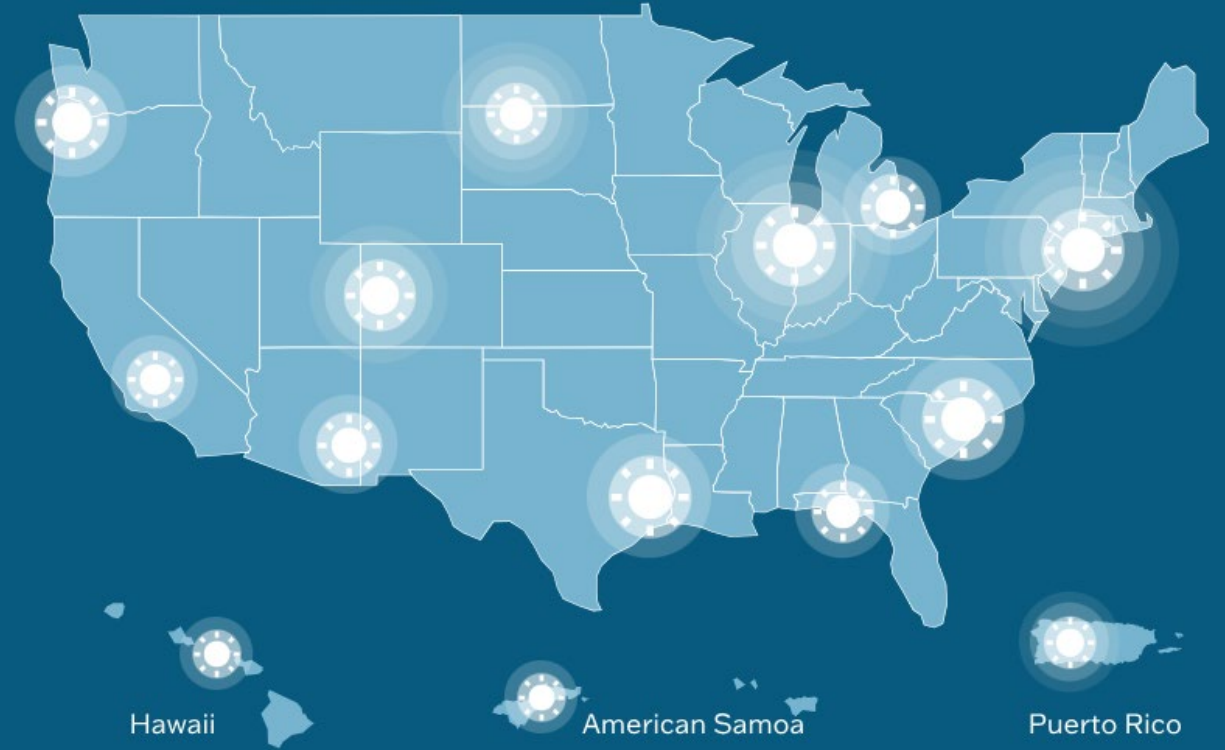


Community Power Accelerator

Connecting distributed solar developers building projects benefitting low income and disadvantaged communities with capital providers.



What is the Community Power Accelerator?

Online platform “marketplace” to connect community-benefiting distributed solar developers with capital providers

- **Projects on the platform:**
 - Distributed solar up to 5MW
 - Project Types: Aggregations of residential solar +storage, community solar, community-benefitting C&I, VPPs, microgrids, and other distributed solar located in or serving LIDACs
 - Provide at least 1 of the 5 Meaningful Benefits
- **Capital providers can:**
 - View community-benefiting distributed solar projects & developers
 - Trust that each project and user has undergone vetting
 - Request a match to a project/developer & decide whether to accept a match from a project/developer.

Pathway to Success Initiatives



Why is the Community Power Accelerator important?

Access to capital is among the most-cited barriers to equitable community benefiting distributed solar project development

Solar developers and community organizations often lack expertise, capacity, and pre-development funds to access capital

Capital providers including philanthropic organizations are reluctant to invest in projects they view as risky or difficult to assess



Meaningful Community Benefits of Distributed Solar



EQUITABLE ACCESS & CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

- Contract terms that support strong consumer protections
- Inclusive outreach and engagement
- Financial products that are accessible to all households

Justice40 Priority 3:
Increase Clean Energy Parity



MEANINGFUL HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS

- Guaranteed bill and/or household savings
- Wealth building opportunities
- Indirect multifamily affordable housing tenant benefits

Justice40 Priority 1:
Reduce Energy Burden



RESILIENCE, STORAGE, AND GRID BENEFITS

- Household and community level resilience strategies
- Grid strengthening strategies
- Improved health outcomes through reduced or shortened power outages

Justice40 Priority 7:
Increase Energy Resiliency



COMMUNITY-LED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Opportunities for community ownership
- Community benefits agreements
- Support for entrepreneurship and local and minority and women-owned businesses

Justice40 Priority 8:
Increase Energy Democracy



SOLAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Strategies that ensure jobs are accessible to workers of all backgrounds, offer competitive wages and union membership
- Training and apprenticeship programs

