



ACT OF 2022  
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**INFLATION  
REDUCTION**  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



# SWFL S.E.A. Coalition Presentation

[www.SolarAssistanceCoalition.org](http://www.SolarAssistanceCoalition.org)



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## **Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$7 Billion Solar for All Grants to Deliver Residential Solar, Saving Low-Income Americans \$350 Million Annually and Advancing Environmental Justice Across America**

- April 22, as the Biden-Harris Administration celebrates Earth Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced 60 selectees that will receive \$7 billion in grant awards through the Solar for All grant competition to deliver residential solar projects to over 900,000 households nationwide in low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy and benefit from distributed solar energy.
- This \$7 billion investment will generate over \$350 million in annual savings on electric bills for overburdened households. The program will reduce 30 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions cumulatively, from over four gigawatts of solar energy capacity unlocked for low-income communities over five years. Solar and distributed energy resources help improve electric grid reliability and climate resilience, which is especially important in disadvantaged communities that have long been underserved.

[www.SolarAssistanceCoalition.org](http://www.SolarAssistanceCoalition.org)



# SWFL S.E.A. Coalition



The SWFL SEA Coalition is an initiative aimed at connecting solar power job opportunities and renewable home energy to underserved neighborhoods in South-West Florida. The project is in partnership with some of the leading community action agencies: Community Cooperative, Building Industry Association/Builders Care & Homes for Heroes and other local organizations, and will bring new green job opportunities and renewable home energy to communities that have challenges accessing both as well as providing energy and state of emergency energy for elderly, veterans and fixed income households. The initiative will also advance the transition to clean energy needed to meet societal, federal, state, and municipal climate objectives.

This initiative is done in conjunction with our solar workforce development program headed up by the Solar Energy Institute at the Fort Myers Technical College and the Department of Energy's "Solar Ready Vets" Program, which will support the first two cohorts of 12 students each through the solar training program and provide wraparound support services as well as job placement after graduating.

# Who Is SELF

Solar and Energy Loan Fund of St. Lucie County, Inc. a Non-profit organization was awarded \$156,000,000.

SELF's mission is to rebuild and empower underserved communities by providing access to affordable and innovative financing for sustainable property improvements, with the primary focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate resilience in low- and moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods. We strive to create positive social, economic, and environmental impacts by helping people improve the health, safety, and quality of life in their homes while reducing operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions.



# Grant Description

The Florida SFA (FSFA) program will utilize proven and innovative strategies to deploy and scale rooftop distributed solar energy that will provide long-lasting and transformative benefits within and for low-income and disadvantaged communities in Florida. Historically, these communities have been left behind due to barriers associated with high, upfront costs and the lack of favorable statewide policies to encourage and support an inclusive clean energy economy.

Program funds will primarily accelerate solar deployment among single family homes, with a smaller proportion of the funds supporting multifamily and solar resiliency projects. The FSFA Program has been developed by coalition leads with decades of experience in environmental stewardship, community organizing, and financing for clean energy and resiliency in Florida.

The program will also provide technical assistance to support workforce development, community engagement, and market development.



# Builders Care

Builders Care is a Non-Profit Organization founded by the Lee Building Industry Association in 2005. The Mission of Builders Care is to provide emergency construction services at NO COST to needy and deserving elderly and/or disabled homeowners and their families, who cannot obtain repairs through traditional means. Builders care exists to improve the quality of life for these deserving Lee County residents.

Builders Care exists to improve the quality of life for these deserving Lee County residents. Recipients are elderly and/or disabled individuals of all ages who are in financial need and are living with housing conditions that pose a safety or health threat.

Builders Care projects range from handicap accessibility, roof repairs and replacements, building wheelchair ramps, HVAC repairs and replacements, electrical and plumbing repairs and extensive repairs due to unsafe conditions. Builders Care offers this full range of home repair and renovation services by enlisting the expertise and generous support of contractors, sub-contractors and businesses.



