

ACCESSolar Webinar Questions & Answers
May 3, 2018

Q1: Can you apply for an address that is not listed on the website?

A1: No, for this round of ACCESSolar we will only be accepting applications for the 325 roofs that are listed on NYC Open Data and the Site Proposal Form. However, more roofs are expected to be made available in future rounds of the ACCESSolar program.

Q2: Is there any advantage to submitting applications early in the application period, i.e. sooner rather than later prior to July 2nd?

A2: No. All applications will be reviewed after the deadline expires on July 2nd.

Q3: Who set the goals for the community [program]?

A3: The goals for the ACCESSolar program have been set by NYCHA as part of the NextGeneration Sustainability Agenda. The overall 25 MW solar goal was based on an analysis run by NYCHA and CUNY back in 2016. NYCHA is also committed to goals of ensuring that any leases of its property benefit NYCHA residents and the surrounding community, and is requiring resident hiring and LMI enrollment as a way of fulfilling that mandate.

Q4: Is the total scale of sites for development considered or important in evaluating applications?

A4: Teams should feel free to apply for whatever number or scale of sites they are capable of developing and whatever communities they feel comfortable serving. There will not be a penalty for applying for “too many” or “too few” sites: any number is welcome. NYCHA aims to cover as much of the city as possible with the five selected teams, but will be happy to accommodate a mix of larger and smaller proposals.

Please note that if you apply for many sites across the city, NYCHA may choose to award you some, but not all, of those sites.

Q5: Will the jobs be non-union?

A5: Since NYCHA is not paying for these projects, this is not something NYCHA can monitor.

Q6: Will there be a timeline for construction to complete the projects once the projects are awarded?

A6: Once a team is selected and signs a License Agreement, it will have 12 months to develop its solar designs and full proposal. The Lease Agreement that teams will sign at the end of the design process is also expected to include a similar 12-month deadline to install the solar projects. NYCHA's goal is that construction on these projects can start by late 2019 and will be complete by 2020.

Q7: As for hiring and training NYCHA residents, is it mandatory, not mandatory, or just preferred?

A7: Since NYCHA is not paying for these projects, it is not a HUD requirement to hire NYCHA residents. However, resident hiring is a core programmatic goal for ACCESSolar, and all selected teams will be required to hire and train NYCHA residents for at least a portion of this work as per the Lease Agreement.

Q8: How long will the lease agreement be for the solar installer?

A8: The Lease Agreement will have a base 20-year term with an option to extend the lease for an additional 5 years.