



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



National Community Solar Partnership Community-Based Organization Convening:

Tools for Equitable Community Solar

September 29, 2021

Zoom Meeting Recording

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Welcome: Meeting Agenda

Time	Title	Presenter
2:00 PM	Welcome	Nicole Steele & Garrett Nilsen
2:05-2:15	Introductions & NCSP Overview	Nicole Steele
2:15-2:25	Justice40 and Community Solar	Shalanda Baker
2:25-2:35	NCSP Online Community Platform	Anna Balzer & Lynn Benander
2:35-2:50	Networking Breakout	ALL
2:50-2:55	<i>Break</i>	ALL
2:55-3:45	NCSP Technical Assistance Program	Greg Leventis and TA Providers
3:45-3:55	Technical Assistance Q & A Panel	TA Recipients
3:55-4:00	Conclusion and Next Steps	Nicole Steele

Ground Rules

- **Public, recorded meeting.** Recording and slides will be shared with attendees and posted on NCSP website.
- **Chat is open.** Introduce yourself. Be respectful.
- **Active participation encouraged.** Please ask questions in the chat, turn your camera on during networking breakout, and raise your hand during Q&A panel.
- **Tech issues?** Chat Jackie Petre.

Meeting Purpose

- Biden Administration goals of rapid clean energy deployment by 2035
- Justice40 Initiative
- Make connections to and between leaders of community-based and community-focused organizations
- Share available tools – New Website & TA Program
- Expand NCSP network and impact

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) Overview

MISSION

We accelerate the **advancement** and **deployment of solar technology** in support of an **equitable** transition to a **decarbonized energy system by 2050**, starting with a decarbonized power sector by 2035.

WHAT WE DO

Advance solar technology and drive soft cost reduction to make solar **affordable** and **accessible** for all Americans

Enable solar to **support grid reliability** and pair with storage to provide new options for **community resilience**

Support job growth, **manufacturing**, and the **circular economy** in a wide range of applications



Introductions and Poll

- Please introduce yourself in the chat (name, organization, location, role). *We will do additional introductions in breakout rooms.*
- Poll Everywhere

What is the biggest barrier to developing equitable community solar in your community?

Powered by  **Poll Everywhere**

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

National Community Solar Partnership

Coalition of community solar stakeholders working to expand **access to affordable community solar** to every U.S. household by 2025 and enable communities to realize other benefits, such as increased resiliency and workforce development.



Network

Partners can access an online community platform, virtual/in-person meetings, webinars and other tools to engage with DOE, National Labs, and each other.



Community Engagement

Launching stakeholder engagement effort in 2021, request for information, and series of convenings to ensure engagement from all groups. This process is to inform our goals and a pathway to achieve them.



Collaboration

Structured groups of partners form around specific topic areas and/or sectors to address common barriers and goals by learning from each other and sharing resources supported by DOE, and National Labs, and other external partners.



Opportunity

Through the stakeholder engagement process, we will clearly identify the barriers to rapid deployment and access, meaningful benefits, and community wealth building. Identify metric goals and partner commitments.



Technical Assistance

Partners have access to resources and direct technical assistance from DOE, National Labs, and third-party subject-matter experts to support local challenges.



Action Plan

Once input on challenges and opportunities for community solar has been collected, metric goals will be developed and finalized. An action plan that outlines a pathway to achieve goals will be announced.

NCSP Core Strategies

- **Rolling Technical Assistance**
- **State Regulatory Environment Support**
 - Best practice sharing, peer learning, technical assistance
- **Credit Ready Solar Program**
 - Provide standardization, coordination, technical assistance
- **Low-Income Customer Acquisition and Management Support**
 - Leverage existing low-income programming
 - Develop tools for better management
- **Hearts and Minds**
 - Moment in the Sun campaign
 - Partnering with organizations for information sharing and consumer protection

SETO Tools

DOE's Solar Energy Technologies Office has substantial resources, but limited tools, to achieve these goals:

SETO CAN:	SETO CANNOT:
Provide funding through competitive FOAs, Prizes, or existing lab contracts – primarily for solar research & development, as well as technical assistance, education & outreach, and workforce programs	Set legislative priorities, make regulatory changes, determine state & local government policies
Convene stakeholders, establish goals and priorities, amplify key messages	Provide funding to entities outside of competitive processes; or fund awardees to do things outside the scope of what they applied for.
Produce analytical tools, reports, and other resources	Fund programming into perpetuity. Ideal is programming which can be replicated and continued beyond DOE funding period.

