



# Case Study

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## Weatherization and Single Family Rooftop Solar - California

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### Background

California has set up a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, collected through the California Cap-and-Trade program. A portion of these funds is allocated to the Weatherization Assistance Program Grantee the California Community Services Department (CSD) by the California legislature for the Low-Income Weatherization Program (LIWP). The funding is meant to improve the energy efficiency of low-income households through Weatherization and renewable energy technology. CSD designated a portion of the funding for single-family rooftop solar projects on eligible households.

### Project Financing and Partners

In LIWP One, Fresno EOC was designated the prime contractor and awarded \$13.2 Million to spend from March 2015 through June 2018. Fresno EOC partnered with other Weatherization organizations at a negotiated price of \$4.50/watt, capped at 6kW or eighteen panels per house including:

- Merced County Community Action Agency
- Community Services and Employment Training, Inc.
- Community Resource Project, Inc.
- Community Action Partnership of Madera County
- Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment
- Central Valley Opportunity Center
- Community Action Partnership of Kern County
- Community Action Partnership of Orange County

Each system has a 10 year labor warranty and a 25 year equipment warranty. California requires that each panel has its own inverter.

## Customer Eligibility

The project was funded to serve households within the CalEnviroScreen qualified Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in nine target counties (Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, Tulare, Orange, Kern, and San Joaquin). Homes must be owner occupied and have received some form of Weatherization assistance within the last two years. Households must have an income at or below 60% of the state median income.

## Role of Fresno EOC- Administrator and Prime Contractor

Fresno EOC subcontracted work to local network partners. As the prime contractor, it was responsible to managing project funding and reporting, making changes to installment goals for each county as needed. Fresno EOC inspected the first two installations of each agency, with the agency inspecting their own units thereafter. The Fresno team also managed a workforce development program, working with SunPower to train all partners and a crew of transitioning youth to be certified in solar installation for any SunPower dealer. The team also paid specific attention to consumer protection issues; with a large push for solar in California, this project that was free for low-income households had to provide education to ensure that customers knew they would not need to pay for any of the installation and there was no additional paperwork, and if asked for either of these then it was not the same program.

## Outcomes

Fresno EOC and partners completed 646 homes with installation of over 2.8 million Watts of Solar PV. Estimated bill savings per household were \$500/month.

## Next Steps

LIWIP Two began in April of 2017 and is administered by Community Action Partnership of Orange County. Fresno EOC has received funding from the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) to focus Weatherization and Solar Installation in a one zip code area in 2018.

*Interview with Weatherization Leveraged Partnerships Project (Spring 2018)*

*The goal of the Weatherization Leveraged Partnerships Project is to offer training and assistance to WAP subgrantees and their Associations in designing private partnerships and programs that leverage the WAP.*

<https://communityactionpartnership.com/energy-partnerships/>