Solar Options for Rural LMI Households
Solar for Homeowners

Two broad categories of ownership for solar installed on the homeowner’s property

• Homeowner-owned: purchased with cash or through a loan

• Third-party owned: solar company or developer owns the system and sells the electricity generated to the homeowner
Homeowner-Owned

Purchases: typically homeowners take out loans from NYSERDA financing, bank/credit union, or financing offered by solar installer or other solar lenders

• Greatest payback for the homeowner
• Homeowner can take both federal (30%) and state (25%) tax credits

• Homeowner must qualify for financing
• Responsible for the full loan balance while waiting for tax credit(s)
• Responsible for all maintenance
Third-Party Owned

Lease – contract to make scheduled, pre-determined payments for the electricity produced (usually monthly)

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) – contract to pay a fixed per kWh rate for the electricity produced (usually monthly)

• Often no money upfront
• No responsibility for maintenance by the homeowner
• Homeowner can take the state (25%) tax credit
• Third-party owner takes the federal tax credit
Home Rehabilitation Challenges

- Roof condition
- Electrical service panel
- Other health and safety priorities

For LMI households, multiple government or nonprofit funding programs might be leveraged to complete home rehab and energy-burden reducing services together.
NY-Sun Incentives

- Standard MW Block incentive available for all residential installations
- Affordable Solar: increased incentive for income-eligible households
- Apply to homeowner-owned and third-party owned installations
- Recent restructuring of MW Block and Affordable Solar incentive levels
- New multifamily affordable housing added incentive
Affordable Solar Income Eligibility

- 80% of AMI or below – gross household income
- Participation in public assistance or low-income energy programs
- Guidelines by county on NY-Sun website
Community Solar

A large solar installation in one location can share solar benefits ‘virtually’ with multiple electric customers.
Community solar - LMI households

• Avoids issues with roof condition or roofs with shading

• Household does not need to own the home -- apartments included

• Payment options available similar to a lease or PPA; low or no upfront cost and pay-as-you-go (monthly)

• Savings can move with the household if within the same utility zone

• Solar for All program
Affordable Solar Predevelopment and Technical Assistance

$4.4 million to support solar benefits to LMI households through multifamily affordable housing and community solar

- Provides funds for a variety of predevelopment activities and technical assistance
- Potential project – enrolling rural LMI households in community solar
Information and Contact

Community Solar
www.nyserda.ny.gov/community-solar

PON 3414 Affordable Solar Predevelopment and Technical Assistance
www.nyserda.ny.gov/aspta
email: affordablesolar@nyserda.ny.gov

NY-Sun Community Solar questions and updates
email: communitysolar@nyserda.ny.gov