

How the SOMAH Program is helping break economic barriers, improve disadvantaged communities and launch lifelong careers through the power of solar energy.

Closing the gaps in solar equity

The SOMAH Program brings clean energy benefits of solar into disadvantaged communities throughout California that otherwise might not have access to the necessary financial resources.



A state-funded program, SOMAH's unique, community-based approach

- Ensures long-term, direct economic benefits for low-income households
- Helps catalyze the market for solar on multifamily housing
- Makes solar energy more accessible

Those living in low-income and disadvantaged communities often pay a higher percentage of their income on utility bills, so solar means money in their pockets and better housing security as well as a cleaner, healthier environment for all.



GOAL:
Incentivize 300 megawatts of generating capacity by 2030



FUNDING:
\$100 million annually over 10 years through 2026



SPONSOR:
California Public Utilities Commission

SOMAH is the largest solar investment in the nation

- Provides free solar career training and job placement
- Funds an average of 60% of project costs
- Increases residential energy efficiency
- Offsets carbon and greenhouse gas emissions
- Benefits both property owners and tenants



SOMAH eligible properties by electric utility territory

3,600

Multi-family affordable housing properties throughout California

285,000

Individual housing units are eligible for the SOMAH Program

Current SOMAH properties:

433

ELECTRIC UTILITY	ELIGIBLE UNITS
Pacific Gas and Electric	61,983
Southern California Edison	85,535
San Diego Gas & Electric	33,540
Pacific Corp	1,291
Liberty Utilities	509

SOMAH can serve your community's energy and environmental goals

As the cost of everything—from fuel to food—continues to increase dramatically, families across California struggle to afford the essentials, making planning for the future hard to accomplish.

SOMAH is designed to offset some of tenants' monthly expenses along with reducing facility operating costs and reducing the complex's environmental impacts with renewable, sustainable energy.



"I'm excited about [solar] because of the money on energy that we will be saving. We feel like we can actually save for our future. A lot of residents I'm sure will benefit from that."

— Paula Roman
Resident of a completed SOMAH project

A job training journey creates a career

The SOMAH Program has created more than 700 job training opportunities during the past two years. It helped Oscar Flores of El Monte, Calif., kickstart his career in solar.

- During 2019-20, Oscar volunteered on residential solar installations with Grid Alternatives.
- He moved up to paid job training on multifamily housing installations with SOMAH.
- Soon after, Oscar began working for a commercial solar contractor and has become a solar systems engineer.



"I knew the solar industry was a good place to be career wise, but I did not really consider it for myself until I started doing solar installations—that opened up the world of solar for me."

— Oscar Flores
SOMAH job trainee



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