Poll

- Are you a member of NCSP?

Shalanda Baker

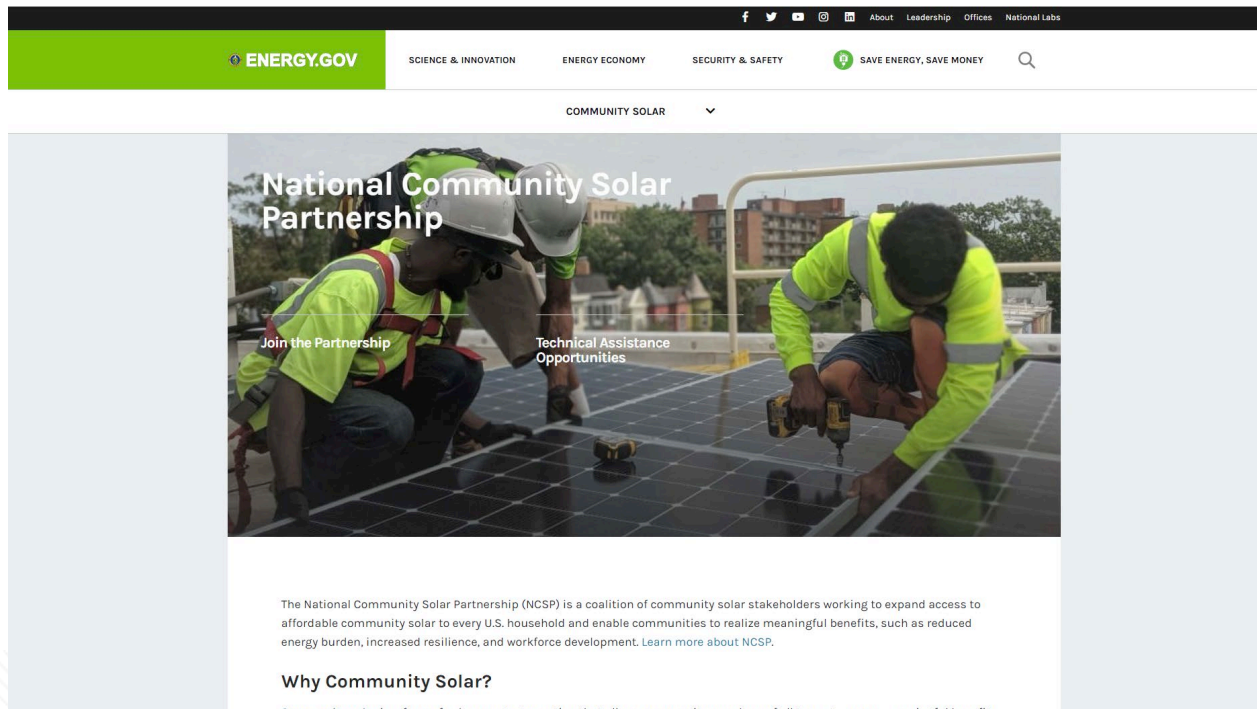
Secretarial Advisor on Equity and
Deputy Director for Energy
Justice, Department of Energy



NCSP Online Platform

NEW NCSP Website

www.energy.gov/communitysolar



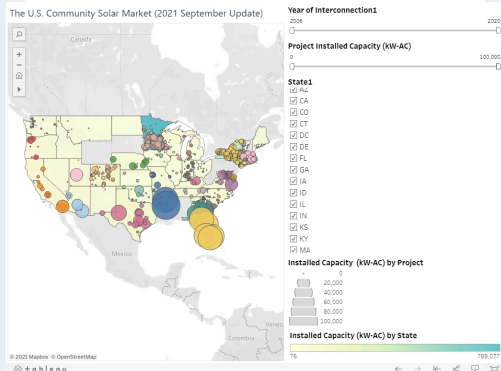
NEW NCSP Website

www.energy.gov/communitysolar

NREL's Community Solar webpage.

Access to Community Solar Projects

As of December 2020, community solar projects are located in 39 states, plus Washington, D.C. Nearly three quarters of the total market is concentrated in four states: Minnesota (789 megawatts alternating current (MW-AC)), Florida (593 MW-AC), Massachusetts (555 MW-AC), and New York (415 MW-AC).