**Making a difference.**  
**One life-changing gift at a time.**



# Community Cooperative

Community Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization deeply committed to eliminating hunger and homelessness in Southwest Florida. We work tirelessly to inspire and support positive, sustained change in the lives of our clients through innovative food, education, and social service programs. Our organization is driven by a dedicated team of volunteers, board members, and staff who are unwavering in their mission to address the root causes of hunger and homelessness.

Our programs include Community Cafés, where freshly prepared meals are served to anyone in the community; Mobile Food Pantries, which extend our reach to every corner of Lee County, ensuring easier access to nutritious food; and the Community Market, a choice-centered food pantry where clients can shop for fresh produce and healthy staples. Additionally, our Growing Healthy Kids Programs, such as the Food Literacy in Preschool (FLIP) initiative, partner with low-income schools to encourage healthy food habits in the next generation.

We also operate the Meals on Wheels program, delivering hot, fresh meals to the homebound elderly, ill, or disabled who are unable to shop or prepare their own food. Our social services extend to providing homeless services, access to resources, educational opportunities, and a family stability program focused on homelessness prevention, all aimed at helping clients regain self-sufficiency and rebuild their lives with dignity.



# Wounded Warriors

Wounded Warriors of Collier County is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2014. Our signature program, Warrior Homes, is held close to the hearts of many patriotic citizens, charitable organizations, and government services within our county. Warrior Homes provides healthy and safe living environments for Veterans in need of a hand up, not a handout.

Warrior Homes started in early 2018 as the result of our community coming together to address the homeless issues faced by local Veterans. Many businesses, contractors, and volunteers have generously donated their time and materials. Without our supporters, the Warrior Homes program would not be what it is today.

To end Veteran homelessness in Collier County, we have committed to achieving Functional Zero status, ensuring no homeless Veterans remain in our community. The Warrior Homes program currently provides thirty-three beds for local Veterans, with more to come with the new Delta House. Warrior Homes of Collier has raised nearly \$4 million, with half of that donated in the past two years. However, there is still much work to be done, especially in educating the public about the needs of our local Veterans. Our all-volunteer Board of Directors is dedicated to our mission to ensure no Veteran is left behind in our community.





# Solar Ready Vets

The Solar Ready Vets® Network (SRVN) is a solar workforce development program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) that connects veterans, transitioning military service members, and military spouses with career training, professional development, and employment opportunities in the solar industry.

As a proud partner of the Department of Energy's Solar Ready Vets Program, it is our goal to not only recruit Veterans as candidates for the Solar Energy Institute for workforce and career development, but to install solar & battery back-up systems on Veterans Homes in low to mid-income areas.

It's our goal to install 6-10kW solar systems w/14.3kWh stored energy systems throughout Florida on Veteran homes. Solar rooftop installations, will provide enough power to offset the cost of electricity for fixed income veterans as well as provide battery back up for state of emergency for these heroes.

Every Solar system that we installed will feature a custom name plate in honor of member of our Armed Forces.



## SOLAR READY VETS®

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



In Loving Memory  
SGT Myron Goldheime  
United States Navy  
World War II  
1/3/1930 - 2/14/2018

# Solar First

Not only is Solar First a Florida licensed Solar Installation Company, but we are also a proud member of BIA, FlaSEIA and one of our owners, Rick Vaske, is the Director of the Solar Program at Fort Myers Technical College and on the Board of the Department of Energy/Solar Ready Vets Program.

Solar First has over 25 years of key competency in renewable energy consulting, installation, design and project management services. We work with clients across the country, providing full-service due diligence services, from feasibility analysis and design through to implementation, optimization, and management of energy efficient solutions.



# Workforce Development



[www.SolarEnergy.Institute](http://www.SolarEnergy.Institute)

**FMYTC**  
FORT MYERS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Creating a combined effort is what Workforce Development is all about. To better meet the requirement goals of the grant, we combined our Partnership Network to include a Local Trade School (Fort Myers Technical College), Veterans in the community, Training courses and certification requirements from OSHA and NABCEP (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) as well as funding and candidates from the local Career Source locations for job placement to create a well-rounded program!