



Request for Information
Announcement
June 2025

BACKGROUND

Beginning in May 2024, the South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR) was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$124,440,000 through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Solar for All Program.

Through the five-year Solar For All grant, SCOR plans to build a program to benefit households and communities across the state. The South Carolina Solar For All (SCSFA) program aims to expand investment in and access to solar energy projects, reduce energy bills, enhance community resilience, and provide workforce training opportunities.

December 2024 to December 2025 will serve as the one-year Planning Period. SCOR will use the Planning Period to engage with state and local government agencies, community organizations, utilities, and other stakeholders to refine the program design, coordinate with and build on related efforts, and consider how to maximize benefits most effectively for low-income households and communities.

At the end of the Planning Period, SCOR will submit to EPA the South Carolina Solar for All Implementation Plan. This plan will be used to deploy financial and technical assistance during project implementation (approximately January 2026 to April 2029). The main mechanism to distribute funds will be through a competitive sub-award process.

Goals and Outcomes

The South Carolina Solar For All (SCSFA) program aims to expand investment in and access to solar energy projects, reduce energy bills, enhance community resilience, and provide workforce training opportunities.

Toward these goals, SCOR plans to run a competitive grant program titled the Solar Innovation Fund Grant Program. The Solar Innovation Fund Grant Program aims to provide subawards on a competitive basis in the beginning of 2026 to fund qualifying residential-serving community solar projects across South Carolina.

The EPA defines residential-community solar as a solar PV power-producing facility or solar energy purchasing program from a power-producing facility, with up to 5 MWac nameplate capacity, that delivers at least 50% of the energy generated by the system to low-income households through a financial benefit. Projects will be capped at 5 MW. Qualifying projects may include associated energy storage.

Potential projects that could be funded through the Solar Innovation fund include but are not limited to:

- front-of-meter utility administered community solar projects either with or without an anchor tenant
- behind-the-meter projects such as community solar projects that pass the benefits of the solar facility to residential households through a community benefit fund or cooperative ownership model
- multifamily housing solar projects

SCOR welcomes novel community solar approaches and ideas so long as the project is compliant with South Carolina and federal rules and regulations as well as EPA Solar For All terms and conditions.

SCOR is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to seek information from developers, installers, and other entities who are interested in the South Carolina Solar for All Program.

This RFI seeks responses from organizations with experience developing, installing, and providing operations and maintenance services for solar energy projects, ideally within the South Carolina or the Southeast region.

SCOR will use the information gathered through this RFI process to develop the parameters of the Solar Innovation Fund Grant Program that is to begin early 2026.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Questions are optional. SCOR appreciates any information you are able to provide.

A. General Qualifications

1. Provide a general summary of your experience in solar energy project development, including location, capacity, initial operation date, utility partner, storage inclusion, and installation type (roof/ground).
2. Are you North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) certified?
3. Where is your organization incorporated and headquartered? Do you have an office or permanent, operational presence in South Carolina or the Southeast region?
4. List key owners, partners, or parent companies associated with your organization.
5. Provide your annual revenue for the past three years and total number of employees.

B. Project Pipeline

1. Describe one potential project you would consider submitting to the SCSFA Solar Innovation Fund Grant Program.

2. What is your estimated project timeline for a residential-serving community solar project from start to completion? How soon could you start? Please include information on projected project size used in determining timeline. Projects can be up to 5MW.

C. Project Deployment

1. Can you provide ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) services for completed projects?

2. Describe how you ensure the long-term performance and reliability of your solar projects, including how you track energy production over time. How do you handle scenarios in which projects you develop produce below expectations?

3. Have you paired energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades with any completed projects? If so, please describe.

4. Do you have site control, land access agreements, or effective site control for potential development of residential-serving community solar installations in the South Carolina?

5. Would you require assistance in identifying, leasing, or acquiring land for development?

6. Do you have experience with federal reporting and compliance requirements, including Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) and Build America Buy America. (BABA)

D. Project Budgeting & Financing

1. Provide an indicative project budget for an up to 5 MW, ground-mounted or rooftop project that connects to a local distribution grid.