Justice40 Priority 6:
Increase Clean Energy Jobs

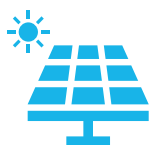
The Community Power Accelerator: Goals



Standardize equitable access to community-benefiting solar financing



Expand capacity and expertise for community-led, community-focused deployment



Build a robust project pipeline with meaningful benefits

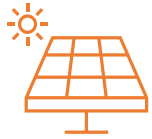


Bridge the gap between community-benefiting distributed solar projects that need funding, and the capital providers that want to finance them

Types of Projects on The Accelerator

- **Community Solar:** Solar purchasing program where benefits flow to multiple customers in a geographic area
- **Distributed Energy Resource aggregation or Virtual Power Plants:** Combining multiple residential or C&I solar projects to provide grid services
- **Microgrid:** Can operate independently from the grid, improving reliability and resilience
- Properties providing Affordable Housing are either:
 - Multifamily housing with an active affordability covenant
 - Unsubsidized affordable housing units

Community Power Accelerator Services



Foundations of Community Solar Development Course

CPA developers have access to: 1) a short, self-paced “community solar 101” training, 2) a 10-week online, instructor-led intensive course, 3) NEW online, self-paced intensive course, all run by University of New Hampshire’s Carsey School's Center for Impact Finance (CSCIF)



Marketplace

Developers and investors have access to the online matchmaking platform.



Credit-ready Checklist

A checklist developed by experienced solar investors helps developers complete all the requirements to put together robust, credit-ready projects.



Technical Assistance

NCSP partners have access to resources and direct technical assistance from DOE, National Labs, and third-party subject-matter experts to support local challenges.





Community Power Accelerator Prize

Three rounds of \$10 million in prizes provides essential pre-development funding to 50 developer teams to date. Round 3 of Community Power Accelerator Prize just launched!

What's New for the Accelerator as of September?

New features and services

-  An online self-serve version of the community solar developer course
-  Portfolio aggregation, scoping tagging by GGRF, CRA, and ITC bonus adder compliance, and other user interface upgrades

Expanding partnerships and scope

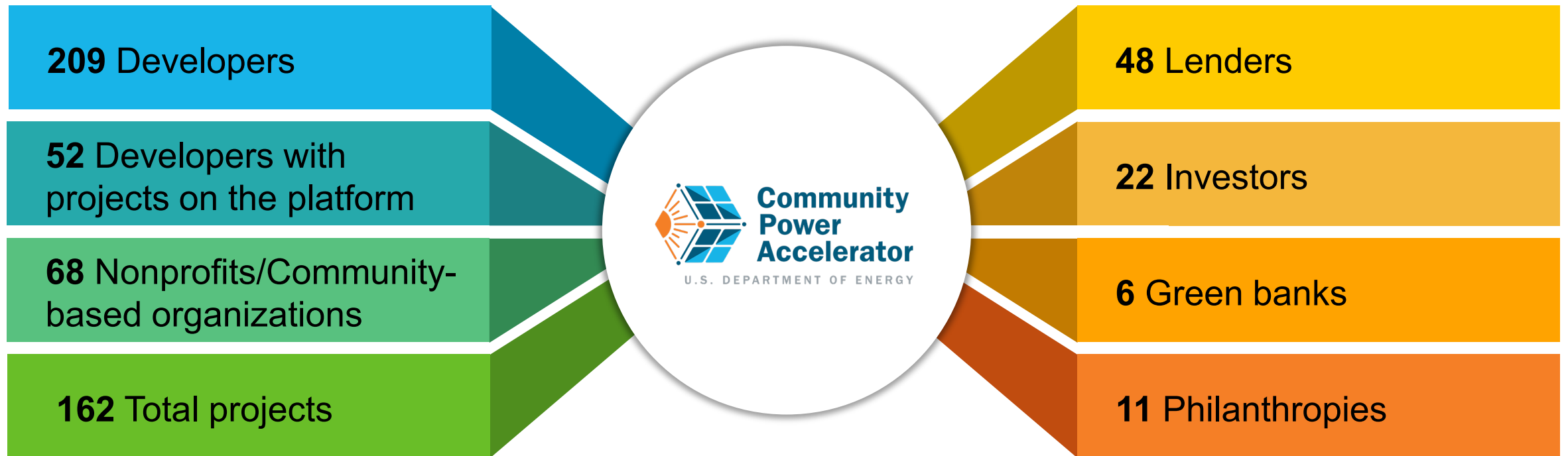
-  Engage with GGRF awardees to assess opportunities and needs
-  Program expansion to aggregations of residential solar +storage, community solar, community-benefitting C&I, VPPs, microgrids, and other distributed solar located in or serving LIDACs



Native Projects and Institutions

- Priority on the Platform
 - Protect Tribal Sovereignty
 - Increase Resiliency
 - Decrease Energy Burden
 - Improve Sustainability
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds Coming
- New Badge to Find Tribal Projects and Financial Institutions

Who is on the platform?

