

### 3. Grant Funding Proposal (Proposed Approach)

***Provide a summary of the program model or project you are proposing, including how you would utilize the funding.***

Boston Community Solar Coop is a multi-class, multi-race group of individuals and organizations in Boston that have come together to create a model for direct democratic community control and investment in solar developments in environmental justice communities in Boston.

We plan to develop solar projects that keep the capital investment in the community, building further resilience and wealth for the community. Cooperative ownership is central to our model. We like to say that "those who own the power have the power". Typically large corporations who are not of our communities own and control our energy systems. Our approach is to give **direct cooperative ownership** of the solar systems and the business, to the people and communities who are most adversely affected by the policies and practices of climate injustice. Eventually our model of community solar will not only give members discounts on their electricity but also ownership of the solar array and the coop that develops them. In a coop, each member gets an equal vote. It is a model centered in climate justice that is building toward a more equitable energy system.

While we have been organizing for a long time, we are now at a point where we are planning to form both a non-profit to act as our development partner and a cooperative that is specific to our first solar development. Our first Solar development will be an array for the new Dorchester Food Cooperative that is under construction now in Dorchester. We are excited to combine economic, food, and environmental justice into our inaugural project at 195 Bowdoin Street. Through our partnership with the Dorchester Food Co-op, which is also a multi-stakeholder, multi-race, cross-class membership, we intend to recruit DFC member owners who live in near the store to become BCSC members and to own the solar array, reaping the benefits of a local investment.

***What is the Priority Group you are seeking to benefit? Please include whether your proposal would target a geographic community (i.e. City/Town, neighborhood) or non-geographically based community (i.e. affinity group, religious network, shared language community).***

We are prioritizing members of our community who are most impacted by climate injustice and who live in Environmental Justice communities in Boston (Dorchester, Roxbury Mattapan) . Our inaugural project at 195 Bowdoin Street with the Dorchester Food Co-op, is located in **Block Group 2, Census Tract 917**, has the following EJ Priority Characteristics:

- Median household income: **\$44,444**. this is 51.8 % of the MA median.
- Total minority population: **99.4 %**
- Households with language isolation:**26.3 %**

More generally BCSC focuses on Dorchester, Roxbury Mattapan due to the high rates of average energy burden experienced by their residents. Particular census tracts in these three communities have a calculated energy burden of 7%, which is more than twice the median energy burden for the City of Boston ([Drehobl, Ross, Ayala, 2020](#); [LEAD](#), US Dept. of Energy, 2018). Older housing stock, inequities in access to programs like MassSave, and decades of systemic disinvestment have led to this marked difference.

Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan have three of the four highest calculated Social Vulnerability Indexes in all of Boston. Neighborhoods that score higher Social Vulnerability scores tend to have lower median incomes, a higher proportion of renters, and energy burden. Thus, there is a clear link between Social Vulnerability, energy burden, and the need for energy justice. A 2019 Carbon Free Boston Social Equity Report determined that the Social Vulnerability Index for the entire city of Boston is 35. Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan's indices are 43, 49, and 47 respectively. For this reason, our project is centered around bringing priority groups into the conversation to let

them lead and determine optimal means to reduce their energy burden, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and explore opportunities to build intergenerational wealth through the ownership of clean energy projects.

***What are the specific goals or targeted outcomes expected from the implementation of your proposed program model or project? For example: Program team anticipates we will successfully facilitate the sign up of 50 households to a shared solar project, through which households will save 20% on their utility bill.***

