



## Overview of CPUC Programs for Disadvantaged Communities

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The Clean Energy and Pollution Reductions Act of 2015 (Senate Bill 350) calls upon the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to help improve air quality and economic conditions in communities identified as disadvantaged. The CPUC considers how these communities will be impacted by its decisions, and we have created a number of opportunities and resources focused on supporting our goals in California's disadvantaged communities.

Learn more about the CPUC's Disadvantaged Communities programs at [www.cpuc.ca.gov/discom](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/discom).

## What is a Disadvantaged Community?

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The term Disadvantaged Community (or DAC) refers to the areas throughout California that most suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, high unemployment, health conditions like asthma and heart disease, as well as air and water pollution, and hazardous wastes. The CPUC's Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DAC AG) advocates for equitable programming to reach communities that are:

- Designated disadvantaged by CalEnviroScreen as defined by the California Environmental Protection Agency
- On Tribal Lands
- In census tracts with median household incomes less than 80 percent of area median income

Learn more about CalEnviroScreen at [www.oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen).



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# CPUC PROGRAMS FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

# Access to Renewable Energy



The **Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH)** program will provide up to \$100

million annually in incentives to increase installation of solar projects on existing multifamily affordable housing in California, lowering energy bills for customers and helping meet climate goals. The program will launch in late 2018 and is expected to deploy at least 300 megawatts of installed solar generating capacity. Eligible properties include multifamily affordable housing in the service areas of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Liberty Utilities, and PacifiCorp. More information is available at [www.calsomah.org](http://www.calsomah.org).



The **Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH)** program provides up-front financial

incentives for solar installation on homes owned by low income residents. The program will allow for greater eligibility and help residents who lack access to capital or credit.

Eligible applicants must receive electrical service from PG&E, Edison, or SDG&E; own and live in their home; have a household income that is 80 percent or below the area median income; and live in a home defined as “affordable housing” by California Public Utilities Code 2852.

The SASH Program is managed by the non-profit organization GRID Alternatives. Please contact Grid Alternatives with eligibility questions and for program applications at (866) 921-4696 or [SASH@gridalternatives.org](mailto:SASH@gridalternatives.org), or visit their website at [www.gridalternatives.org](http://www.gridalternatives.org).

The **DAC Green Tariff** and **Community Solar Green Tariff** programs are designed to make solar and other renewable energy resources available to every customer in the PG&E, Edison, and SDG&E service territories

at an affordable price. These programs also promote the development of renewable energy projects in disadvantaged communities, providing not just clean energy, but a meaningful community investment that includes local workforce development opportunities and green jobs.

## Broadband & Electric Vehicles



The **California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)** allows the CPUC to deploy \$645 million in grants to advance broadband access, deployment, and adoption with the goal of reaching

at least 98 percent of California households in each of its consortia regions. Grants are made for infrastructure build-outs, digital literacy training, access in public housing developments, and more. For more information, visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov/casf](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/casf).

You can test the quality of your broadband service with the CPUC’s CalSPEED mobile app for iPhone or android.

### Electric Vehicles and charging infrastructure

In May 2018, the CPUC approved large investments by PG&E, Edison, and SDG&E in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, with specific set-asides for disadvantaged communities: 25 percent of the SDG&E and PG&E programs must be in disadvantaged communities, and 40 percent of Edison’s programs must go towards medium and heavy-duty vehicle chargers in disadvantaged communities. Electric Vehicles help decarbonize the transportation sector and greatly reduce air pollution created by cars and trucks.

## Affordability



The **California LifeLine** program provides discounted home phone and cell phone

services to qualified households. You can qualify for California LifeLine if you or another person in your household is enrolled in any one of a number of public assistance programs including Medicaid/MediCal, SNAP, TANF, and more. Interested customers should inquire with their phone company about program enrollment. Learn more at [www.cpuc.ca.gov/LifeLine](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/LifeLine).

Income-qualified energy assistance programs include:



- **California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)\*\*** provides a 30-35 percent discount on your electric bill and 20 percent on your natural gas bill: [www.cpuc.ca.gov/](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/)

[lowincomerates](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/lowincomerates).

- **Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA)\*\*** bills some of your electricity usage at a lower rate and is for customers who do not qualify for CARE.
- **Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESA)\*\*** provides no-cost weatherization services to low income households who meet the CARE income guidelines. Services provided include attic insulation, energy efficient refrigerators, energy efficient furnaces, weatherstripping, caulking, low-flow showerheads, water heater blankets, and door and building envelope repairs that reduce air infiltration.
- **Medical Baseline\*\*** Allows extra allowances of energy to be billed at the lowest rate for customers who rely on medical-related equipment: [www.cpuc.ca.gov/medicalbaseline](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/medicalbaseline).

\*\*Contact your utility for enrollment.