

#### **Phase 2 (Set!): \$200,000 per winning competitor**

Winning teams will have the opportunity to participate in Phase 3 of the prize

- Teams will be expected to:
  - Participate in the [Community Power Accelerator Learning Lab](#), a live, remote course to educate developers on community solar in disadvantaged communities
  - Engage direct coaching and mentorship
  - Complete a Credit-Ready Checklist

#### **Phase 3 (Grow!): \$150,000 per winning competitor**

- Teams will be expected to:
  - Engage fully in the [Community Power Accelerator platform](#), an online meeting place for community solar developers and investors. Competitors will secure investment commitments from investors and/or philanthropy for a community solar portfolio of at least 1 MW.
  - Work directly with technical assistants to finalize their Credit-Ready Checklist; refine projects on the Community Power Accelerator platform; create an investor pitch deck; and engage with potential funders.

## Eligible Recipients

The Community Power Accelerator Prize is open to U.S. community solar developers, including new developers and experienced developers who are expanding their community solar operations. The prize also welcomes solar co-developers, organizations who are partnering with a project developer, and other non-developer organizations, such as local governments, nonprofits, and community-based organizations, to apply. Examples of new developers include (but are not limited to):

- Community-based organizations that have real estate portfolios and/or are in construction
- Multifamily affordable housing providers
- State, local, and municipal governments
- Intermediary organizations such as community development financial institutions (CDFIs)
- General contractors with roofing and/or electrical experience
- Businesses related to socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDis) and women minority-owned businesses
- Other large real estate holders that could be available for solar deployment

To receive prize money, the competitor must be a member of the [National Community Solar Partnership](#), which is free to join.

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## Eligible Projects

This program aims to increase the number of equitable community solar projects by providing funding and resources for developers and co-developers throughout the project pre-development process, including: tools and resources; training; free consulting; and coaching on expanding developers' solar customer markets.

Submissions must meet these requirements:

- The competitor submission represents a community solar power portfolio of projects with the intent to develop a minimum of 1 MW (not exceeding 5 MW for a single facility) of community solar projects in the United States or in U.S. territories.
  - Each project within the portfolio submitted must describe how it will include at least two of the five meaningful benefits: (1) low- and moderate-income household access, (2) greater household savings, (3) increased resilience and grid benefits, (4) community ownership, and (5) equitable workforce development.
  - Eligible projects can be in any stage of pre-financing. Projects that already have financing may be considered eligible, if the team intends to expand the project scope to include at least two of the five meaningful benefits.
  - The benefits realized by the project are not dependent on pending legislation or regulation.
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## Matching Grant Requirements

No matching funds are required.

<b>New or Existing Program</b>	Existing
<b>Examples of Prior Award Recipients</b>	In Round 1 of the prize, the North End Woodward Community Coalition won \$50,000 in Phase 1 for its “Solar Neighbors - Making the Motor City a Solar City” project. This team is building upon a unique Sustainable Energy Utility model that involves outfitting Detroit-based low- to moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses with rooftop/ground-mounted solar. The profits from these individual systems will then be reinvested into a revolving fund for additional solar installations.
<b>Tips for Being Competitive</b>	Applicants should demonstrate how their projects incorporate at least two of the five meaningful benefits of community solar: 1) low- to moderate-income (LMI) household access, 2) greater household savings, 3) increased resilience and grid benefits, 4) community ownership or other wealth-building opportunities, and 5) equitable workforce development.
<b>Labor Requirements</b>	None specified
<b>Partners Required</b>	<p>DOE encourages competitors to create multi-sector teams. Competitive teams will also be able to demonstrate existing partnerships with underserved and disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>The HeroX platform provides a space where parties interested in collaboration can post information about themselves and learn about others who are interested in competing in this prize. Interested organizations can complete the <a href="#">Teaming Form</a> or explore the <a href="#">Teaming Database</a>, which lists all of the interested organizations and developers.</p>
<b>Agency Contact</b>	solar.prize@nrel.gov
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	There is a recording and slides for an informational webinar available on the <a href="#">HeroX Platform</a> .
<b>Anticipated Award Date</b>	December 2023/January 2024 for Phase 1
<b>Total Allocation</b>	\$10 million

## How To Apply

- Register on the [HeroX platform](#).
  - Explore the [HeroX platform](#) to find partners or form teams.
  - Submit your Phase 1 application to the HeroX Platform by October 4, 2023.
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## Resources

- [Community Power Accelerator Prize Program Page - HeroX](#)
- [Official Prize Rules - HeroX](#)