



Public Solar NYC: RFI Q&A

1. Is the Request for Information (RFI) only for information gathering and not the actual application? Correct? Timing for the full application?
 - a. The RFI is for information gathering and the City will refine the program design based on the responses. The City is targeting to launch PSNYC by the end of 2025, including Requests for Proposal (RFPs).
2. Has the Solar for All (SFA) funding from the U.S. EPA already been transferred to NYSERDA?
 - a. The SFA money is distributed on a reimbursement basis. The City is closely monitoring any changes to the Federal funding situation.

The City remains committed to deploying PSNYC in order to fill the gaps identified in solar deployment citywide and ensure that those left behind in the clean energy transition have the opportunity to participate. Should the City lose federal funding for PSNYC, other funding sources will be explored, however this may delay implementation.
3. Are there sources of funding under consideration other than the SFA program?
 - a. The \$37.5 million is entirely from federal SFA funding. That said, the City is open to suggestions on ways to attract private capital (e.g., tax equity or back leverage debt) to increase funding and is happy to review proposals from respondents via this RFI.
4. Do we need to identify partners in advance to respond to the RFI?
 - a. The RFI does not require respondents to identify partnerships or joint ventures as part of the response.
5. What are the roles and responsibilities of the City of New York in this program? Who is going to manage the program?
 - a. The City is currently designing the program and comments solicited in this RFI will inform program design. The City is identifying a partner to form a special purpose entity (SPE), which may issue future RFPs. The City expects this partner to be in place before any RFPs are issued, but additional vendors will be identified via competitive procurements to support the SPE and perform PSNYC work. The SPE, with oversight from the City and its identified partner, will manage the program, including procurement of solar contractors to implement the program. The SPE will perform much of the administrative functions and launch the programs. The City will make information on the identified SPE public as soon as possible.
6. Who is responsible for contracting with the rooftop and electrical contractors and solar installers – the City, SPE, or homeowners / renters?
 - a. As mentioned above, the SPE is envisioned to release the RFPs and directly procure vendors. Therefore, there will not be a traditional agreement between the homeowner and solar installer but instead – homeowners, renters, and building owners will have agreements with the SPE that outline the lease and/or usage terms.
7. Would participating in PSNYC require usage of City-owned solar equipment?
 - a. The SPE will own the solar panels. Participation in PSNYC will require homeowners or tenants to lease or subscribe to solar equipment owned by the SPE. Technical specifications for installations are not finalized. The City is interested in hearing the vendor's preferred technical specifications through this RFI.

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8. Are the incentives described in the program components of PSNYC meant to stand in place or be in addition to NYSEERDA's incentives?
 - a. The program components of PSNYC are meant to be additive to other incentives. The City is working with NYSEERDA to determine how contractors can layer NYSEERDA's incentives on top of those proposed through PSNYC.

 9. In the Public Leasing Program for 1-4 Family Homes, does the homeowner pay Public Solar for the solar energy itself, in addition to the lease payments?
 - a. The homeowner will only pay the leasing fees to SPE. The solar energy generated will be sold back to the grid. Homeowners will benefit by receiving a discount on their utility bills.

 10. Will vendors need to be pre-qualified or attain any specific certifications in order to respond to future RFPs?
 - a. The City anticipates that future RFPs issued by the special purpose entity will be open to a wide range of respondents. Specific vendor selection procedures will be determined and communicated as program design advances. The City welcomes feedback through this RFI about how to make the vendor selection process most inclusive, particularly for MWBEs. RFPs will generally align with the focus areas of the RFI, but may include other services as the program is designed.

 11. Is this a prevailing wage project?
 - a. According to the latest guidance from the US Environmental Protection Agency as of December 2024, financial assistance administered through PSNYC may qualify for an exemption from Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) requirements. However, the City remains committed to promoting high labor and wage standards for contractors engaged in this program.

 12. What percentage of the Solar For All buildout will be designated for Low-to-Moderate (LMI) households?
 - a. PSNYC will follow the rules set by the EPA on Solar for All funding. As of the [latest FAQ](#) dated March 6, the rules for SFA beneficiaries indicate that households and communities can benefit from Solar for All if they are qualified under any one or more of the categories in the EPA definition of low-income and disadvantaged communities, which includes:
 - i. Communities identified as disadvantaged by the CEJST mapping tool
 - ii. A limited number of additional communities identified as disadvantaged by the EJScreen mapping tool
 - iii. Geographically dispersed low-income households
 - iv. Properties providing affordable housing
 - v. Households and communities must also be within the boundaries of the United States (including Puerto Rico) and its territories.
 - b. So long as the household or community is covered under one of the four categories listed above and within the boundaries of the United States (including Puerto Rico) and its territories, the household or community is eligible to benefit from Solar for All.