



Office of the City Manager

May 6, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: City Awarded Grant to Advance Solar Workforce Training and Solar Deployment for Low-Income Community Members

The City of Berkeley, in partnership with GRID Alternatives, Rising Sun Energy Center, The San Francisco Foundation, and the East Bay Community Foundation, has been awarded a grant to increase access to solar for low-income residents and to provide hands-on solar installation job training.

Through the grant, the City and its partners will produce the following outcomes:

- Create a citywide multifamily affordable housing solar plan, providing solar technical assistance to an estimated 40 multifamily buildings;
- Complete at least one demonstration solar project on an affordable housing multifamily building;
- Offer free solar workforce training to two cohorts (20 individuals total) of low-income community members;
- Complete a comprehensive assessment of the opportunities for single-family low-income solar in Berkeley.

The grant comes from the Partners for Places program, which is administered by the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. The Partners for Places program provided a \$35,000 grant; The San Francisco Foundation provided a \$25,000 match; and the East Bay Community Foundation provided a \$10,000 match, for a total of \$70,000. The funding will go directly to GRID Alternatives and Rising Sun Energy Center to provide direct services to income-qualified Berkeley residents including free solar job training, solar technical assistance and planning, and rooftop solar installations. The City was the lead applicant for the grant and will mainly play the role of connecting local community members with the services that GRID Alternatives and Rising Sun will provide.

Please contact Marna Schwartz, Sustainability Outreach Coordinator, Office of Energy & Sustainable Development (ext. 7473), for more information.

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Re: City Awarded Grant to Advance Solar Workforce Training and
Solar Deployment for Low-Income Community Members

cc: Gil Dong, Interim Deputy City Manager
Zach Cowan, City Attorney
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Carol Johnson, Acting Director, Planning
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Timothy Burroughs, Assistant to the City Manager
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Marna Schwartz, Sustainability Outreach Coordinator, Planning