



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT • 1140 Terex Road • Hudson, Ohio 44236 • (330) 342-1790

MEMORANDUM

To: Greg Hannan, Community Development Director

From: Jena Stasik, Community Relations Manager, Emily Fernandez, Community Project Planner

CC: Thom Sheridan, City Manager; Katie Behnke, Economic Development Manager

Date: September 14, 2023

Subject: Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Follow-up

Solar for All

Staff confirmed with the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) the request for Letters of Support is directed to municipalities that blanket qualify for the Solar for All grant. Communities that submit letters must be able to provide an explanation of the actions they will take to support the Solar for All program. To blanket qualify as a municipality, the community must be considered “low-income and disadvantaged” per the Federal definition. Staff contacted OAQDA to verify eligibility and OAQDA directly confirmed that the City of Hudson does not qualify on a whole. However, this does not eliminate individual households, who may qualify at a later date, from eligibility.

Individual households within the City of Hudson are not disqualified from the potential funding if the City does not submit a Letter of Support.

The deadline to submit a letter of support to the State of Ohio is September 20, 2023.

Eligible Individual Households

Individual households eligible for participation under the Solar for all Grant must be currently approved for assistance from or participation in at least one of the following income-based or income-verified federal assistance programs, with an award letter within the last 12 months:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;
- U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program;
- Federal Communications Commission’s Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications;
- USDA’s National School Lunch Program;
- U.S. Social Security Administration’s Supplemental Security Income; or
- any other verified government or non-profit program serving Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) individuals or households designated by the EPA Administrator

The individual household may also qualify if they live at a property providing affordable housing. GGRF's definition of "properties providing affordable housing" includes properties serving low-income individuals and households defined as properties that fall within either of the two categories:

- Multifamily housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units and with an active affordability covenant from one of the following federal or state housing assistance programs: (1) Low-Income Housing Tax Credit; (2) a housing assistance program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Public Housing, Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance, Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, Section 811 Housing for Disabled, Housing Trust Fund, Home Investment Partnership Program Affordable Rental and Homeowner Units, Permanent Supportive Housing, and other programs focused on the goal of ending homelessness funded under HUD's Continuum of Care Program; (3) a housing assistance program administered by USDA under Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, including under Sections 514 and 515; (4) a housing assistance program administered by a tribally-designated housing entity, as defined in Section 4(21) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. § 4103(22)); or (5) any other housing assistance program designated by the EPA Administrator
- Naturally-occurring (unsubsidized) affordable housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units

Conclusion

If the State is awarded the Solar for All funding, the City could provide eligible residents with resources to apply for any available opportunity that may exist through the program. While the number of qualifying residents may be quite limited, City staff will stay engaged on this program as it develops and be available to provide assistance to eligible residents.