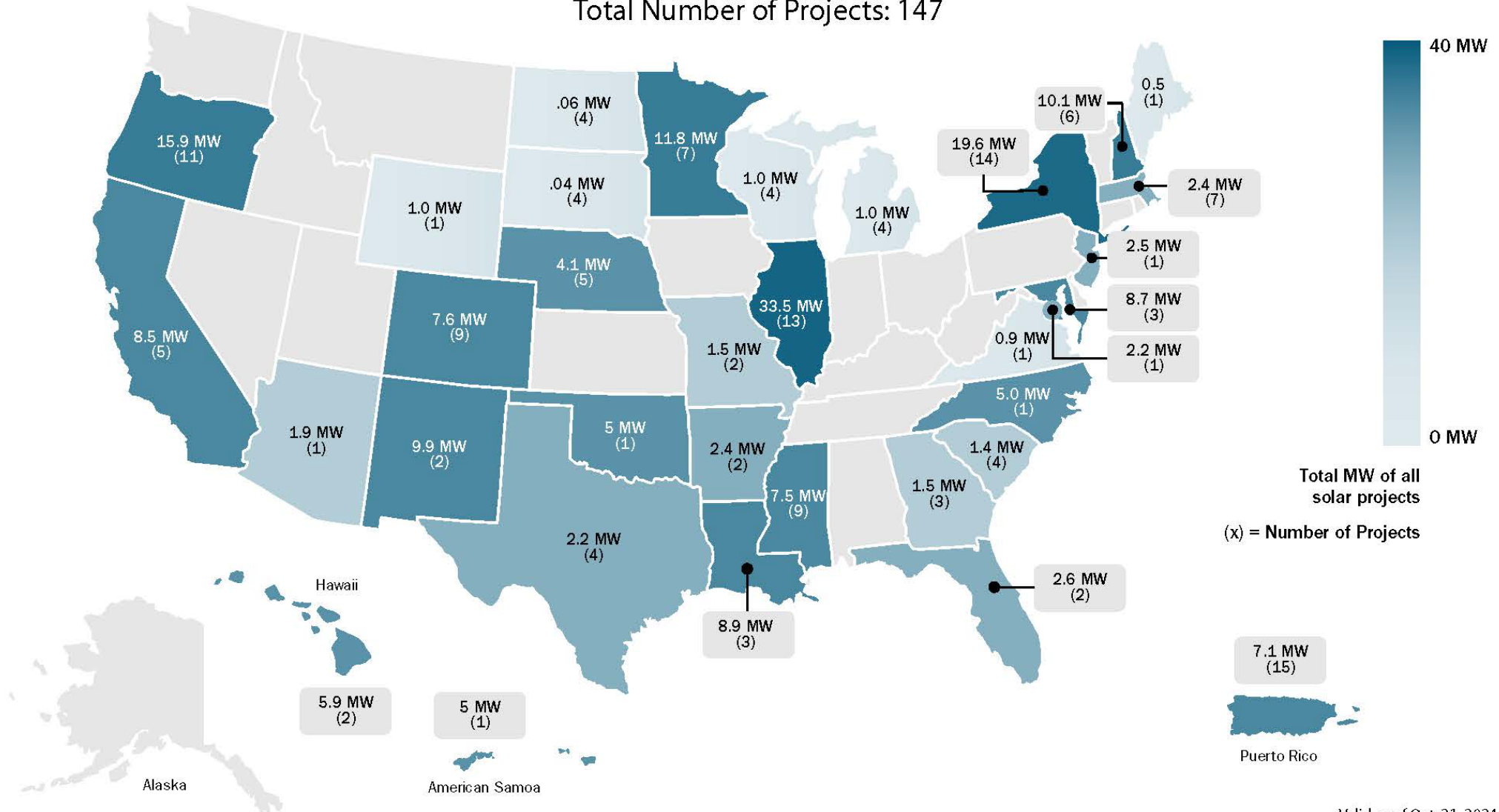


Bringing solar and capital together

Data valid as of Nov. 26, 2024

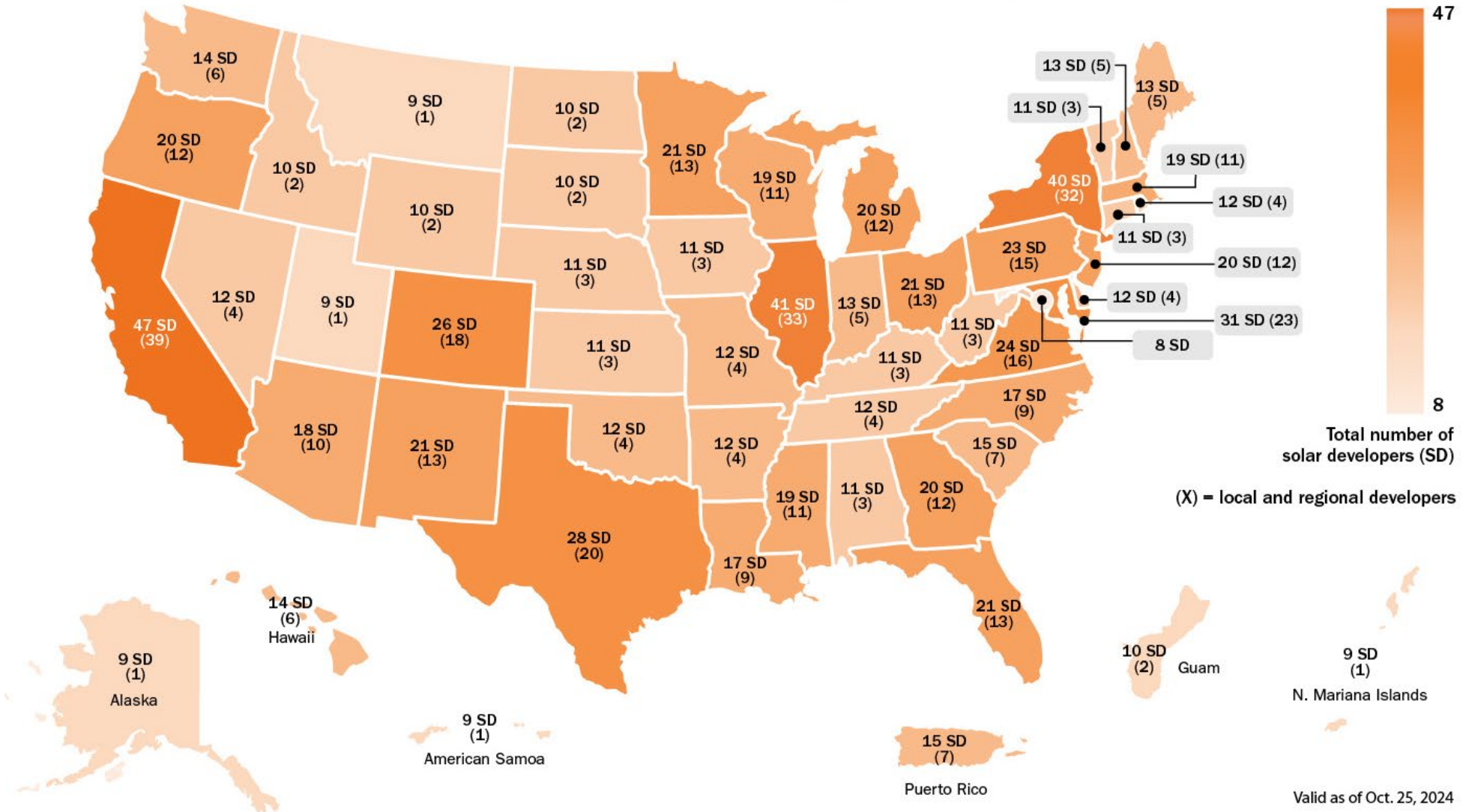
