



### For Immediate Release

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### MA Affordable Housing Solar Pilot a Success, Program to Expand in 2022

[Resonant Energy](#), the Boston branch of the [Local Initiatives Support Corporation \(LISC\)](#), and the [Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations \(MACDC\)](#) are pleased to announce the signing of over 1.2 megawatts (MW) of solar commitments across 48 rooftops operated by affordable housing providers in the first phase of the [Solar Technical Assistance Retrofit \(STAR\) Program](#) — surpassing the program's initial goal by 20%. The STAR Program, launched in January 2021, connects multifamily affordable housing developers in Massachusetts to the resources and technical assistance needed to explore the benefits of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology with the aim of helping affordable housing become more financially and environmentally sustainable.

So far, 6 organizations have chosen to move forward with solar installations based on the analysis they received through the STAR program. These organizations are taking a significant step toward achieving climate and energy resilience for their portfolios, all while saving an estimated \$1.3 million over the 25-year lifetime of the solar panels and preserving the equivalent of 1,210 acres of forest. These solar pioneers include [The Neighborhood Developers \(TND\)](#) of Chelsea and Revere, [Allston Brighton CDC](#) of Boston, [Lawrence CommunityWorks \(LCW\)](#) of Lawrence, [Housing Nantucket](#), [CASCAP Inc](#) of Somerville, and [Homeowner's Rehab \(HRI\)](#) of Cambridge.

"Without the expert assistance and flexible financing options through the STAR program, a shift of this magnitude would have been extremely difficult for us," said Rafael Mares, Executive Director of The Neighborhood Developers (TND). "The STAR program provided the perfect opportunity for us to transition more than a dozen buildings in our portfolio to using and producing sustainable energy." Mares says they are excited to deliver cost savings and a greener future for the residents and neighborhoods TND serves.

One of the big challenges that has made adding solar difficult for affordable housing developers in the past is coordinating the review and consent process with all of the lenders and investors affiliated with their sites. STAR organizers work with these parties to help streamline the process through additional staff time and guidance.

“We launched this program as a pilot to see if we could collaborate to break down the persistent barriers we had been seeing for solar within the affordable housing community,” said Isaac Baker, Co-CEO of Resonant Energy. “Thus far, I have been really impressed with the uptake from the first phase and expect we’ll continue to get participation from that cohort even as we start working with new developers in the next phase.”

The second phase of the program will provide another 15 organizations with grants to perform solar feasibility studies thanks to support from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and the Jampart Charitable Trust. According to the STAR organizers, Phase II of the program received nearly twice as many applications than spots available, indicating another phase of the program may be likely.

“The STAR program is increasing solar access by providing actionable information and creative financing options for our affordable housing partners,” said Emily Jones, Senior Program Officer at LISC Boston. “These solutions are reducing carbon emissions while driving meaningful savings to participating organizations and residents, thereby enabling our partners to reinvest those savings into critical building upgrades and additional community services. In 2022 and beyond, we hope to explore how solar paired with battery storage can further support affordable housing communities in advancing climate resilience.”

This phase of the program will reach some of the larger affordable housing owners in the state and the capacity target has been tripled to 3 MW, which will generate about \$250,000 per year in energy savings for participating organizations. Over the 25-year lifetime of the solar systems, the organizers expect their cumulative benefit to the housing owners to surpass \$6 million.

#### **Phase II Participants:**

- Beacon Communities
- B’nai B’rith Housing (BBH)
- Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA)
- East Boston Community Development Corporation (EBCDC)
- Hebrew SeniorLife
- Hilltown Community Development
- Housing Assistance Corporation
- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND)
- NeighborWorks Housing Solutions (NHS)
- NewVue Communities
- South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc. (SMOC)
- The Caleb Group
- The Community Builders (TCB)
- Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse Development Corporation (VBCDC)
- WinnCompanies

#### **About LISC Boston**

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is a national nonprofit working to forge resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity in the US; great places to live, work, visit, do business, and raise families. Since 2010, LISC Boston’s Green Homes Initiative has helped drive resources to Massachusetts’s

affordable housing sector, align incentives to help owners maximize the energy efficiency of their properties, integrate appropriate clean energy technologies, decrease carbon emissions, improve climate readiness and healthy housing, and provide residents with a higher quality of life through these improvements.

### **About Resonant Energy**

Resonant Energy is a community-based solar provider that believes that everyone has a right to clean affordable solar. We help under-invested communities take their place at the forefront of the global transition to clean energy. Through partnerships with local nonprofits, we deliver high-quality solar arrays for houses of worship, affordable housing providers, and homeowners — regardless of income. Thanks to our network of local investors, we are making solar power accessible for low-income households and nonprofits at no upfront cost, and in some cases, at no cost at all. We currently serve communities in Massachusetts, New York City, and Long Island.

### **About Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations**

MACDC is a membership organization that seeks to build and sustain a high-performing and adaptive community development sector that is supported by private and public investment and sound public policies. We advance racial and economic equity by creating healthy communities where everyone lives in housing they can afford, benefits from economic opportunities, and can fully participate in the civic life of their community.

### **About The Neighborhood Developers**

The Neighborhood Developers (TND) is a certified Community Development Corporation (CDC) based in Chelsea, MA that develops healthy, affordable, and sustainable housing and connects residents to living wage jobs in Chelsea, Revere, and Everett. Their mission is to create strong neighborhoods enabling community members to secure a stable home, achieve economic mobility, and determine their own future.

### **About MassCEC**

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) is dedicated to accelerating the success of clean energy technologies, companies, and projects in the Commonwealth—while creating high-quality jobs and long-term economic growth for the people of Massachusetts. Since its inception in 2009, MassCEC has helped clean energy companies grow, supported municipal clean energy projects, and invested in residential and commercial renewable energy installations creating a robust marketplace for innovative clean technology companies and service providers. Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides chairs MassCEC's board of directors.