Features:

- Community Solar Market Trends
- Community Solar Resources
- Blog, technical assistance overview

Community Solar Resources

Community Solar

Community Solar • Community Solar Resources

The National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) is a coalition of community solar stakeholders working to expand access to affordable community solar to every American household and enable communities to realize other benefits, such as increased resilience and workforce development. Check out the resources below to help inform your community solar projects and programs. To suggest an additional resource, please [contact us](#).

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

+

DATA AND TOOLS

—

Community Solar Scenario Tool (CSST) – National Renewable Energy Laboratory

This model was developed to help municipal utilities, solar developers, and state and local advocates perform a "first cut" analysis of different community or shared solar program options. The Community Solar Scenario Tool allows users to see how various inputs, such as system size, location, and project costs, impact the economics of a project and from both a potential customer's perspective as well as the sponsoring utility's.

Sharing the Sun Community Solar Project Data – National Renewable Energy Laboratory

This database represents a list of community solar projects identified through various sources

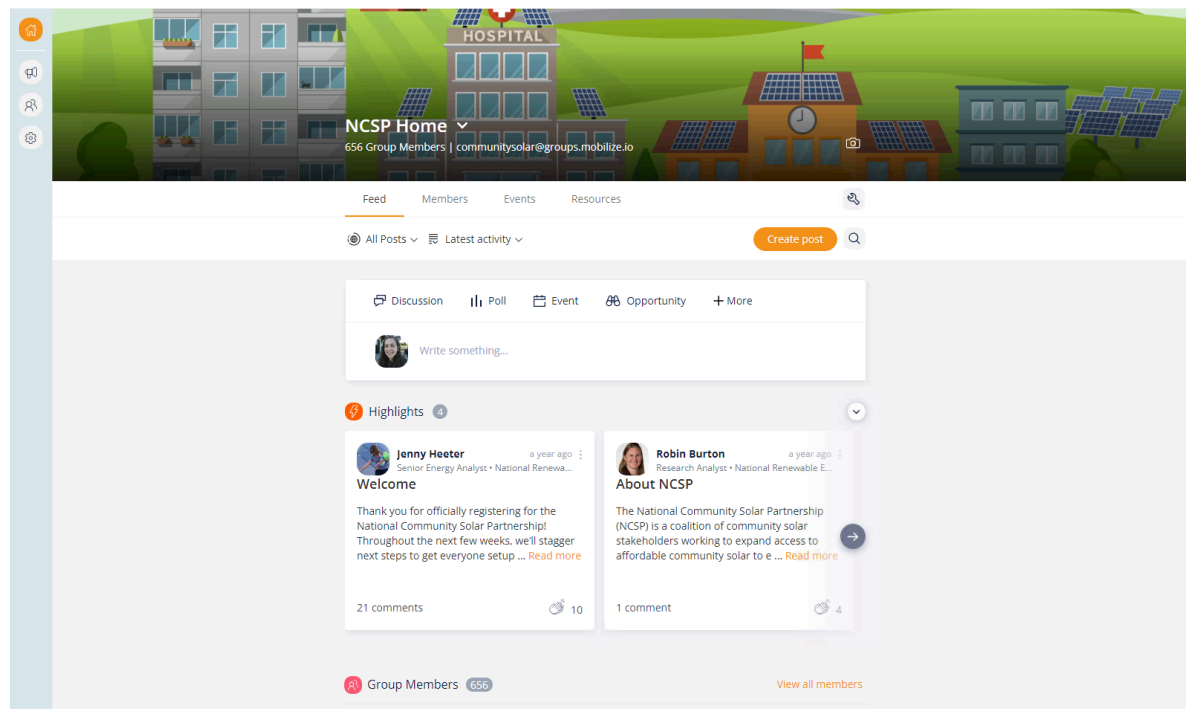
Poll

- What types of resources would be most valuable for your organization or community?

