



For immediate release

GRID Alternatives wins U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office Award to Pilot New Financing Platform for Low-Income Solar Adoption

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OAKLAND, CA; October 29, 2018 – GRID Alternatives, a national leader in making clean, affordable solar power and solar jobs accessible to low-income communities and communities of color, announces that it was selected to receive a \$999,000 award from the [U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office](#) (SETO) to develop new ways to accelerate the adoption of photovoltaic (PV) technologies. The project, in partnership with Distributed Resource Ventures (DRV), will build, test, and scale a financing and project development platform that will expand solar access to low-to-moderate income (LMI) households.

Access to financing is often one of the [biggest barriers to solar](#). Communities and organizations that want to realize the economic and environmental benefits of solar power can't because the size of their proposed project is too small in scale or they have income levels and credit scores that are considered too risky for traditional financing. GRID Alternatives' award from the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Technologies Office will go toward the developing and piloting of a new platform that connects these lower income households and affordable housing developments with financing.

"Our organization's vision is a successful transition to clean, renewable energy that includes everyone, but too often underserved communities, affordable housing agencies, and lower income households aren't able to tap into traditional financing to deploy clean energy technologies. GRID hopes to change that," said Jake Bobrow, Director of Business and Project Development with GRID Alternatives.

GRID Alternatives was selected as a part of the Energy Department's [FY2018 SETO funding program](#), an effort to invest in new projects that will lower solar electricity costs and support a growing solar workforce. GRID Alternatives is one of several projects that will focus on developing and testing new ways to accelerate the integration of emerging technologies into the solar industry. These projects do not fund individual technologies along their pathway to market, but instead focus on improving the pathway itself.

About GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives is a national leader in making clean, affordable solar power and solar jobs accessible to low-income communities and communities of color. Using a unique, people-first model, GRID develops and implements solar projects that serve qualifying households and affordable housing providers, while providing hands-on job training. GRID has installed solar for more than 10,000 families to-date and helped households and housing providers save \$333 million in lifetime electricity costs, while training over 38,000 people. GRID Alternatives has nine regional offices and affiliates serving California, Colorado, the mid-Atlantic region, and

Tribal communities nationwide, and serves communities in Nicaragua, Nepal and Mexico. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org.

About the Solar Energy Technologies Office

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office supports early-stage research and development to improve the affordability, reliability, and performance of solar technologies on the grid. Learn more at energy.gov/solar-office.

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