



Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund Solar Ambassador Prize

For far too long, Puerto Ricans have lived with an unreliable and expensive electric system. In December 2022, President Biden signed the Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law, which included **\$1 billion** for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to establish the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF) to improve the resilience of the Puerto Rico's electric grid, with a focus on the Island's most vulnerable and disadvantaged households. With this funding, on July 31, 2023, DOE's Grid Deployment Office (GDO) released a **Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for up to \$450 million** to support residential solar PV and battery storage deployment for very low-income single-family households that are either located in areas that have a high percentage of very low-income households and experience the longest and most frequent outages or contain a family member who has an energy-dependent disability, such as electric wheelchair users or individuals who use at-home dialysis machines. GDO estimates that **30,000–40,000 vulnerable Puerto Rican households will directly benefit from these residential solar PV and battery storage installations.**

To ensure that applicants selected via the PR-ERF FOA can quickly deploy installations where they are most needed, the **Solar Ambassador Prize** is a complementary competitive funding opportunity for organizations in Puerto Rico to assist DOE in identifying, engaging, and assisting with intake processing of qualifying households for solar PV and battery storage inspections. Through the prize, DOE will award a total of **\$3.5 million to up to 20 community organizations** to assist in this work.

Eligibility

Community-based organizations, nonprofits, and for-profit entities with an existing presence in Puerto Rico are eligible to apply to become **Solar Ambassadors**. These groups understand the unique needs and challenges of their neighbors and are in the best position to serve as local, trusted partners to help DOE identify and support the Island's most vulnerable residents. DOE will leverage that local knowledge and trust to successfully deploy energy resilience solutions. Up to 20 selected Solar Ambassadors will initially receive **\$15,000 in seed funding** and in addition will be eligible to be compensated based on the number of households enrolled and qualified for solar PV and battery storage home inspections. For more details on eligibility and other aspects of the Solar Ambassador Prize, please consult the Solar Ambassador Prize Rules at www.herox.com/solarambassador/resources.

Deadline/How to Apply

- ▶ English and Spanish submissions for the Solar Ambassador Prize are due by **September 25, 2023 at 5 PM AT/ET**.
- ▶ Start your application at www.herox.com/solarambassador.
- ▶ Attend a virtual informational webinar on August 17 at 11 AM AT/ET in English and Spanish. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/solarambassadorwebinar>.

For more information, visit www.energy.gov/gdo/puerto-rico-energy-resilience-fund.

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