



Elevating **Disadvantaged** Communities into
the **Clean Energy Economy**

Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize
IMPACT PLAN

*Solar4Us: Building Community Solar Projects
For the People, By the People*

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Powered by



Project Team

“Solar4Us @Henderson Hopkins”, powered by The Climate Access Fund

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Target Location: Baltimore, Maryland

Project Description

Phase One funds would help increase CAF’s currently limited operational capacity to implement and replicate **“Solar4Us”, an innovative, replicable community solar project model** that (1) reduces the energy burden of disadvantaged communities, and (2) elevates disadvantaged communities into the clean energy economy by building local capacity. Solar4Us projects aim to:

- 1| Meaningfully reduce the **energy burden** and carbon footprint of low- to moderate-income (“LMI”) and disadvantaged households by allocating them 100% discounted solar energy;
- 2| Be strategically located in **urban, infill sites** within disadvantaged communities to facilitate physical and social connectivity between disadvantaged communities and solar projects;
- 3| Offer paid apprenticeships (solar construction + solar project operations) to LMI and disadvantaged residents, laying the groundwork for a **solar-ready workforce**;
- 4| Provide a vehicle for LMI and disadvantaged households’ **participation in solar project ownership**, facilitating wealth-creation and capital retention in disadvantaged communities;
- 5| Rely on local contractors, subcontractors, & employees to strengthen the **local clean energy economy**;
- 6| **Partner with local schools and other community-based organizations** to advance solar, energy efficiency, and a local clean energy economy;
- 7| Create a vehicle for participating LMI and disadvantaged households **to build credit via solar bills**, and thereby access mainstream banking resources; and
- 8| Provide **critical data** and other information to be shared with other institutions and organizations to facilitate the development of similar projects across the country.

Targeted Disadvantaged Communities:

- Low income, high and/or persistent poverty
- Higher unemployment and underemployment
- Racial and ethnic residential segregation
- Substandard housing
- Distressed neighborhoods
- Disproportionate environmental impacts from climate change
- Higher energy cost burden and low energy access