

# Solar for All

Expanding solar access for low-income residents and tribes

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Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

# We strengthen communities



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



INFRASTRUCTURE AND BROADBAND



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING AND TECH ASSISTANCE



COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES



CRIME VICTIMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Solar for All

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- **Goal:** expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities primed for distributed solar investment.
- **Focus:** residential rooftop and residential-serving community solar projects.



# Key Program Elements

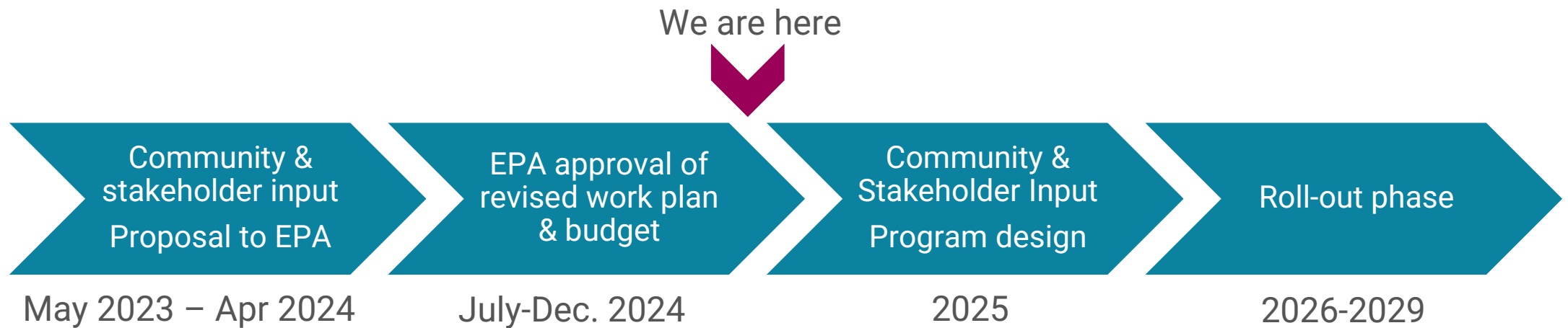
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- Enabling upgrades – max 20% of total funding.
- Deliver  $\geq 20\%$  household savings to all households served under the program. Household savings can be delivered as a direct financial benefit or as a direct non-financial benefit equivalent in value.
- Provide job training opportunities.
- Davis-Bacon Act and Build America Buy America requirements will apply