- **Form Entities:** To form the non-profit and cooperative entities that facilitate both the new Direct Pay benefits from the recently passed IRA, as well as the ability for the community to have direct democratic ownership through the cooperative.
- **Discounted Clean Energy to the DFC:** To offer the Dorchester Food Co-op and its 1400 community cooperative owners (many of whom are also Priority Groups in EJ Community) at least a 15% discount on the energy the Food Coop uses from the array BCSC develops. The 81 kW rooftop array is predicted to produce ~90,000kwh/year of the estimated ~379,000 kwh/year needed to power the Food Co-op store.
- **Solidarity Fund for Members:** To offer Solidarity Fund assistance to 50 low-income community members. It is important to BCSC that people of all income levels are able to join the Solar Co-op and own the array. Members can pay anywhere from \$25 or more and request assistance from the Solidarity Fund to cover the remainder if they cannot afford the full \$1000 share. Other co-op members, outside individuals, and corporate sponsors and grantors will also be able to contribute to the Solidarity Fund.
- **Real Returns:** Each \$1000 share is projected to pay out an annual interest of 10%-20%. Members have the option to sell their share back to the Co-op in year 10 to additionally receive the entire \$1000 equity investment back, regardless of the amount covered by the Solidarity Fund. A total estimated value of up to \$3,000 over 10 years for 50 low-income community members coming from just our first project!
- **One Member One Vote:** All community members may invest and own cooperative shares in the DFC solar array. They may invest and receive more than a single \$1,000 share, though all members will always have an equal vote regardless of the amount they invest.

***What activities, such as research or stakeholder engagement have been completed in preparation for the implementation of this program model or project? For example, we have conducted 3 community meetings or focus groups to identify community interest in a weatherization campaign.***

- We have had dozens of meetings over the last year with the Solstice Initiative's community advisors, Co-op Power Boston, and the Dorchester Food Co-op Solar Committee who represent a wide representation of the environmental justice communities we hope BCSC will serve.
- We have an MOU signed with the Dorchester Food Co-op and their landlord, VietAID, so that we have our first project ready to start upon receipt of grant funding for a power purchase agreement and rooftop lease at 195 Bowdoin Street.
- We have developed an outreach plan and community partnerships to engage community members directly. We have begun conversations with attorneys to form the coop and non-profit entities.
- We have reviewed the new IRA and plan to implement a new model that utilizes the Direct Pay and the Impact community bonus incentive.

## 4. Proposed Timeline and Outcomes

With as much detail as currently available please clarify your expected timeline for the usage of this funding as it pertains to the implementation of your program model or project. Please note that funding should be utilized within 3 years.

- Year 1:
  - Q1: **Forming the Entities:** The Empower Implementation grant funding will be used to cover legal expenses to create a not for profit that will develop the solar system and a coop that will operate the system on behalf of members who will own the coop and the income stream generated.
  - Q2: **PreDevelopment:** Funds will also be used to cover typical solar project pre-development expenses such as interconnection studies, permitting, applying to the SMART program, etc.
  - Q3: **NTP:** Notice to Proceed, solicit bids and select contractors, begin construction of the Solar Array at 195 Bowdoin Street.
  - Q4: **Hiring Search for ED:** Begin the hiring process for a part-time Executive Director (more below).
- Year 2: **N/A** - It is anticipated that the funds will be expended within one year of receipt of the grant award, though any of the above processes may be delayed or take longer to complete, in which case they would stretch into Year 2.
- Year 3: **N/A**

Based on your specific goals or targeted outcomes, what would you propose to submit to MassCEC to show completion of the tasks supported by this funding? Possible examples include: metrics of clean energy systems contracted, number of people reached, number of events hosted. If selected this will be used to draft your project scope of work and milestones for payment. See example scope of work in template contract (Attachment 3).

If you're considering implementing a community education, outreach, and/or adoption campaign, please confirm your agreement to sharing your detailed program plan as a required deliverable with MassCEC prior to program implementation, if selected, and acknowledge that you agree to discuss the nature of the campaign with MassCEC staff as requested. Additionally, please note that operation of such a campaign leveraging MassCEC funding may result in additional terms and conditions in the eventual agreement between you and MassCEC.

We envision three milestones for the project we are proposing to be supported by the MassCEC Empower Grant.