2. Describe your knowledge and experience with Inflation Reduction Act tax credits, including Elective Pay (Direct Pay).

3. Do you have existing financing partners for potential projects to be completed in the South Carolina?

E. Workforce & Community Development

1 Would you be open to co-ownership with local individuals, businesses, or organizations?

2. Do you anticipate that hiring and retaining workers to advance projects in South Carolina will present challenges? If yes, please describe along with any potential solutions that you have considered and deployed.

F. Other Considerations

1. Please provide any additional information that you consider relevant to SCOR's implementation of this program, and your suitability as a partner in that effort.

DISCLAIMER & CONFIDENTIALITY

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation for future business, an offer for procurement, or any other type of current or future procurement or contractual action and is only intended to gather input. SCOR will not award a contract based on this RFI, nor will it pay for the information it receives. Responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by SCOR to form a binding contract. No party is bound by the information provided in response to this RFI. Responding to this RFI does not provide any advantage or disadvantage to potential applicants for the Solar Innovation Fund Grant Program.

Respondents may provide market-based pricing structures and describe potential services or solutions for planning purposes only.

Respondents are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI. SCOR is not liable for any costs or fees incurred by the respondent in preparing its responses.

Confidentiality

If any of the information in the vendor response is considered confidential, proprietary, or a trade secret, it must be clearly indicated on the appropriate page of the vendor response. Release of such materials is governed by the South Carolina Freedom of Information Law, which in pertinent part requires the requester to provide specific justification as to why disclosure of particular information in the response would cause substantial injury to the competitive position of the vendor. It is incumbent upon the vendor to specify company-specific trade secrets in need of protection where public disclosure of said trade secrets would harm the company.

Public Access to Procurement Information in South Carolina:

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t11c035.php>

SECTION 11-35-410. Public access to procurement information.

A) Procurement information must be a public record to the extent required by Chapter 4, Title 30 (The Freedom of Information Act), except as otherwise provided by this code, and with the exception that commercial or financial information obtained in response to a request for proposals or any type of bid solicitation that is privileged and confidential need not be disclosed.

(B) Privileged and confidential information is information in specific detail not customarily released to the general public, the release of which might cause harm to the competitive position of the party supplying the information. Examples of this type of information include: (1) customer lists; (2) design recommendations and identification of prospective problem areas under an RFP; (3) design concepts, including methods and procedures; (4) biographical data on key employees of the bidder.

(C) The board shall promulgate regulations directing the public availability and disposition of documents submitted in response or with regard to a solicitation or other request where no award is made.

(D) For all documents submitted in response or with regard to any solicitation or other request, the person submitting the documents shall comply with instructions provided in the solicitation for marking information exempt from public disclosure. Information not marked as required by the applicable instructions may be disclosed to the public.

(E) A governmental body, with the approval of the appropriate chief procurement officer, may keep portions of a solicitation confidential and release the information to prospective offerors only upon execution of a nondisclosure agreement, provided the information is otherwise exempted from disclosure by law.

(F) If requested in writing before a final award by an actual bidder, offeror, contractor, or subcontractor with regard to a specific intended award or award of a contract, the procurement officer shall, within five days of the receipt of any such request, make documents directly connected to the procurement activity and not otherwise exempt from disclosure available for inspection at an office of the responsible procurement officer. Without otherwise limiting any other exemptions granted by law, and except as provided herein, documents of and documents incidental to proposed contractual arrangements, including those used for contract negotiations, are not exempt from disclosure after the date notice of intent to award is posted, unless the notice is subsequently canceled.

INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR RESPONDENTS

RFI Issuance Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

RFI Response Deadline Date: Friday, July 18, 2025, 5:00 pm ET

Questions regarding this RFI can be submitted to SolarForAll@scor.sc.gov. SCOR will make best efforts to respond to questions submitted. Early submission of questions increases the chances of response. Responses to any questions by SCOR will be shared with all RFI respondents.

RFI responses should be submitted electronically via email to SolarForAll@scor.sc.gov, in PDF format, not exceeding ten pages, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, with “SCSFA RFI Response - [Organization Name]” in the email subject line. In addition to answers to the questions listed above, responses should include the name of the organization/respondent, organization/respondent address, primary contact person, email, and phone number.

Any person submitting information that he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email two well-marked copies: one copy of the document marked “confidential” with all information, including information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked “non-confidential” with the information believed to be confidential deleted. Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of unmarked information under public records requests or otherwise. SCOR is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information. Any person submitting information must adhere to all governmental privacy laws and regulations.