



# Energizing Rural Communities Prize

AMERICAN  
**MADE**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Developing Our Capacity to Grow -  
Partner Project

**PHASE ONE**

**May 2023**

## TEAM INFORMATION:

**Team Lead Name:** *Lee Ringo*

**Team Member 2:** *Casemmie Johari Cole*

**Team Member 3:** *Phyllis Goodloe*

**Team Member n:** *Lisa Zeigler*

## PROJECT LOCATION(S):

Pembroke Township, IL and Hopkins Park, IL 60958

## SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Partnerships are core to our organization's existence. The Community Development Corporation of PHP [CDC] is a community-led and community-based organization [CBO] founded in 2018. Our mission advocates for community-based leadership, sustainable development, and enrichment that preserves the future of the Pembroke-Hopkins Park [PHP] community and its cultural, historical, and ecological legacy. We are on the frontline, actively involved in land preservation, youth leadership, workforce development, and clean energy programs in a BIPOC community disenfranchised for over a century. By aligning resources, partnerships, and community needs, we recently completed a nationally recognized energy-efficiency and retrofit project, the Pembroke Energy-Efficiency Pilot [PEEP 1.0], and was awarded technical assistance support as part of the [Department of Energy \[DOE\] Communities LEAP program](#) to address our community's electric grid infrastructure and necessary upgrades. we have spearheaded a **Pembroke Preservation Alliance** with conservation partners, a **Community Action Advocate** movement to encourage community engagement and volunteerism, and a **Pembroke Empowerment Coalition** for our workforce development and clean energy work.

The CDC is expanding our pilot to a five-year program, [PEEP 2.0+], to meet the urgency of state and federal climate-ready goals, local workforce needs, and our rural community's transition to a healthy and just, clean energy future. With our committed Empowerment Coalition partners, community buy-in, and sound financing, we are confident in delivering an equitable and innovative clean energy model for rural communities across America.