1. **Forming the Entities:** The initial milestone will be the creation of the legal organization(s) that will oversee the development and operation of the Solar Generation Unit at the Dorchester Coop. Recent changes in federal law (Inflation Reduction Act) need to be taken into consideration when forming the entities. This may result in forming a nonprofit who develops projects and a cooperative that will operate and manage the solar generation system as well as recruit and manage off-takers, subscribers and memberships.
2. **Predevelopment & NTP:** The second milestone would be the securing of a Notice to Proceed (NTP) which is required before any construction of the solar system can begin at the site. Pre-development activity will be focused on completing all the traditional tasks associated with securing a project NTP. In the case of Massachusetts that means applying for a SMART feed in tariff, conducting an interconnection study, securing a permit to build the site, etc.
3. **Hiring Search & Hire an ED:** The final milestone is to recruit and hire a part time Executive Director to oversee the solar project development, update the community on the status of the project, recruit a community advisory board and seek out additional sites in Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan for other community owned solar projects.

## 5. Proposed Budget

**Total Amount Requested (up to \$150,000): \$150,000**

Proposed Activity	Team Member Receiving Funds	Funding Amount
Legal Incorporation of the Boston Community Solar Entities (Not for Profit and Cooperative)	Jonathan S. Klavens Klavens Law Group, P.C.	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
Pre- Development Costs. Procure an EPC, design solar array in consultation with architects, work on permits and interconnection agreements.	Boston Community Solar Not for Profit or Cooperative	<b>\$15,000</b>
Design and Deliver Community Stakeholder Engagement to Build Membership in the Community Energy Co-op and Sponsor Equity for the Project.  Funds would go to support 250+ hours of organizing, community engagement, and member outreach in direct payment to those who participate in working groups that will go to EJ community members for this first array, who are in the immediate area of 195 Bowdoin St. Dorchester project	Boston Community Solar Not for Profit or Cooperative.	<b>\$10,000</b>
Project management and interface with EPC who will develop the rooftop solar system, administer the loan and the governance membership services, insurance, legal costs for final site lease and PPA agreements, permits and interconnections agreements and everything needed to secure financing for the solar array	Boston Community Solar Not for Profit or Cooperative	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Part Time Executive Director</b>	Boston Community Solar Not for Profit or Cooperative	<b>\$50,000</b>

**In-kind technical services from MassCEC:** Depending on the type of program applicants propose, and upon request, MassCEC may offer in-kind support instead of all or part of a cash grant. Are the Applicants interested in any in-kind technical services from MassCEC instead of all or part of a cash grant? Please respond below, and also contact MassCEC to discuss your interests/needs prior to applying.

(X) No

Yes, please elaborate:

**Grant Payments:** Applicants will receive a portion of the funding upfront and will receive the remainder once part or all of the project is completed. How would you like to receive the rest of the funds?

In one payment when the tasks supported by this funding are complete.

In multiple payments, based on completion of milestones. If you would like to receive multiple payments, please elaborate on how you would prefer to receive the remainder of the funds.

(X) Other. Please elaborate: We are requesting \$50,000 upon signing of the agreement as this funding will be used to pay for legal expenses to organize the cooperative and/or a solar development not for profit who could leverage the direct payment of the project investment tax credit and to pay for predevelopment expenses. Once the cooperative and/or not for profit has been organized and the predevelopment expenses paid, we would need another \$50,000 for Project Management, Community Outreach and to pay the legal fees required to execute a purchase power and lease agreement with the Dorchester Food Coop. The final payment of \$50,000 would be used to hire a part time Executive Director to oversee the solar project development, update the community on the status of the project, recruit a community advisory board and seek out additional sites in Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan for other community owned solar projects.

**Non-MassCEC Funding:** If applicable, describe any other sources of support for this proposed work, including in-kind work. Note: No additional sources of funding are required to apply for this funding. In-kind work is being provided by Solstice Initiative, CoEverything, and ReVision Energy in pro-bono hours of professional services.

## 6. Review of Attachment 3: Sample Grant Agreement & Example Scope of Work and Milestones Table

Have you reviewed the sample grant agreement? Specifically, have you reviewed the example scope of work and milestones table? **(Required)**

(X) Yes

Are there any changes to this template contract agreement that would be necessary before the Applicant could sign the contract? (Note: MassCEC has limited ability to change our standard legal contract terms. Please note that reviewing and requesting changes to standard legal contract terms (if selected) will impact timelines for contracting.)

