



2021 AEAC BRIEF

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The **Vote Solar Access & Equity Advisory Committee (AEAC) Recommendations to Mitigate Housing Barriers to Low-Income Residential Solar Programs** issue brief presents policy and programmatic solutions that are designed to reduce barriers for single family low-income homeowners who desire to install solar on their homes. Low-income homeowners typically have higher deferred maintenance, which can be a huge barrier to solar. The deferred maintenance and home upgrades needed for a home to become solar ready increases the cost of solar for low-income homeowners. The recommendations discussed in this brief can reduce roadblocks for families in homes that require certain home improvements before installing solar.

This brief offers two key recommendations:



1. COORDINATE EXISTING RESOURCES

There are a variety of government agencies and service providers that administer programs relating to home health and safety, including energy upgrades like solar. Because of this, there may not be a need to develop new programs. Rather, policymakers, program administrators, and service providers would do well to examine the range of services that are offered by their counterparts, and make efforts to coordinate and streamline how those services are deployed.



2. AUGMENTING EXISTING RESOURCES AND ADDING NEW RESOURCES

Limited funding across programs that may assist with home repairs, energy assistance, and solar presents a significant barrier for low-income homeowners and program administrators. Low-income programs are notoriously underfunded and many have long waiting lists. In order to increase financial assistance to low-income homeowners for home repairs and solar installation there needs to be an increase in low-income program funding.

ABOUT VOTE SOLAR

Vote Solar fights for a 100% clean energy transition that puts the interests, health and well-being of people at its center. We work state by state to repower our communities with sunshine and build a thriving clean economy with affordable solar energy for all. Through a winning combination of deep policy expertise, coalition building, and public engagement we help to build a strong, just, and inclusive clean-powered future.

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ABOUT THE AEAC

Across the country, policies and programs to expand solar access and deepen the equitable deployment of solar are being adopted by states and local governments. But in addition to good policies, successful programs require smooth implementation to ensure the benefits of solar reach those for whom they are intended. Vote Solar's AEAC was created to address the challenges states, solar providers, customers and other stakeholders are experiencing with implementation of low-income solar programs. The AEAC meets once a year to explore challenges with low-income solar program implementation, identify best practices, and offer solutions to problems.



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