



hispanicfederation

# COMMUNITY ACTION CHALLENGE: RESILIENCE, ENERGY & EQUITY

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# Introduction

As we know, Puerto Rico has gone through great challenges in the past few years. One of the biggest challenges we have experienced surrounds the electric power. If I have learned anything in the past 14 years working with the energy industry, is that a blackout does not mean the same thing for everyone. When we have a blackout, some people die, and others are unaware of what'shappening.

This makes it a wicked problem. Although I have not been at the conference during the week, I can be sure that many of the questions asked were about what is the best way to address the real needs of the communities.



# Key Issues

- Ownerships
- Infrastructure Issues
- Energy Rates
- Vertical constructions
- Middle class income
- Floods
- Access to information about available programs and how to qualify
- Rents (Inflation of rentals after install solar systems)
- Energy Education
- Hosting capacity

**Each region has peculiarities so there is no single solution for all communities**



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What is the key obstacle to overcome in addressing this issue in the next 12 months?

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The main obstacle to addressing this issue is identifying the communities whose voices have not been heard to date, creating spaces where they can participate and reaching a high level of participation and representation. This process takes time and resources.

In addition, many funding programs are being designed right now, so this effort must be done quickly.

# What are the consequences not addressing this obstacle?

- We could be designing programs that do not meet the real needs of the communities.
- We could be making bad investments of philanthropic and government funds.
- Communities may not have access to funds because they do not qualify with the program requirements





**Regarding communities, to achieve Puerto Rico's energy, resilience and equity goals, a critical obstacle to collectively overcome in 12 months is understand the needs of communities in different regions of Puerto Rico and ensure that these are covered in the programs that are being created with federal funds**