



## **Nevada Solar for All (NSFA) Training Voucher Program Guidance**

### **Overview**

The Nevada Solar for All (NSFA) Training Voucher Program provides up to \$15,000 per trainee to support training and capacity-building initiatives that advance the deployment of solar projects under NSFA. The funding covers costs related to registration, travel, and training materials for a wide range of solar-related activities, including financial modeling, project design, siting, permitting, installation, operations, maintenance, safety, Good Jobs Principles, Davis Bacon compliance, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

NSFA's Training Voucher Program aims to build a skilled and inclusive workforce that supports the equitable deployment of solar energy projects and that catalyzes future solar development in Nevada, particularly for low-income and disadvantaged communities.

### **Contact**

Interested parties should reach out to [training@nevadacef.org](mailto:training@nevadacef.org) with the subject line "Training Voucher Program" with questions or for more information.

### **Program Eligibility**

Applicants must be one of the following entities to be eligible to receive funds:

- Potential NSFA Affordable housing property owner or manager;
- Potential NSFA Community solar project site hosts, including:
  - Municipalities,
  - Tribes,
  - Community-based organizations, and
  - Schools;
- Solar contractors participating under NCEF's NSFA vetted contractor program, or who have been approved to conduct work on an NSFA project; and
- Technical assistance providers to the aforementioned entities.

Applicants should be able to justify how the training supports the goals of NSFA. Funded by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NSFA aims to expand access to solar energy for over 20,000 low-income and disadvantaged households by providing rebates, loans, and financing for single-family homes, affordable housing, and community solar projects. Key NSFA objectives include delivering the equivalent of at least 20% utility bill savings to participating households, leveraging other federal incentives such as the solar investment tax credit, and growing Nevada's solar workforce and market capacity for solar.

NSFA reserves 50% of the training voucher funds annually for trainees from low-income and disadvantaged communities, ensuring equitable access to opportunities in the solar industry.

NCEF utilizes the trainee's home address and [EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) to determine if a trainee is included in this goal.

## Program Application

Applicants must complete the application form found at <https://nevadacef.org/solar-for-all/>.

## Eligible Training Programs

Eligible training programs must be approved by NCEF. Pre-approved training programs can be found on NCEF's website here: <https://nevadacef.org/nsfa-training-voucher/>. Applicants may also request approval of additional training programs in the areas listed below, considered by NCEF on a case-by-case basis. Hiring an expert consultant to train staff in a particular area is also an eligible use of funds.

Applicants must demonstrate that training costs are reasonable by providing price data on at least one other comparable training. If the proposed cost exceeds the comparison by more than 20% or \$500, whichever is less, the applicant must provide a reasonable justification for the additional cost of the proposed training (e.g., location of training, obtaining industry best practice certifications).

- *Financial Modeling*: Training participants in how to finance solar projects, including cost-benefit analysis, funding strategies, and return on investment modeling.
- *Project Design, Siting, and Permitting*: Equipping trainees with expertise in designing solar systems, identifying optimal locations for installation, and navigating permitting processes to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- *Installation and Maintenance*: Providing hands-on and knowledge for the installation of solar panels, systems, and complementary energy efficiency measures, as well as ongoing maintenance to ensure system efficiency and longevity.
  - Eligible solar programs should be in preparation for Classification C-2 with the Nevada State Contractor's Board. Examinations for solar contractor licenses in Nevada assess knowledge consistent with guidelines, standards, and training recommended by organizations such as the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP).
  - Other potential professional certification programs include American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) [CDP](#), [BEMP](#), [HBDP](#), and [BEAP](#) certifications, [BPI Air Conditioning & Heat Pump Professional certification](#) or other professional certifications related to energy efficiency.
- *Operations and Safety*: Focusing on the safe operation and management of solar systems, including safety protocols and risk mitigation measures in both residential and commercial settings.
  - Eligible programs should equip participants with OSHA 10, OSHA 30, or Nevada OSHA Photovoltaic Installer License certifications.
- *Good Jobs Principles and Davis Bacon Compliance*: Training participants on federal compliance and reporting requirements for wages and labor conditions in publicly funded projects.

- *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)*: Encouraging equitable access to solar jobs and opportunities, focusing on creating an inclusive workforce that supports the needs of diverse communities.

## **Administrative Requirements**

Applicants selected for participation by NCEF must receive written approval from NCEF prior to incurring any training-related expenses.

*Reimbursement and Costs*: After receiving NCEF approval, program participants must submit receipts for reimbursement by emailing [training@nevadacef.org](mailto:training@nevadacef.org). The cost per trainee to be reimbursed shall not exceed \$15,000 and shall match the price quote agreed on by NCEF and the applicant on the application. NCEF reserves the right to deny reimbursement of ineligible expenses.

*Multiple Trainings*: Applicants may apply on behalf of an individual trainee for multiple trainings. Each application will be awarded individually and the total reimbursed cost per trainee shall not exceed \$15,000 across all trainings. Applicants are encouraged to note how multiple trainings connect and promote the goals of NSFA.

*Equipment Ownership*: If training requires equipment, the title will remain with the trainee or their employer.

*Reporting Requirements*: In addition to submitting the application and receipts for reimbursement, participating organizations and trainees will be required to fill out a survey after the training on the outcomes of the training.

*Participant Support Costs*. Vouchers are federal funds provided in the form of Participant Support Costs (PSCs), and PSC recipients are known as Program Beneficiaries. PSCs are differentiated from subawards pursuant to [EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs](#), and Program Beneficiaries are not considered federal subrecipients or subawardees.

## **About the Nevada Clean Energy Fund**

The Nevada Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting a thriving, affordable, and accessible clean energy economy by providing financial and technical resources to Nevadans. NCEF's programs are designed to accelerate clean energy growth in the state, reduce energy costs, create jobs, and meaningfully address climate change. NCEF works with communities, affordable housing, local businesses, schools, governments, Tribes, utilities, contractors, and others to increase access to clean energy opportunities, from rooftop solar and energy storage to energy efficiency and electric vehicles. NCEF was established by Nevada statute in 2017 to serve as the state's nonprofit green bank. More information about NCEF is available at [nevadacef.org](http://nevadacef.org).

NCEF received a \$156 million grant from EPA to establish statewide financial and technical assistance that enables Nevada households to benefit from solar energy.