



# MULTIFAMILY SOLAR– FACT SHEET

## Solar Incentives for Qualified Affordable Housing 2018

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### **What is the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) Program?**

The SOMAH Program will provide financial incentives for the installation of solar energy systems on multifamily affordable housing properties throughout California.

### **Key Program Details**

Key components of the forthcoming program include:

- Directing up to \$100 million annually from the electric investor-owned utilities Greenhouse Gas Proceeds<sup>1</sup> towards subsidized solar energy systems on multifamily affordable housing
- Encouraging development and installation of solar systems in California's disadvantaged communities across the state
- Emphasizing the explicit goal that incentivized solar systems lower the energy bills of tenants of low-income multifamily housing
- Develop at least 300 megawatts of installed solar generating capacity by 2030

In January 2018, the CPUC established the SOMAH Program.

The structure and framework of SOMAH builds on many of the program successes and lessons learned from the MASH Program.

Following the issuance of D.17-12-022, the Commission's Energy Division selected via a competitive bidding process, a single, statewide program administrator team. The SOMAH Nonprofit Administrative Partnership (SNAP) team is comprised entirely of non-profit organizations: the Center of Sustainable Energy (CSE), GRID Alternatives, the Association of Energy Affordability (AEA), the California Housing Partnership Corporation (CHPC) and Rising Sun.

Those interested in learning more about the SOMAH Program should visit the program's website: [www.calsomah.org](http://www.calsomah.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Greenhouse Gas Proceeds are revenues that result from the sale of allowances which the utilities receive through the State's Cap and Trade program. Those revenues are then passed on to ratepayers through the SOMAH program, as well as through semi-annual and annual utility bill credits to residential and non-residential customers.





## What is the Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) Program?

**NOTE: The MASH program is currently closed to new applications and will be replaced by the new SOMAH program, described on the next page.**

The MASH Program provided up front incentives for solar energy systems on affordable multifamily dwellings. MASH is the low-income, multifamily component within the California Solar Initiative (CSI) program. In 2013, Assembly Bill 217 (Bradford) extended the CSI low-income programs by \$108 million, for a total authorized budget of about \$162 million.

### Key Program Details

The overall goals of the MASH program were to:

- Stimulate the adoption of solar power in the affordable housing sector
- Improve energy utilization and overall quality of affordable housing through the application of solar and energy efficiency technologies
- Decrease electricity use and costs without increasing monthly household expenses for multifamily affordable housing building occupants
- Increase awareness and appreciation of the benefits of solar among affordable housing occupants and developers
- Maximize overall benefits to ratepayers
- Require participants who receive monetary incentives to enroll in the Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) program
- Provide job training and employment opportunities in the solar energy and energy efficiency sectors

Program milestones include (as of January 2018):

- 36 MW of interconnected solar photovoltaic capacity
- 435 projects statewide serving multifamily affordable housing
- \$96 million in paid incentives to completed projects

The MASH program is currently closed to new applications, but is still providing incentives to projects in the program queue.