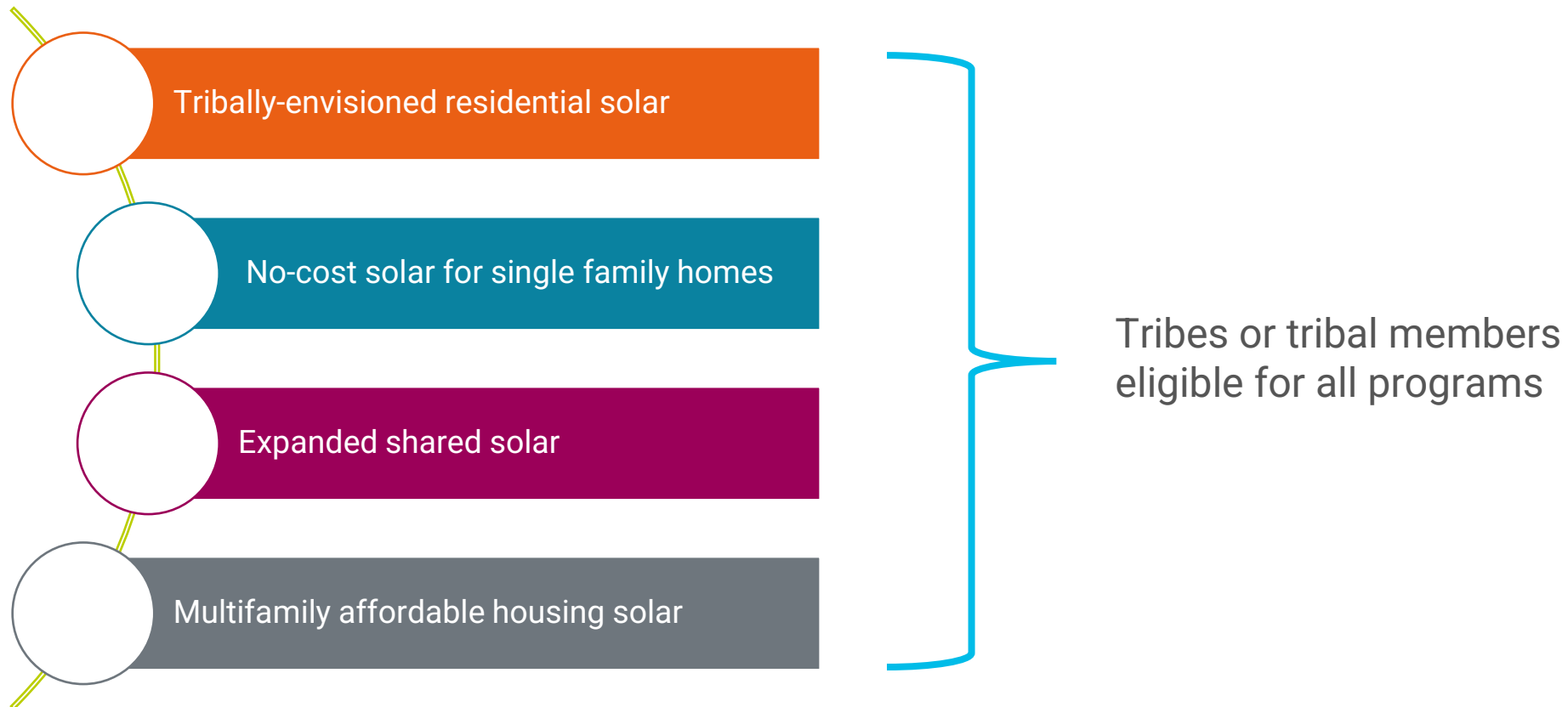
# Solar for All – funding and timeline

- EPA award = \$156,120,000
  - \$400,000 of technical assistance from the National Renewable Energy Lab
  - \$155.7 million for program related funding
- 90% will be available for direct financial assistance, estimated to serve 5,000 households, over 30MW



# Washington Solar for All programs

## Four programs focused on solar benefitting low-income residents



# Tribal Solar Program

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Recognizing tribal sovereignty, allow tribes to design and implement their own projects.

- Allocation of funds based on conversation and collaboration with tribal governments of federally recognized tribes.
- Work with tribes to develop a streamlined process to get money from Commerce.
- Projects must benefit residential households.

Draft eligibility criteria: Projects located on tribal lands and other criteria co-defined with tribes.

# Solar for Single Family Homes

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## No-cost solar installations for homeowners

- Include optional enabling upgrades (e.g. energy efficiency and roof repair).
- Require vendors to provide workforce development and training opportunities via each install.
- Program structure under consideration; expect program implementors and local community partners

**Draft eligibility criteria: Income qualified homeowners and tribal households living on federally recognized tribal lands. Homes located in overburdened communities will be prioritized.**



# Low-Income Community Solar

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## Expanding state support for shared solar

- Funding to support projects 200 kW–1 MW. Existing WSU Community Solar Expansion program incentivizes projects 12 kW to 199 kW.
- At least 85% of the value of solar energy generated must be passed on to qualified subscribers. The remaining 15% of the value of solar energy generated can be provided to the host customer to enable site access.
- Projects likely led by utilities or implemented in partnership with utilities

**Draft eligibility criteria: Income qualified residential customers, certain residents of disadvantaged communities\*, including those who qualify for utility assistance programs and tribal households.**

- Disadvantaged community (DAC): All communities identified as disadvantaged through version 1.0 of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) and geographic areas within federally recognized Tribal lands

# Multifamily Affordable Housing

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## Bridge loans to access existing state incentives

- Will be administered through the Washington State Housing Finance Commission (WSHFC).
- No-interest forgivable loans for enabling upgrades.
- No-interest revolving loan fund for solar and storage installation – storage is optional. Money would be recovered via WSU Community Solar Expansion and direct pay tax provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act.
- At least 85% of the value of solar energy generated must be passed on to residents. Remaining 15% of the value of solar energy generated can be provided to the host customer to enable site access.

## Draft eligibility criteria: Residents of properties providing affordable housing\* as defined by EPA. Properties located in overburdened communities will be prioritized.

- Multifamily housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units and with an active affordability covenant from certain housing assistance program or naturally-occurring (unsubsidized) affordable housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units.

# Example projects

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## Yakima Nation Housing Authority



Photo courtesy of YNHA

## Lummi Tribal Health Center



Photo courtesy of Lummi Nation

# Engagement Opportunities

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- **Upcoming engagement:**

- Letter to tribal leaders
- Visiting tribes this winter/spring
- Future workshops for tribes
- Contact us anytime!

Brady Kent

Tribal Energy Specialist

[Brady.Kent@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:Brady.Kent@commerce.wa.gov)

(360) 878-1539

- **Seeking engagement on:**

- How can we reduce barriers and ease reporting requirements?
- How should we allocate funds for the Tribal Solar Program?
- What are your needs for technical assistance?
- Other feedback, questions, and opportunities

# Stay connected

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- **Program webpage:** <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/epic/solar-for-all/>
- **Subscribe for updates**
- [solar@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:solar@commerce.wa.gov)

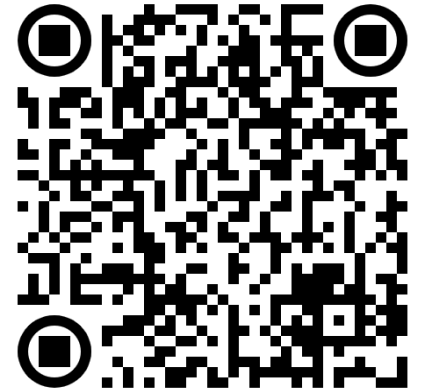
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**Thank you!**