Projects Posted on the Accelerator Marketplace

Total Capacity: 199.2 MW
 Total Number of Projects: 147



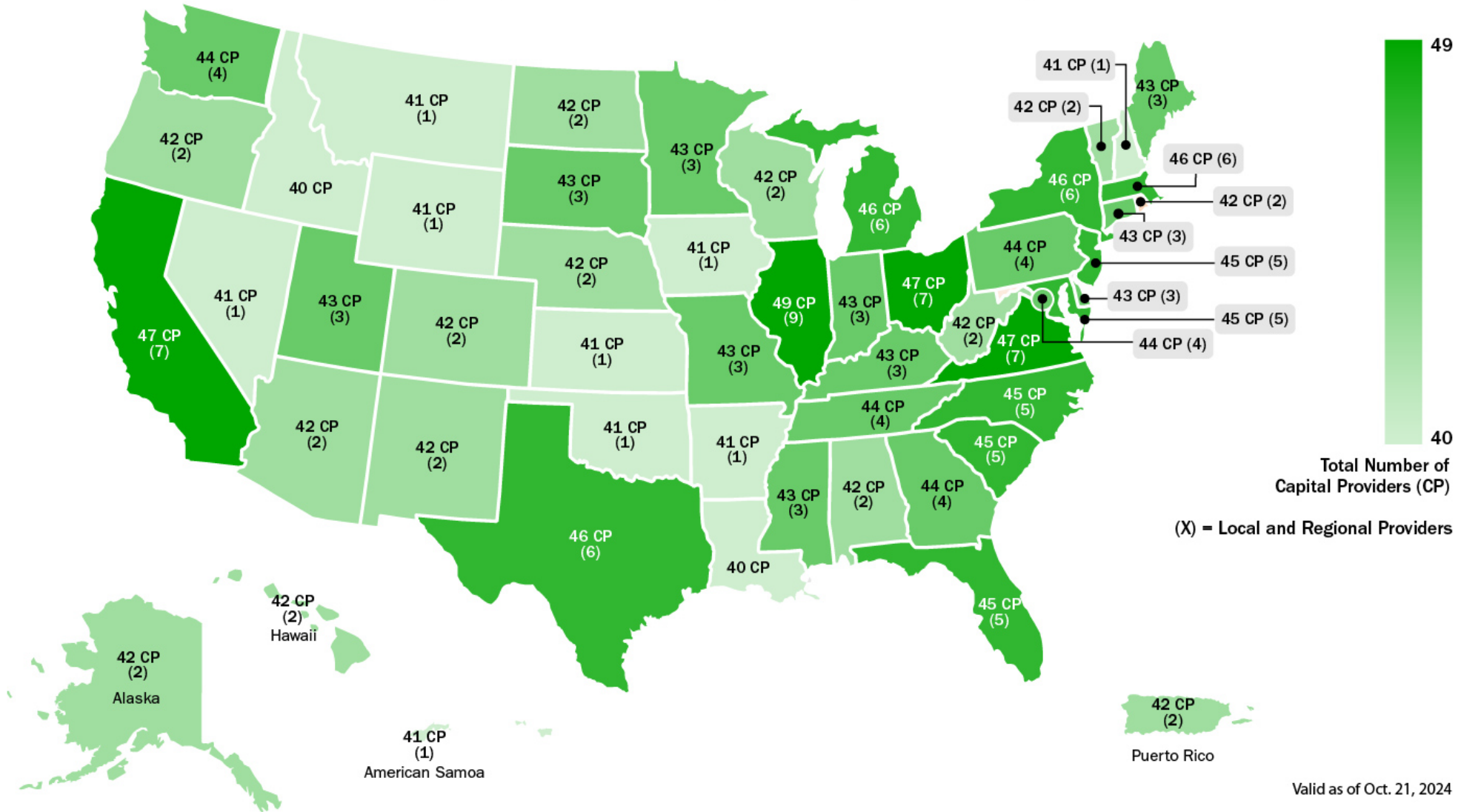
Developers on the Accelerator Marketplace

