



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Lisa Bova-Hiatt
Executive Director

HOUSING TRUST FUND CORPORATION

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

Request for Expressions of Interest

for

**Solar Power and Battery Back-up Pilot Program
for Community Facilities**

November 24, 2015

I. General Information

Program Overview

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program, invites responses to a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for the development and implementation of the Solar Power and Battery Back-up Pilot Program, in selected NYRCR Communities. These communities include:

- Canarsie NYRCR Community;
- Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay NYRCR Community;
- Southern Brooklyn Peninsula NYRCR Community, which includes the neighborhoods of Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Manhattan Beach, and Sea Gate;
- Bergen Beach, Georgetown, Marine Park, Mill Basin, and Mill Island NYRCR Community;
- Gravesend and Bensonhurst NYRCR Community; and
- Idlewild Watershed NYRCR Communities, which includes the neighborhoods of Brookeville, Rosedale, and Springfield Gardens

The NYRCR final plans for each of the above communities are available online at:

<http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/final-plans>

The Solar Power and Battery Back-up Pilot Program would provide funding for the design and construction of solar panel and battery back-up systems at selected nonprofit facilities within the NYRCR Communities listed above.

Community facilities were heavily impacted by Superstorm Sandy, and damages to buildings endangered the health and lives of vulnerable populations. Power loss was especially detrimental; buildings which lost power were unable to operate elevators, provide heat and hot water, activate other critical systems, and slowed overall response and recovery. As a result, Committees in the aforementioned NYRCR Communities allotted Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to projects that would provide sustainable power to community facilities which serve vulnerable populations.

Solar powered systems with battery back-up afford the power needed for a nonprofit and its facility to continue services and support to its customers in the event of grid disruption. Also, by maintaining the ability to provide services on site, facilities would not need to evacuate residents and customers to another location. Additionally, facilities with sustainable back-up power maintain the ability to provide power and services to the surrounding community, which so many did during the days following Superstorm Sandy.

The primary purpose of this RFEI is to invite interested nonprofits who own a building(s) (or have primary use of a building), to apply for consideration for the Solar Power and Battery Back-up Pilot Program.

II. Evaluation and Selection

Selection Criteria and Process

To determine suitable nonprofit facilities for this program, GOSR will evaluate RFEI responses based on the following selection criteria (Possible 100 Points):

Experience Working with Vulnerable Populations

Up to 35 Points

GOSR will review responses to this RFEI to determine the respondent's experience working with vulnerable populations in the NYRCR Communities targeted for this project. Vulnerable populations is defined as, but not limited to: individuals with physical or mental disabilities, limited mobility, or limited or no English proficiency; individuals who are homeless or near homeless; households with young children or elderly residents; and households of very low, low, or moderate income. Also to be evaluated is the extent to which the nonprofit facility supported vulnerable populations directly before, during, and after Superstorm Sandy.

Ability to Assist Vulnerable Populations During a Disaster

Up to 35 Points

GOSR will review responses to this RFEI to fully understand the respondent's experience supporting the local community during Superstorm Sandy. The respondent should also discuss in its narrative the capacity to sustain services to customers and assist the surrounding community during a future storm.

Building Condition and Location

Up to 30 Points

GOSR will review responses to this RFEI to determine the condition of the nonprofit facility and its ability to accommodate solar panels on the building roof. GOSR also will consider a building's ability to raise mechanical systems, including back-up battery systems, above the base flood elevation. To be considered for this program, buildings must be located within one of the NYRCR Communities listed in Section I of this RFEI.

During or after its review of responses, GOSR may submit written questions and requests for clarification to respondents, and will conduct interviews and meetings.

Responses to the RFEI must be filed electronically in Portable Document Format (.pdf), compatible with Adobe Reader XI, version 11.0.4, and must be delivered by email no later than Monday, December 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm (EST). The respondent is responsible for ensuring that emails and attachments are delivered on time and in a legible format.

III. Submission Requirements

Information that any interested party wishes to submit will be done so voluntarily and with the understanding that this RFEI is for information gathering purposes only – it is not an offer. No contractual relationship will be automatically generated between the respondent and GOSR by responding to this request.

GOSR will utilize information provided in the responses to this RFEI to assist in the determination of specific locations for the Solar Power and Battery Back-up Pilot Program.

Responses to this RFEI should include a narrative description that includes the following:

- Cover letter which includes the name of the eligible nonprofit; the building(s) to be considered for the Solar Power and Battery Back-up Pilot Program; and the specific location of the building(s) within the NYRCR Communities listed in Section I of this RFEI;
- Description of nonprofit's history and years in operation;
- Description of the population served by the nonprofit facility. Data may include the number of individuals and average median income of those served by the nonprofit facility;
- Description of the services provided by the nonprofit, including current capabilities, services, and areas of expertise;
- Description of the services provided to customers and the surrounding community during Superstorm Sandy;
- Description of the building damages sustained and/or services that were disrupted during Superstorm Sandy;
- Basic information about the nonprofit facility to be considered for this program, for example: year built, number of floors, building capacity, and condition of building, particularly the roof;
- And a description of how a solar power and battery back-up system would respond to the population and surrounding community served by the non-profit facility during a future storm.

Potential Respondents:

The following entities are considered eligible participants to carry out the Solar Power and Battery Back-up Pilot Program:

- Certified nonprofit organizations having IRS 501(c)(3) status;

Potential respondents to this RFEI should serve vulnerable populations, which include but are not limited to: individuals with physical or mental disabilities, limited mobility, or limited or no English proficiency; individuals who are homeless or near homeless; households with young children or elderly residents; and households of very low, low, or moderate income.

Submission Instructions:

Expressions of Interest should be submitted by e-mail to:

Christopher.gorman@stormrecovery.ny.gov

Responses to this RFEI must be delivered by email no later than Monday, December 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm (EST).

E-mail Subject Title: ***Solar Power and Battery Back-up Pilot Program — Submission of Request for Expressions of Interest***

Any inquiries and requests regarding this RFEI should be directed to:

Christopher Gorman
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 480-7366
Christopher.gorman@stormrecovery.ny.gov