



# Massachusetts Solar For All

Overview – March 2025

\$156 million 5-year award to expand equitable access to solar



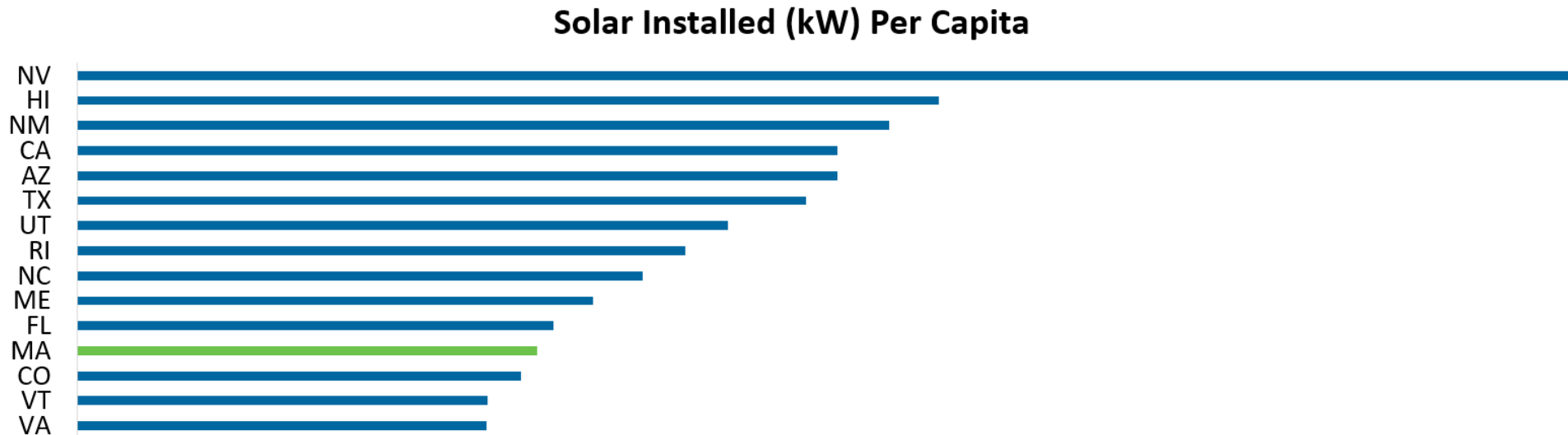
MASSACHUSETTS  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY RESOURCES**



MASSACHUSETTS  
**CLEAN ENERGY  
CENTER®**

# The State of Solar in Massachusetts

- On average, solar energy in MA has generated savings of **\$2,400 per year** for each household
- MA ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in installed solar capacity per capita
- **Fewer than 6% of participants in MA's primary solar incentive program are considered low-income**