8 solar developers on the platform operate in every state



Capital Providers on the Accelerator Marketplace

40 capital providers on the platform operate in every state



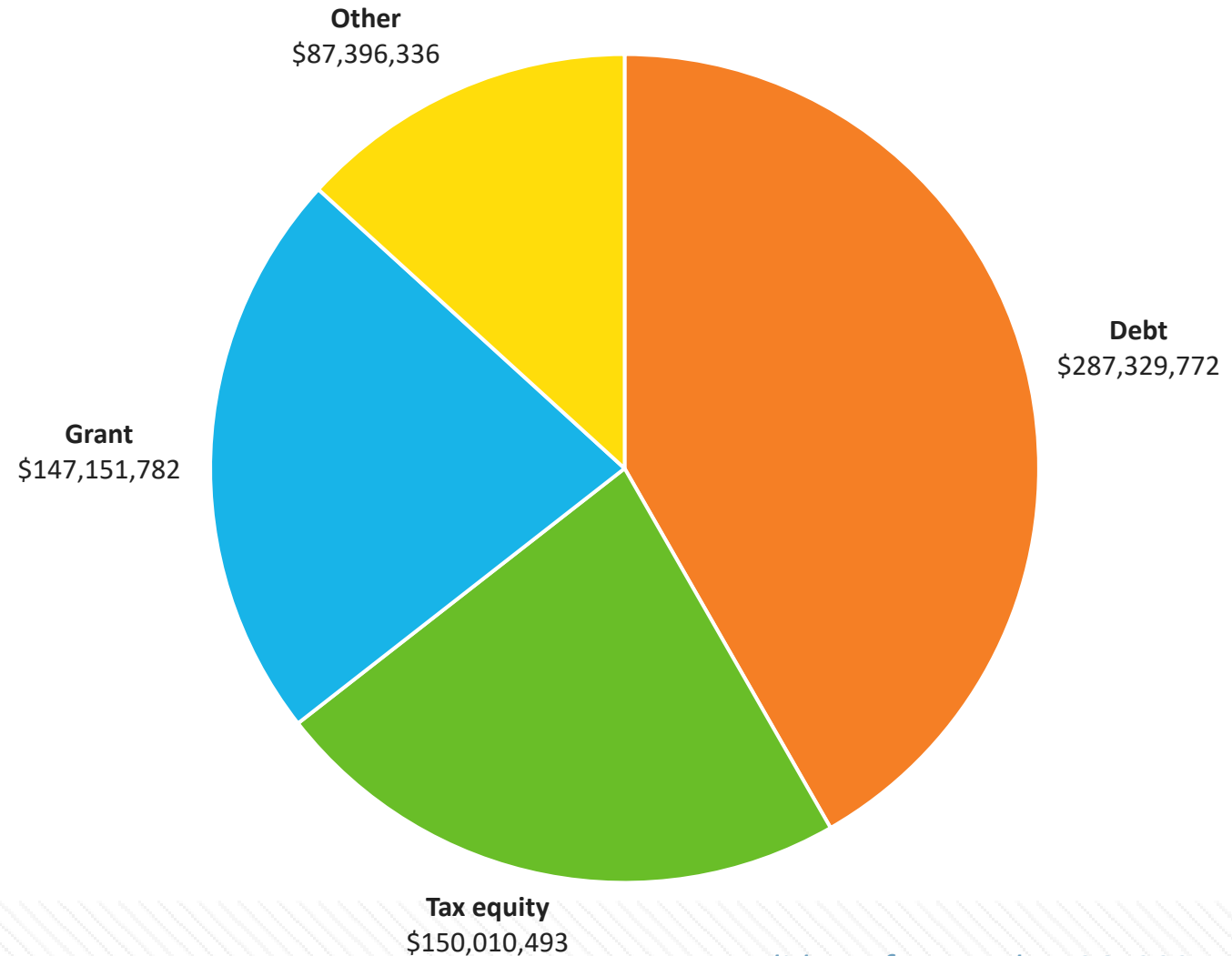
Valid as of Oct. 21, 2024

Community Power Accelerator Project Finance

Projects are seeking \$671+ Million in capital

- **\$1.7B** funds committed by capital providers on the Accelerator
- **87** capital partners participating in the marketplace
- **216** connections made
- Average Project cost is **\$4,281,644**

