

# Leveraging the IRO to bring clean energy to underserved communities

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# INTRODUCTION

- Historically marginalized communities may be left behind in the decarbonization revolution
- **Inflation Reduction Act** new opportunities for community wind and solar projects serving low-income communities
- Nonprofits, state and local governments can play a leadership role due to elective pay/"direct" pay

# THE IRA & COMMUNITY SOLAR

- IRA subsidies facilitate **community solar projects**, covering up to 70% installation
- Energy communities bonus credit -> energy located in or serving low-income communities
- After 2025, project must meet domestic content requirement to receive bonus credits

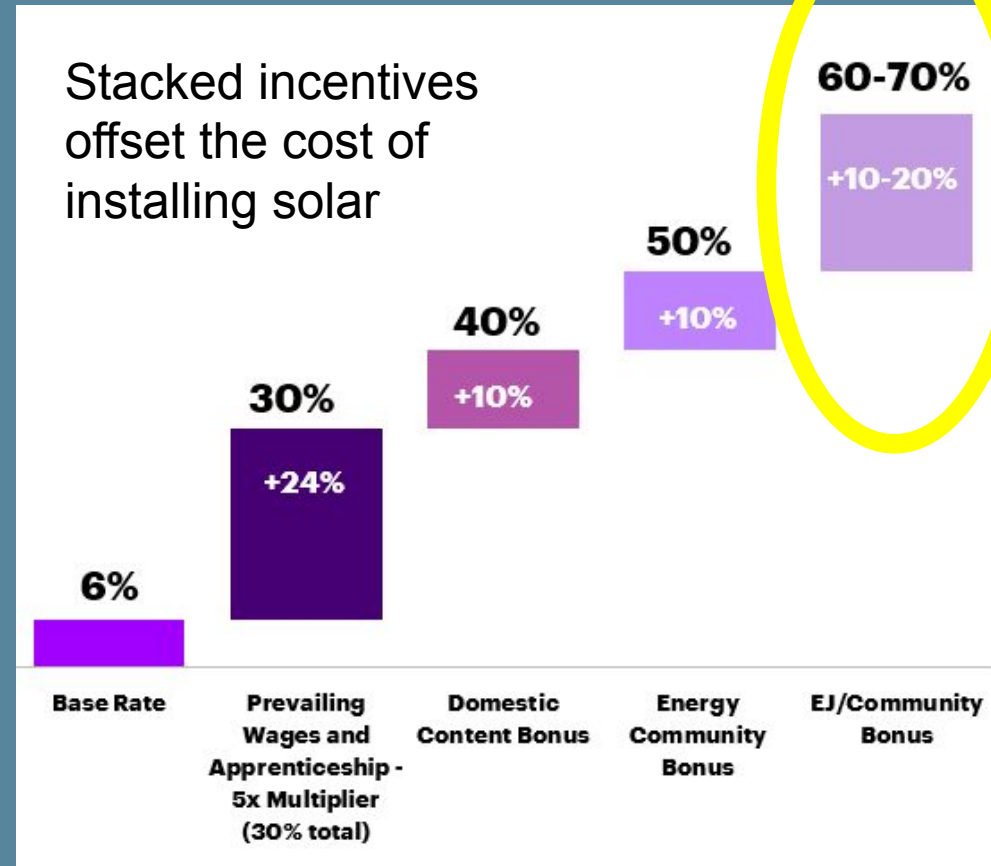


Image Credit: Accenture

# PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CLEAN POWER AT BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

- 1 MW solar array at Boston Medical Center generates virtual net metering credits
- Patients screened for energy insecurity as part of our standard health-related social need screening
- Net metering credit appear directly on Eversource electric bills
- \$50/month x 12 months for ~80 households in the pilot phase

# PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CLEAN POWER:

## Benefits

- Address poverty/energy insecurity
- Engage low income households in green energy revolution
- Increase solar capacity in the city of Boston
- Novel use of IRA

## Challenges

- Optimal Siting
- Identifying off-takers
  - Income verification
- Grid interconnection
- Virtual net metering mechanism
- Legal considerations
- Scaling up

# THE PITCH: SUBSIDIZED COMMUNITY SOLAR IN NEW YORK

*To achieve New York's Climate, Health & Equity goals, a critical obstacle to collectively overcome in 12 months is . . .*

**To initiate at least one project that leverages IRA credits to bring renewable energy to a low-income community**