# Solar For All and Massachusetts: Recap

## SOLAR FOR ALL—FEDERAL

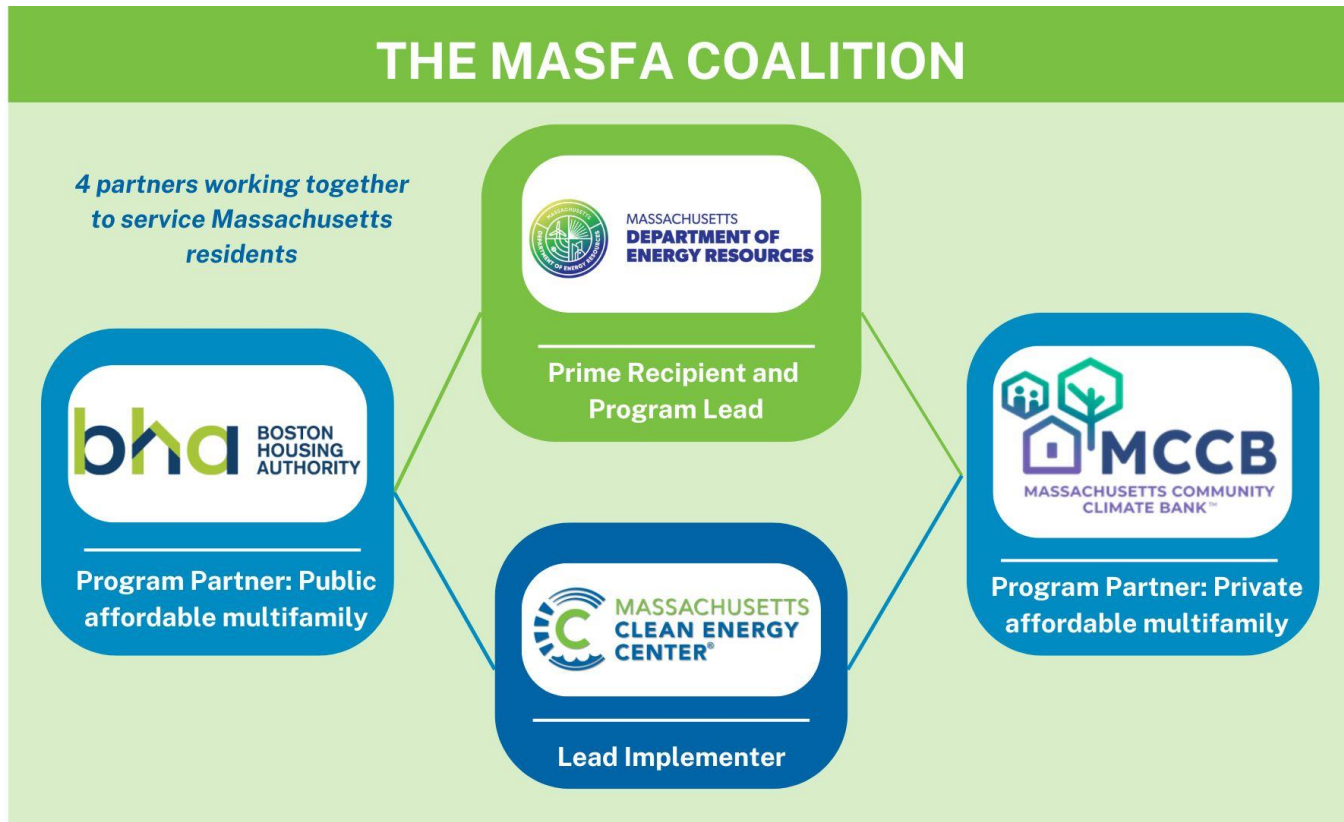
- One of three competitions in the EPA-led Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, enabled by the Inflation Reduction Act
- \$7B program to expand access to solar for **low-income and disadvantaged communities** (LIDACs)
- Funding will provide energy bill savings by providing direct financial assistance to install solar
- Funding will also create supporting initiatives to enable solar development and engage LIDAC residents in other benefits of clean energy deployment

## MASSACHUSETTS SOLAR FOR ALL (MASFA)

- MA awarded **\$156M**; a unique opportunity to:
  1. Drive rapid solar deployment through direct financial assistance in small residential, multifamily, and community solar
  2. Boost the Commonwealth's solar sector through deployment, workforce development, and other supporting initiatives
  3. Provide minimum 20% energy bill savings to participating households from communities most in need



# Inter-Agency Collaboration



- ▶ Programming being developed jointly as the MASFA Coalition
- ▶ DOER: served as lead applicant, coordinated with EEA, Climate Chief's office
- ▶ Hundreds of stakeholder conversations
  - ▶ Straw proposal with public comment
  - ▶ 80+ letters of support
- ▶ The Coalition will continue to engage and partner with the public, municipalities, community-based organizations, and industry throughout program design and implementation periods
- ▶ Further opportunities for engagement will be publicized

# High-Level Program Design

**MASFA will support solar deployment through direct financial assistance and supporting initiatives. As contracting with EPA is ongoing, adjustments may be made to programming.**

## Direct Financial Assistance

1. Small Residential Solar Loan and Lease
2. Multifamily Affordable Housing-Sited Solar
3. Community Solar

## Supporting Initiatives

1. Education and Outreach
2. Workforce Development
3. Enabling Upgrades
4. Technical Assistance





# Small Residential Solar

## PROGRAM DETAILS

- Funding to install solar PV on 1–4-unit residences
- **Direct ownership:** 0% interest loan offering with local banks, credit unions and CDFIs – based on Heat Loan / Mass Solar Loan
- **Third-party ownership:** grants to enable deeper savings and strong consumer protection through procured lease partners
- **Technical assistance:** providers will guide residents to identify the appropriate pathway that best meets their needs
- Outreach will connect households with existing energy efficiency programs to support complimentary projects that can increase home comfort, reduce energy bills and emissions



# Private Affordable Multifamily Solar

## PROGRAM DETAILS

- Funding to install solar PV on private or non-profit owned multifamily housing with affordability protections (such as Low-Income Housing Tax Credits)
- Solar must deliver minimum 20% savings to tenants – funding will be sized to project specifics and these savings needs
- **Direct ownership:** 0% interest, partially forgivable loan to bridge construction and tax credit timing
- **Third-party ownership:** grant to ensure tenant benefits
- **Technical assistance:** provider will help private affordable housing owners to determine which ownership option best meets their needs and assess opportunities for resilience



Mass Community Climate Bank will collaborate on program development and lead implementation

