



## Energizing Rural Communities Prize Partner Track Proposal Cover Sheet

- **Title:** Will County, IL Community Resilience Hub Development
- **Competitor Name:** Groundswell
  - **Address:** 80 M St. SE, Washington, DC 20003
  - **Phone:** (202) 505-3051
  - **Email:** info@groundswell.org
  - **Website:** <https://groundswell.org/>
- **Location of Primary Benefits:** Rural Will County, IL (zip codes: 60411, 60417, 60449, 60466, 60475, 60484)

### **Proposed Plan**

Groundswell is a 501c3 nonprofit that builds community power through equitable community solar projects and resilience centers, clean energy programs that reduce energy burdens, and pioneering research initiatives that help light the way to clean energy futures for all. In the coming year we will leverage lessons learned from program implementation in rural communities and experience serving marginalized communities with clean energy projects to launch the development of a community resilience hub in a rural community in Will County, IL.

Resilience hubs combine solar and energy storage on a microgrid to keep the lights and heat or cooling on when the power goes off, which provides essential services for local members of the community. Groundswell's approach to hub development puts people at the center by engaging community members to determine where hubs should be located and what services are a priority. Once developed the hub will provide the following direct benefits:

- Increased resilience in the event of power outages, extreme weather, and other disruptive events.
- Decreased utility bills for the resilience hub partners site.
- Decreased greenhouse gas emissions associated with power generation.
- Opportunities for wealth building through community ownership

### **Video Pitch Link**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d8A4h4tyrY>

### **Key Groundswell Staff**

- Michelle, Moore, [michelle.moore@groundswell.org](mailto:michelle.moore@groundswell.org), <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lmichellemoore/>
- David, Wright, [david.wright@groundswell.org](mailto:david.wright@groundswell.org), <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dgwright05/>
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### **Project Partners**

- Will County Governmental League (in process)
- Supreme Solutions

Additional partnerships will be established as part of the implementation of the proposed project.