Accelerator Project Finance Sought



Data valid as of November 26, 2024



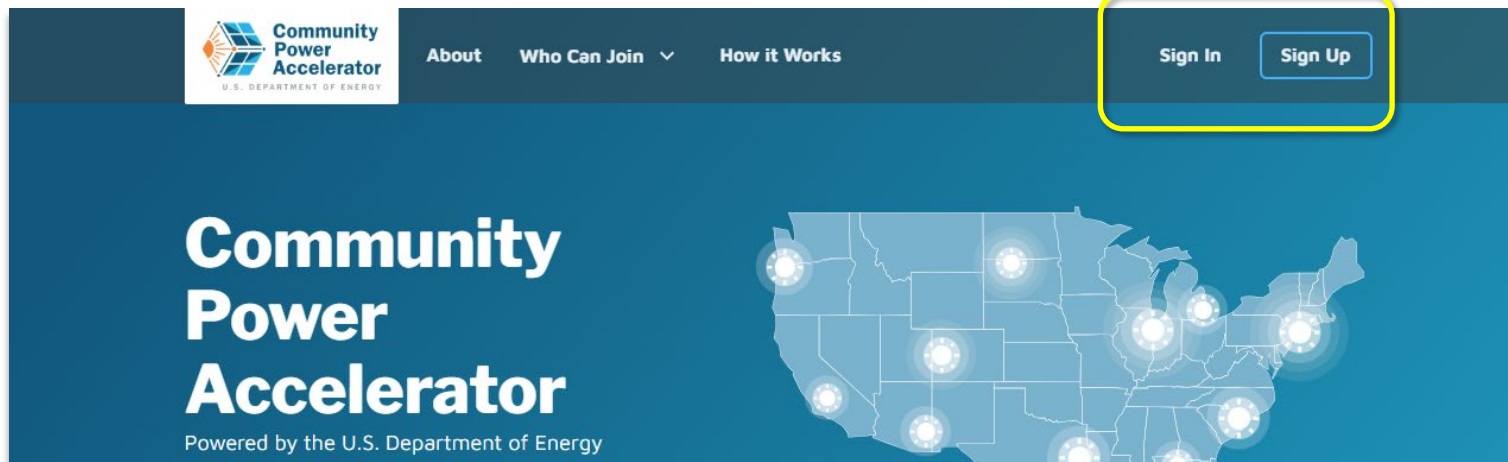
Community Power Accelerator Marketplace



Marketplace

1. Sign up & sign in
2. Create a profile

The **Community Power Accelerator** platform makes it easier for lenders, equity investors and philanthropic organizations to identify and connect with community benefiting solar project developers, and vice-versa based on criteria each participant includes in their profiles.



communitypower.energy.gov



Marketplace

1. Sign up & sign in
2. Create a profile

Community Power Accelerator U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Discover Connections **Your Organization** JS

My Profile

FULL NAME
Jane Smith

PREFERRED NAME
Jane

ABOUT
Bank CBO

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE COMMUNITY POWER ACCELERATOR?
social media, conference, word of mouth, etc.

ORGANIZATION
Everything is Awesome

Community Power Accelerator U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Discover Connections **Your Organization** JS

Create Your Capital Provider Organization Profile

Thank you for signing up your organization to join the Community Power Accelerator and completing the partnership commitment.

Next, complete and submit this form to create your organization's capital provider profile, which will provide access to the accelerator for connecting with other partners. Based on the profile, your organization will also receive community solar project investment recommendations.

i Note: If you are unable to complete the profile in one sitting, you may save it to finish later.

i Questions with a privacy toggle allow you to choose whether or not to publish an answer. Answers to questions without a privacy toggle will be published automatically.

* Indicates a required question

Company Information +

General Information +

Geographic and Community Type Preferences +


Project Development Preferences +

Capital Investment and Loan Information +

Submit



For Capital Providers: Discover + Connect



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Discover Connections Your Organization JM

Discover

Projects Developers

Location Capacity Meaningful Benefits Sought Capital Funding Status ☆ 🔍 ✕

Project ☆

Cesar Chavez Elementary School


Developer:
Thomas the Tank Engine & His Solar Friends

Location: **AZ** Types of Capital Sought:
✓ Debt
✓ Grant

Size:
1,900 kW

Total Estimated Cost:
\$3,500,000

Meaningful Benefit Targets:



Project ☆

BamBam Senior Living Center


Developer:
Billy Buckner Solar Developers

Location: **MA** Types of Capital Sought:
✓ Debt
✓ Grant

Size:
300 kW

Total Estimated Cost:
\$750,000

Meaningful Benefit Targets:



Project ☆

Ulysses S. Grant Memorial Stadium and adjoining parking lot carport


Developer:
Apollo Center Deployment

Location: **OR** Types of Capital Sought:
✓ Debt
✓ Grant

Size:
5,000 kW

Total Estimated Cost:
\$5,000,000

Meaningful Benefit Targets:



Project ☆

Rapid River Roaring Bridge Solar Project

Developer:

Project ☆

Ida B. Wells High School

Developer:
Thomas the Tank Engine & His Solar Friends

Project ☆

Happy Panels Solar Project

Developer:
Hyper Happiness Investments


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

COMMUNITY POWER ACCELERATOR



For Capital Providers: Explore Projects

- Title of the project
- Name of the developer
- Where is the project located?
- What types of capital is the project seeking?
- What size is the project?
- What is the total estimated cost?
- What are the expected benefits to households?
Here, low- to moderate-income household access, energy bill savings, community wealth-building, and equitable workforce development.

