

SOLARSENSE CUSTOMER SOLAR PROGRAM**APPLICATION**

The goal of the Low Income (“LI”) Solar Gant Program is to increase the accessibility of solar energy to Customers by creating a viable, long-term solar market for low-income customers in northern Minnesota. Starting in 2021, the annual budget is \$120,000 per year, with a maximum individual grant cap of \$30,000. This allows for up to four projects per year to be funded at the \$30,000 level. A Low Income Solar Grant Committee (“Committee”) comprised of both external stakeholders and Minnesota Power employees make project funding recommendations.

GRANT COMMITTEE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In order to evaluate possible conflicts, all Low Income Solar Grant Committee candidates must complete a Conflict of Interest disclosure. If it is determined the candidate has a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, they will not be eligible to join the Committee. The following Conflict of Interest Policy applies to all Grant Committee members.

Existence of Conflict of Interest or Appearance of Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest exists if a Committee member:

1. Is an applicant for a Low Income Solar Grant, intends to apply for a grant (as an individual or with an organization) in the next two years, or is personally involved as a partner to the project, or
2. Serves on the Board of Directors or other governing or advisory board of an applicant organization, or
3. Is a volunteer or paid employee of an organization being considered for funding, or
4. Is a paid consultant or service provider of an organization being considered for funding, or
5. Has an immediate family member or relation with an applicant that would impair their ability to make a grants award decision.

Minnesota Power also reserves the right to determine when a Grant Committee member’s relationship with an individual or organization creates an appearance of a conflict of interest that, in its judgment, could compromise the integrity of the grant process and should be treated as a conflict of interest.

Remedies for Conflicts of Interest

If a Committee member has a conflict of interest as defined above, they must notify Minnesota Power as soon as they are aware of a conflict. Committee members with a conflict of interest have one of two options to remedy the conflict 1) recuse themselves from the entire grant process for that cycle (including the meeting, discussion, and voting) or 2) resign from the committee. Committee members will only be allowed to recuse themselves

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from one grant cycle. If conflicts persist, the member will no longer be eligible to serve on the Grants Committee.

If Minnesota Power or the committee member identifies a perceived conflict of interest, the Company will make a determination on how to proceed. Possibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Allowing the committee member to remain on the committee and review applications without limitation
- Having the committee member recuse themselves from reviewing the application(s) where a perceived conflict of interest exists but allowing them to review all others
- Recusing the committee member from the entire grant process for that grant cycle.

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