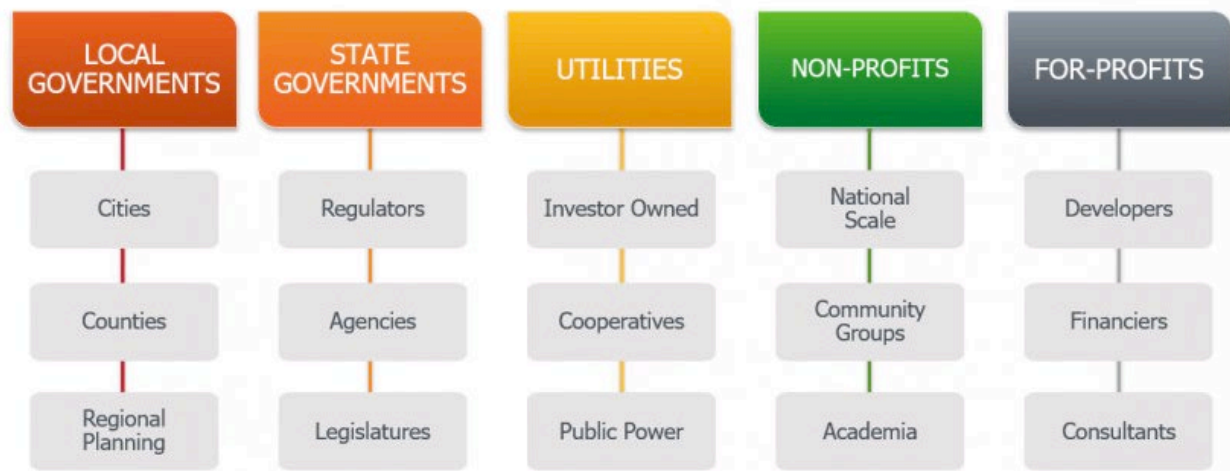
NCSP Online Platform

Peer Networking:

- Discussion questions
- Event promotion
- Resource requests
- Project/partner spotlights
- Direct messaging



NCSP Online Platform





NCSP Member Testimonial: Lynn Benander, President and CEO Co-op Power

Networking Breakout Session

If funding were available to your community today, how do you plan on supporting and/or leading the rapid development and operation of community solar projects?

What resources, tools, expertise, etc. can DOE provide to your organization/community to help you be ready?

5 Minute Break



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 **BERKELEY LAB**



NCSP: Rolling Technical Assistance Overview

September 29, 2021

Agenda

- 1 NCSP TA overview
- 2 Applying for NCSP TA
- 3 TA providers
- 4 Examples of previous NCSP TA engagements
- 5 Q&A

Technical Assistance overview

Greg Leventis, NCSP Technical Assistance Coordinator



A strut & post tilted plane array on a rooftop on a multifamily apartment building in Brooklyn. Photo by Bright Power, Inc.

TA overview: Eligibility

- Eligibility for NCSP technical assistance:
 - Must be an NCSP partner. You can register to be a partner here: <https://ncsp.mobilize.io/registrations/groups/39758>
 - Individuals must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States; Public or private entities must be legally formed in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States.
 - TA application is not for duplicative work (for example work funded by another DOE program)

TA overview: Subject matter buckets

- **Policy, legislation, regulation research**
 - Help navigate existing regulations
 - Incorporating resilience
- **Project financing analysis**
 - Cost-benefit analysis, subscription structures, financing considerations and modeling incentive structures for low-and moderate income communities/households
- **Outreach and engagement strategies**
 - With governments, utilities, and low-income communities/households

TA overview: Subject matter buckets (cont'd)