Project 

Cesar Chavez Elementary School






Developer:
Thomas the Tank Engine & His Solar Friends

Location: **AZ** Types of Capital Sought:
✓ **Debt**
✓ **Grant**

Size:
1,900 kW

Total Estimated Cost:
\$3,500,000

Meaningful Benefit Targets:



For Capital Providers: Explore Developers

The screenshot shows the 'Discover' page of the Community Power Accelerator. The 'Developers' filter is highlighted with a yellow box. Below the filter, there are six developer cards, each with a star icon in the top right corner. The cards are arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each card displays the developer's name, operating states, total capacity, projects completed, co-developer interest, and organizational characteristics.

Developer	Operates In	Total Capacity	Projects Completed	Co-developer Interest	Organizational Characteristics
Thomas the Tank & His Solar Friends	AL, AS, AZ	2 kW	2	Yes	Private developer
Apollo Center Deployment	All States	2,000 kW	2	Yes	Private developer, Co-developer, Minority-owned
Billy Buckner Solar Developers	All States	10,000 kW	3	Yes	Co-developer, Private developer
Rainbows, Unicorns, and Sunshine	HI, CA	0 kW	0	Yes	Intermediary organization, Co-developer, Women-owned
Hyper Happiness Investments	CO, WY, NM	80,000 kW	5	Yes	Co-developer, Mission-driven investor, Nonprofit developer
Super-Duper Solar	All States	10,000 kW	0	Yes	Minority-owned, Private developer



For Project Developers: Project Creation

The screenshot shows the 'Community Power Accelerator' web application interface. The top navigation bar includes the logo, 'Discover', 'Connections', 'Your Projects', 'Your Organization', and a user profile icon labeled 'JS'. The main content area is titled 'Projects' and 'Your Projects'. A '+ Add Project' button is highlighted with a yellow border. Below this is a table with two columns: 'NAME', 'QUESTIONNAIRE STATUS', 'VERIFICATION STATUS', and 'ACTIONS'. The table lists two projects, both with 'Incomplete' questionnaire status and 'Pending' verification status. Each project row includes an 'Edit' button, a 'Funding Status' dropdown menu (set to 'Partially Funded'), a 'View Profile' button, and a red 'Delete' button.

NAME	QUESTIONNAIRE STATUS	VERIFICATION STATUS	ACTIONS
Monsters Inc. - Project 1	Incomplete	Pending	Edit Funding Status (Partially Funded) View Profile Delete
Monsters Inc. - Project 2	Incomplete	Pending	Edit Funding Status (Partially Funded) View Profile Delete



For Project Developers: Admin Review

The screenshot shows the 'Your Organization' page in the Community Power Accelerator interface. The navigation bar includes 'Discover', 'Connections', 'Your Projects', and 'Your Organization' (highlighted with a yellow border). A user profile icon with initials 'JS' is visible in the top right. The main content area is titled 'Create Your Developer Organization Profile' and includes a thank-you message and instructions. Two informational boxes provide additional context: one about saving progress and another about privacy toggles. A list of expandable sections follows: 'Company Information', 'Organization Information', 'Project Development Experience', and 'Support and Project Partner Preferences'. A 'Submit' button is located at the bottom right of the form area.

Community Power Accelerator
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Discover | Connections | Your Projects | **Your Organization** | JS

Create Your Developer Organization Profile

Thank you for signing up your organization to join the Community Power Accelerator and completing the partnership commitment.

Next, complete and submit this form to create your organization's developer profile, which will provide access to the accelerator for connecting with other partners. Based on the profile, your organization will also receive community solar project finance recommendations.

i Note: If you are unable to complete the profile in one sitting, you may save it to finish later.

i Questions with a privacy toggle allow you to choose whether or not to publish an answer. Answers to questions without a privacy toggle will be published automatically.

* Indicates a required question

- Company Information +
- Organization Information +
- Project Development Experience +
- Support and Project Partner Preferences +

Submit



For Project Developers: Discover + Connect

The screenshot displays the Community Power Accelerator web application interface. The top navigation bar includes the logo, 'Discover', 'Connections' (highlighted with a yellow box), 'Your Projects', and 'Your Organization' (with a user profile icon 'JS').

The main content area is titled 'Manage Connections' and shows filters for 'New', 'Reviewed', and 'Sent'. Below this, it states 'No new requests at this time'.

The 'Discover' section is shown below, featuring a search bar and filters for 'Location' and 'Capital Provided'. It displays a grid of project cards, each with details on location, capital provided, and project size. The 'Climate First Bank' card is highlighted with a yellow box.