# Public Affordable Multifamily Solar

## PROGRAM DETAILS

- Funding to install solar PV on public housing, and simplified approaches to procurement
- Solar must deliver minimum 20% savings to tenants
- In cases where direct bill credits cannot be applied to tenants, alternative benefits will be delivered
  - Housing authorities will work with tenants to determine appropriate alternative methods to share savings
- **Direct ownership:** 0% interest, partially forgivable loan
- **Third-party ownership:** grant subsidy
- **Technical assistance:** provider will help public housing authorities determine optimal ownership model, plan system design, and assess resiliency opportunities



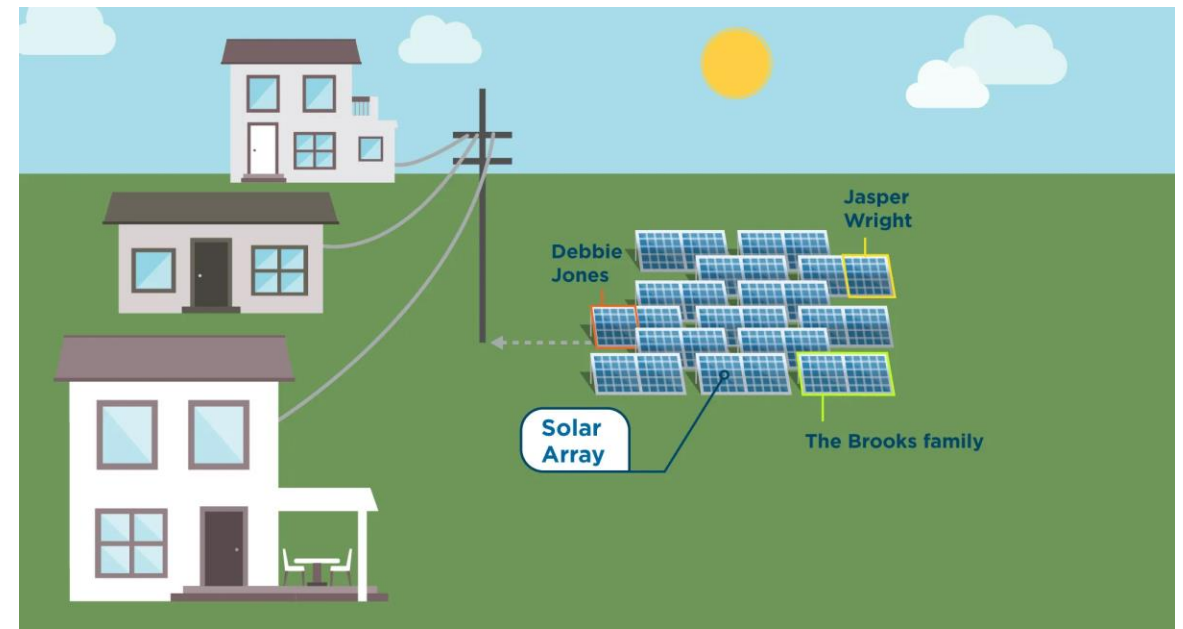
BHA will collaborate on program development and lead implementation to reach housing authorities across the state



