

Financing Clean Energy for Low Income Communities

PROBLEM:

- Low cost and easy access to financing remain key barriers to providing access to community solar to the low-income market.
- Subsidized programs are not scalable across the vast majority of U.S. markets

FINDINGS:

- Lower cost financing is easier if it is offered as a 100% LI solar program rather than a set aside of LI in a market-rate solar program
- CDFIs, Green Banks, Impact Investors, etc. can lower costs and make it easier to finance 100% LI solar projects
- The only markets that are seeing high LI access to solar programs are those that are highly subsidized (e.g., California, Illinois, New Jersey, and Washington DC) through state funding and SRECs

SOLUTION:

- Standardize processes & contracts to reduce administrative costs
- Subscribes the entire multifamily affordable property & not conduct annual low-income tenant certifications if the property remains affordable
- Offer the utility partner or owner the option to own the solar asset after year six
- A scalable, replicable model that reduces or eliminates the need for program subsidies

RESULTING IN:

- Reduced costs, risks, & administrative burden that results in lower costs for low-income tenants



Ravi Malhotra
Founder & President
ravim@icastusa.org
720-261-1086