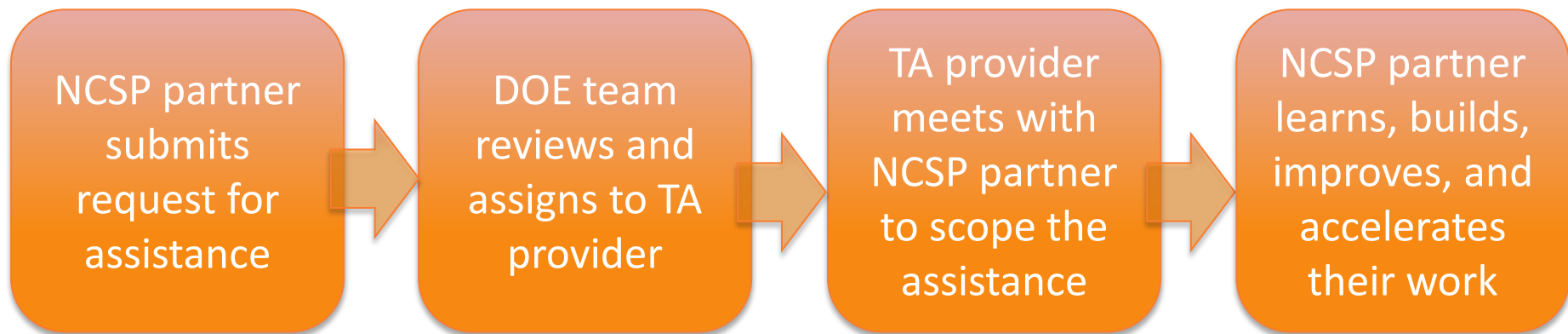
- **Program design**
 - Customer acquisition, subscriber management, and billing
 - Program and project evaluation, in particular existing pilot programs
 - Project planning and development
 - Incorporating resiliency into a project
 - Workforce development
- **Technical issues**
 - Quantifying and identifying co-location benefits community solar can provide
 - Integration with other technologies
 - Solar modeling and analysis (e.g., distribution system modeling)

TA overview: Types of TA available

- Consultation on program processes and policies
- Presentations on trends, issues, and technical information
- Workshops and meeting facilitation
- Technical review of proposed plans or documents
- General community solar information and education
- Analysis of cost, benefits, impacts, and feasibility
- Exploratory and foundational research
- Data analysis, evaluation, and modeling

TA overview: review process

Once a partner submit an application for TA, the following process begins:



TA overview: review criteria

1. Overall merits of the application – The request is **well-defined**, forward-looking, specific, and within the scope of the program; the requestor is well-positioned to address their challenge and has identified/involved the necessary partner organizations.
2. Impacts and replicability – TA has the **potential for significant impact** in advancing the requesting party's community solar project; TA products show potential value and replication in similar and other jurisdictions.
3. Alignment with NCSP Goals – The request is well aligned with the goals of NCSP (see NCSP Factsheet); timing of request aligns well with requestor's ongoing activities and locational context; the proposed schedule allows for sufficient time to address the request, and the requesting party is likely to use the technical assistance in the near-term.

Poll

- In what area could your organization or community use technical assistance?

Applying for NCSP Technical Assistance

Greg Leventis, NCSP Technical Assistance Coordinator



A strut and post titled plane array on a rooftop on a multifamily apartment building in Brooklyn, NY. Photo by Bright Power, Inc.

Steps to apply for NCSP TA

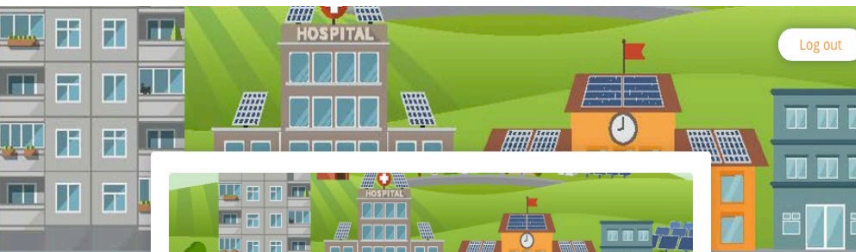
1. Register to become a partner
2. Login to the community platform
3. Complete the application and submit!



Steps to apply for NCSP TA:

1. Register

Go to: <https://ncsp.solarinyourcommunity.org/registrations/groups/39758>



NCSP Home

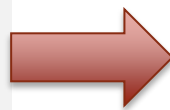
Update your profile

Access to **NCSP Home** requires you to fill out these additional fields:

We are excited that you decided to register formally and join the U.S. Department of Energy's National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) as a partner voluntarily. DOE is working to expand access to affordable community solar to every American household by 2025.

By registering, you are confirming that you plan to:

- Actively engage to achieve your organization's goals for community solar
- Support all efforts for sharing information
- Contribute data, when possible, to confirm progress



This site is supported by funds from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), which is administering the site. Please note that posts and comments submitted through this platform may be retained as Federal records.