Project Name	Operates In	Types of Capital Provided	Min. Project Size	Min. Investment
Everything is Awesome	CA, FL	✓ Tax equity ✓ Grant ✓ Debt lending ✓ Other	50 kW	Unknown
Climate First Bank	All States	✓ Debt lending	1,000 kW	\$1,000,000
DA Davidson	All States	✓ Debt lending	Unknown	Unknown
Sol-REIT	All States	✓ Debt lending	Unknown	\$2,500,000
PhilanthropE	CO	✓ Enterprise Startup Capital ✓ Other Support Services ✓ Pre-development	Organization does not provide grants	✓ Loan Guarantees
Scalar International	NY, NJ, MA, +21	✓ Tax equity	1,000 kW	\$1,000,000

Please note: Connecting enables the exchange of contact information



Why would a Developer want to post a profile on the Accelerator Marketplace?

Added value:

- Passive origination opportunity
- Low effort required
- Low risk
- Basic vetting of prospective customers
- Free to users (funded by U.S. DOE)

Next Steps:

- **Sign up to access the marketplace**
- Give us your feedback on the platform—we are always looking to make improvements.
- **Help us spread the word:**
 - Can you recommend other organizations we should reach out to?
 - Do you know of a blog, newsletter, website, social media or other channel we could reach out to?



Communities to Clean Energy (C2C): Expert Match

- 40-60 hours of FREE technical assistance
- www.nrel.gov/state-local-tribal/c2c-expert-match.html

Contact me:

Jonathan.Morgenstein@nrel.gov



Other Opportunities to Partner with NREL

- NREL is permitted (and enthusiastic) to partner with external stakeholders, including Tribes and Tribal entities, for many federal grant opportunities such as:
 - **Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) NOFO**
 - <https://www.energy.gov/oced/funding-notice-energy-improvements-rural-or-remote-areas-foa-3428>

Contact me:

Jonathan.Morgenstein@nrel.gov

Questions?



Scan to access
the Accelerator

Contact:

Jonathan.Morgenstein@NREL.gov

Mikaela.Schlesinger@nrel.gov



Opportunities

The Community Power Accelerator adds value for developers and capital providers by:

- + Driving meaningful benefits into LIDAC-serving community benefiting solar and distributed solar + storage markets
- + Helping lenders, investors, and program managers meet the goals and intent of GGRF and needs of CCIA, NCIF and Solar for All awardees
- + Diversifying the solar workforce and developer ecosystem
- + Beginning to crack the nut on financing solar + storage for LIDACs



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

\$27 billion investment from EPA to mobilize private financing and investment capital for solar and energy efficiency projects in predominantly low-income and disadvantaged communities across the country



www.epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund

Goals:

- Finance clean technology deployment nationally
- Especially in low-income and disadvantaged communities
- Build the capacity of community lenders that serve those communities
- Spur adoption of solar energy and energy efficiency upgrades that lower energy bills for millions of Americans, predominantly in low-income and disadvantaged communities.



EPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

\$27 Billion

Program & Scale

National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF)
\$14 Billion

Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA)
\$6 Billion

Solar for All (SFA)
\$7 Billion

LIDAC Focus

≥40% of benefits must flow to low income or disadvantaged communities (LIDACs)

100% of benefits must support LIDACs

100% of benefits must support LIDACs

Who Won

3 National Non-Profits

5 'Hub' Non-Profits

46 States/DC, 6 Tribes, 5 Multi-State, 3 Territories

Program Goals

Winners will partner with the private sector to provide accessible, affordable financing for tens of thousands of clean technology projects across the country, with a priority focus in Justice40, Tribal, and rural communities.

Hubs will “deliver [financing] funding and technical assistance...to [LIDAC] community lenders —so that underinvested communities have the capital they need to deploy clean technology projects.”

\$100+ Million for LIDAC PV deployment in programs individually designed by states, which could include grants, subsidies and financing for rooftop and/or Community PV for LIDAC residences.



Philanthropies on the Platform

Why are philanthropies important to the platform?

- Lift projects
- Provide grants and bridge loans
- De-risk projects

Why is the platform important to philanthropies?

- Take meaningful climate justice action
- Don't have to be "Climate Experts"

Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)

CPA projects are **potentially** eligible for consideration under CRA



Primary purpose:

Community Development...

- “Qualified Investment” or “community development loan”
- Activities “revitalize or stabilize” if they help meet essential community needs.

New regulations:

- “effective” April 1, 2024
- “applicable” January 1, 2026



Other potential upcoming platform upgrades

To assist capital providers in more easily identifying projects that comport with legal, regulatory, or mission-based standards, the platform is considering adding other profile markers beyond simply CRA compliance.

Examples under consideration include...

Profile tile icons for other legislative compliance:

- Davis-Bacon Act
- Build America Buy America Act
- NCIF/CCIA Compliance

Other categories:

- Tribal Communities
- CJEST Tool/LIDAC Communities
- “Justice40” Communities
- “Energy Communities”
- Minority, Women, and/or Veteran-owned developers

How do we vet users?

- **Complete-** The organization has fully responded to all relevant questions
- **Correct-** Each response is an accurate reflection of the organization or project's current status
- **Clear-** Each response makes sense by itself and in the context of the other responses
- **Community Benefiting-** Meet's the Community Power Accelerator's definitions of community benefiting distributed solar