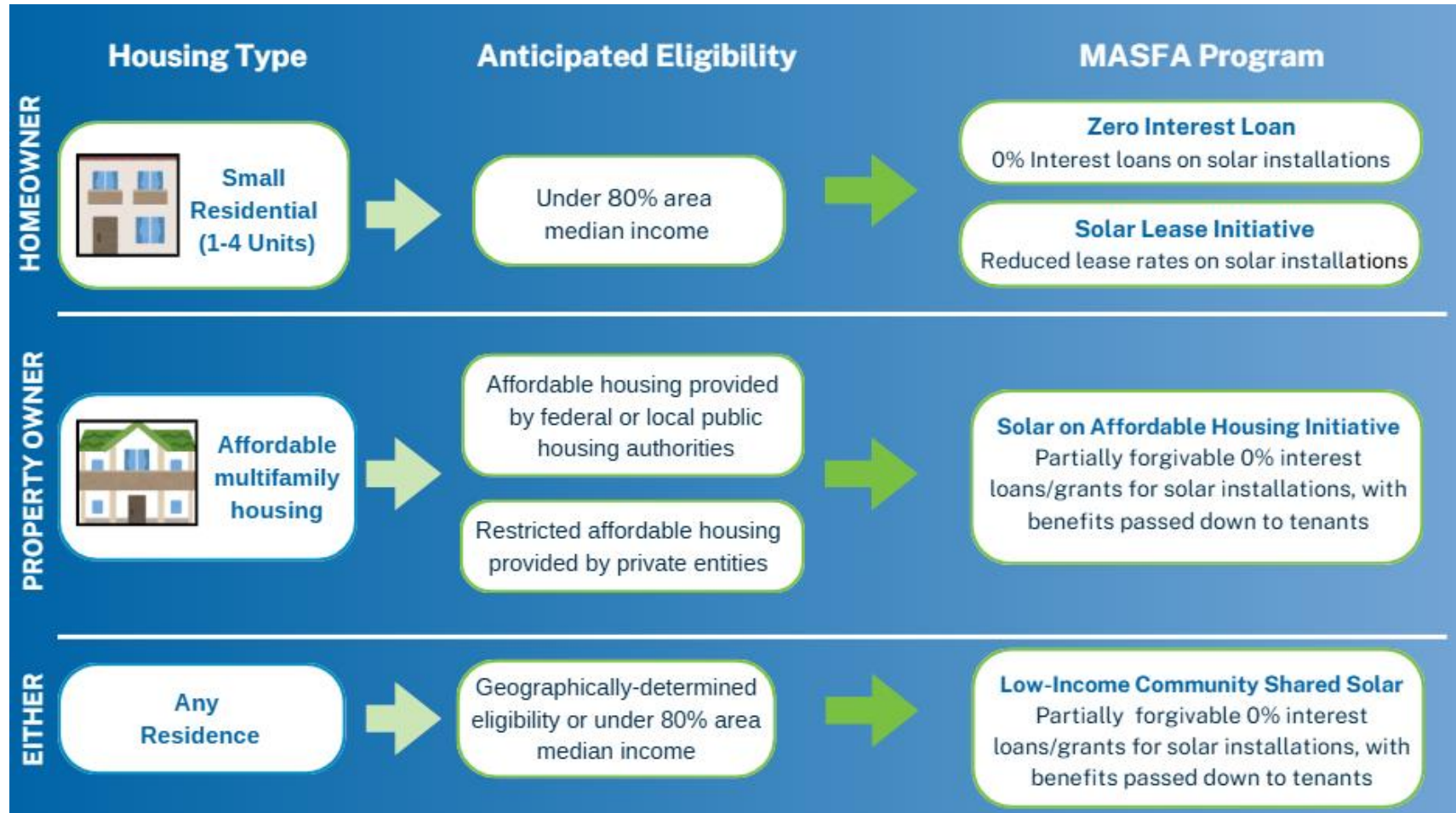
# Community Solar

## PROGRAM DETAILS

- Funding will support new community solar projects
- Will require at least 50% of power generated by a given project to be allocated to LIDAC households
- Will prioritize enabling projects that:
  - Deliver deeper savings than minimum 20% required
  - Incorporate community benefits beyond bill savings
- Funding carve outs for:
  - Project located in Municipal Light Plants
  - Projects that use community ownership structures (ex. Cooperative-owned, local-organization owned)
- The Coalition will work with trusted organizations to conduct outreach



# Household Eligibility by Program



*\*Note that EPA bases exact household income definitions on several detailed geographic characteristics. Full definitions with geographic specificity will be published.*

# Supporting Initiatives

1

**Education and Outreach:** Outreach grants and training for municipalities and community-based organizations to help facilitate consumer education and participation.

2

**Workforce Development:** Grants and programming to enable increased opportunity for apprenticeships and support for LIDAC residents engaging with the solar workforce. Activities will focus on job training, job placement, and retention. Financial assistance offerings will encourage engagement with these programs.

3

**Enabling Upgrades:** Targeted grants for limited cases in which other funding sources are inaccessible. Funds can address adoption barriers such as roof repairs and electrical service upgrades.

4

**Technical Assistance:** Participant support through procurement, siting, energy storage or resilience considerations, and more. Decision support to help participants determine what ownership model best fits their needs, and how to pair MASFA programs with other MA-based initiatives. Other support will include quality assurance and inspections for MASFA-funded projects.



# Project Timeline

## April 2024

*EPA announced intent to provide \$156m to MASFA Coalition to roll out its programming.*

## Winter 2024/Spring 2025

*Stakeholder engagement and opportunities for feedback on proposed programming.*

## May 2024 – January 2025

*Contracting with EPA October 9; EPA agreed final MASFA Workplan on .*

## 2025 - 2029

*Program launches and ongoing operation.*

# Next Steps and Contact Information

## GET INVOLVED!

- Learn more on the [MASFA Website](#)
- [Sign up](#) for email updates
- Residents - get more information on solar at [Clean Energy Lives Here](#)
- Solicitations and grant opportunities will be published [here](#)
- For general feedback on MASFA, take the [online survey](#)
- Reach out with questions at [solar@masscec.com](mailto:solar@masscec.com)