Email *

gleventis@lbl.gov

LinkedIn

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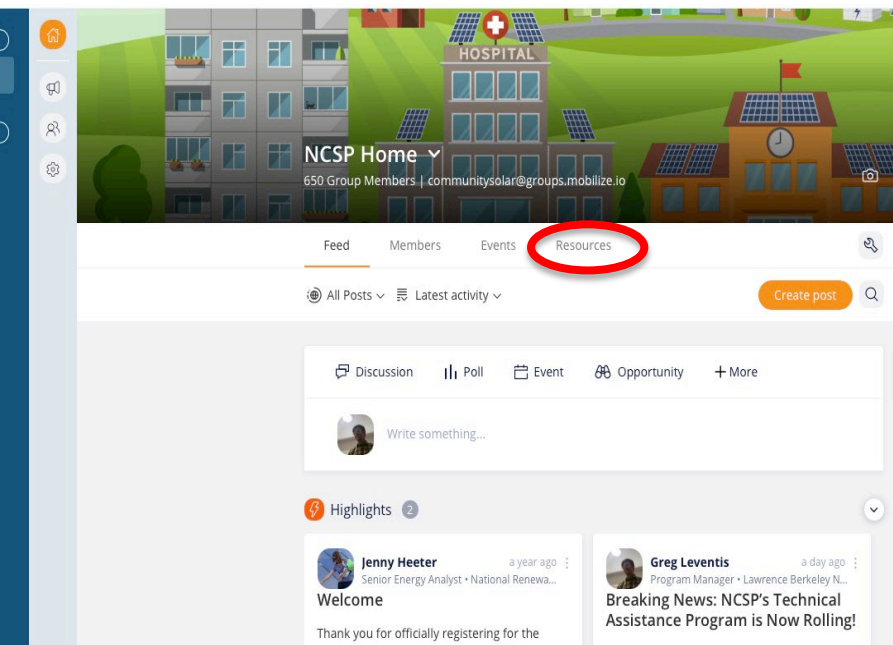
☐ I have read and accepted the [terms of service](#) & [privacy policy](#)

Continue

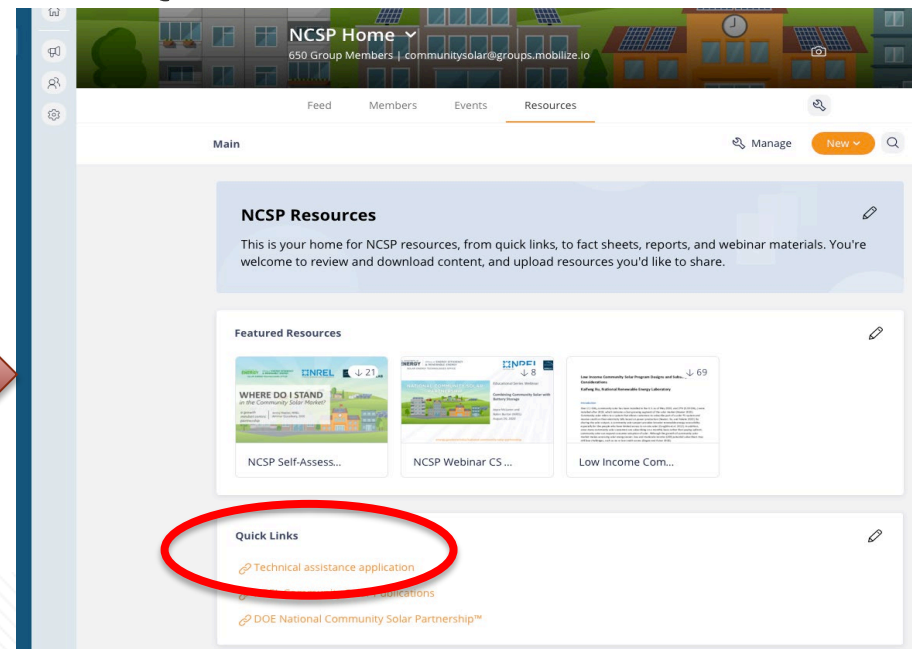
Steps to apply for NCSP TA:

2. Login

On the home page, go to the 'Resources' tab



On the 'Resources' tab, go to the 'Technical assistance application' link under 'Quick Links'




Steps to apply for NCSP TA:

3. Complete and submit

Complete then submit the application

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SOLAR PARTNERSHIP



Application for NCSP Technical Assistance

The National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) is a U.S. Department of Energy program with the goal of expanding access to affordable community solar to every American household by 2025 (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/national-community-solar-partnership>). This program is designed to support rapid deployment of affordable and accessible community solar by community solar stakeholders including subnational governments, non-profit organizations, affordable housing providers, utilities, financiers and other businesses. The program provides tools, information, and convening for stakeholders to design and implement affordable community solar models.

National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) Goals:

- 1) Make community solar accessible to every U.S. household by 2025
- 2) Ensure community solar is affordable for every U.S. household
- 3) Enable communities to realize supplementary benefits and other value streams from community solar installations

TA Eligibility: Please note, that this is not an application for financial assistance (e.g., direct funding for community solar projects). Only NCSP partners are eligible to apply for and receive TA. To be eligible for TA, partners must also be individuals that are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, or public or private entities that are legally formed in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States.

TA Application Guiding Principles for your application:

- * Overall Quality: The request is well-defined, forward-looking, specific and within the scope of the program (i.e., efforts involve expanding solar access through community solar models); the requestor is well-positioned to address their challenge; and the requestor has identified and involved the necessary partner organizations.

About you

Organization name *

Your answer

City and State *

Your answer

Primary staff point(s) of contact at requesting organization: Name and Title. *

Your answer

Primary staff point(s) of contact at requesting organization: Phone Number. *

Your answer


What is your organization's mission and goals as they relate to community solar? *

Your answer

Organization Type (choose the option that best represents your organization) *

- ☐ State, local or tribal government
- ☐ Non-governmental community organization
- ☐ Solar developer
- ☐ Utility company
- ☐ Financial institution
- ☐ K-12 or Higher Education
- ☐ Trade association

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SOLAR PARTNERSHIP



Application for NCSP Technical Assistance


gleventis@lbl.gov [Switch account](#)

Thank you!

A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provided.

[Back](#) [Submit](#) Page 4 of 4 [Clear form](#)

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NCSP Technical Assistance providers

Jill Cliburn, Cliburn Associates

Jason Keyes and David Wooley, Keyes & Fox

Ted Redmond, Pale Blue Dot

Nicole Sitaraman and Victor Rojas, Sustainable Capital Advisors

607 kW rooftop system located in Sudbury, Massachusetts.
Photo by Mia Behm.

TA overview: providers

- NCSP technical assistance will be provided by subject matter experts from:
 - Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
 - The National Renewable Energy Laboratory
 - Third party subject matter experts



TA overview: Third-party subject matter experts

**Cliburn
Associates**

**Sustainable
Capital
Advisors**

**National
Housing
Trust**

**Clean Power
Marketing Group**

**Pale
Blue
Dot**

**Rottman
Associates**

**Urban
Ingenuity**

**Keyes
& Fox**

**Stewards for
Affordable
Housing for
the Future**



NCSP Technical Assistance providers


Jill Cliburn, Cliburn Associates

Jason Keyes and David Wooley, Keyes & Fox

Ted Redmond, Pale Blue Dot

Nicole Sitaraman and Victor Rojas, Sustainable Capital Advisors

607 kW rooftop system located in Sudbury, Massachusetts.
Photo by Mia Behm.

An aerial photograph of a large-scale solar panel installation on a flat roof of a residential building. The sun is low on the horizon to the left, creating a strong lens flare and casting a warm glow over the scene. Several workers are visible on the roof, some standing near the edge and others further back. The solar panels are arranged in neat rows, covering a significant portion of the roof area. In the background, other residential buildings and trees are visible under the twilight sky.

NCSP Technical Assistance recipient roundtable

Andrew McDonald, Apogee

Jayne Lino, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

John Kinch, Michigan Energy Options

Dana Harmon, Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute

Gorgeous evening on a solar array installation in Delran,
New Jersey. Photo by Todd Baylson.

Q&A

Solar installer laying out conduit after solar panels have been installed on a DC home. Photo by Kristelle Batucal.

Important links

Register to become an NCSP partner:

- <https://ncsp.solarinyourcommunity.org/registrations/groups/39758>

Apply for NCSP technical assistance:

- <https://ncsp.solarinyourcommunity.org/main/groups/39758/lounge/resources>

Find out more about the NCSP:

- <https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/community-solar>

Questions, Greg Leventis:

- glevendis@lbl.gov



Next Steps

Join NCSP: ncsp.solarinyourcommunity.org

Questions: community.solar@ee.doe.gov

Check out: www.energy.gov/communitysolar

Stay tuned for convening follow-up!



Thank you!