(X) No

Yes. If so, please elaborate below and/or provide an annotated version of Attachment 3 with your application.

If you have any questions about these documents, please contact MassCEC prior to applying.

# Boston Community Solar Cooperative

## Partners & Member Bios

### Who Are We?

For the past 18 months, a coalition of individuals, businesses, and non-profits have been organizing a grassroots movement to create an equitable and just transition to a clean energy economy in Environmental Justice Communities. BCSC will develop our first community-owned solar array on the rooftop of 195 Bowdoin Street in Dorchester, home to the Dorchester Food Co-op store opening in Spring 2023. The Dorchester Food Co-op's Solar Committee members along with Co-op Power members, and members of Solstice Initiative's Community Advisory Board have joined forces to form BCSC. We will soon be forming the special purpose entity for BCSC with fiscal sponsorship from our non-profit partner, Solstice Initiative.

### Our Partner Organizations & Roles

- **[Solstice Initiative](#)**: Nonprofit that centers traditionally excluded communities in clean energy projects, policy advocacy, and education. **Role:** *fiscal sponsor and support meeting facilitation, additional site identification, community outreach and engagement, and additional fundraising efforts.*
- **[ReVision Energy](#)**: Professional solar installers offering full service solar electric installation, heat pumps, water heating, EV charging and battery storage. **Role:** *technical advisor, give financial modeling support and support hiring of EPC contractors.*
- **[CoEverything](#)**: We help bring community projects to life through architecture, real estate development, and cooperative consulting. **Role:** *community organizing support, project management, and liaison for the Dorchester Food Co-op store.*
- **[Co-op Power](#)**: Regional Community Energy Cooperative with solar development expertise and members in MA, NH, VT, and NY. **Role:** *Community Solar Co-op expert, member engagement and governance support.*
- **[TSK Energy Solutions](#)**: whose mission is to reduce environmentally harmful greenhouse gas emissions while making energy more affordable. **Role:** *lead organizer, program support, renewable energy expertise.*
- **[Dorchester Food Co-op](#)**: A grassroots initiative to build a community-owned grocery store with over 1400 member-owner households. **Role:** *energy offtaker for first solar development, member-engagement and outreach network.*
- **[Bikes not Bombs](#)**: uses the bicycle as a vehicle for social change to achieve economic mobility for Black and other marginalized people in Boston. **Role:** *advisor & outreach.*
- **[Renewable Renegades](#)**: training, consulting, and energy brokerage in the renewable energy industry. **Role:** *energy advisor and workforce training.*
- **[Fairmont Indigo CDC Collaborative](#)**: Bringing climate justice and health equity to Dorchester, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and beyond. **Role:** *Advisor & outreach.*

# Member Bios (in no particular order)



**Miriam Gee, CoEverything/Dorchester Food Co-op** A CoFounder of CoEverything, Miriam is passionate about architecture and development and its potential for building community. She is committed to the triple bottom line and excels in project management and community engagement. Miriam is an active board member for Boston Farms Community Land Trust and the architect for the Dorchester Food Co-op store design. Miriam supports the BCSC because she believes in community-owned and community controlled renewable energy.

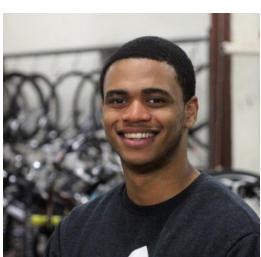


**Declan Keefe, CoEverything** Declan Keefe has over a decade of experience in architecture, construction and real estate development. Declan is an entrepreneur and has a passion for triple bottom line businesses (people, planet, prosperity). His focus has been on creating high performance, sustainable buildings at a low cost. He founded CoEverything to bring cooperative ownership to the real estate industry. His life's goal is to simply have a net positive impact, and he believes that will only be possible through collaboration and cooperation. Declan is one of the lead organizers

volunteering for BCSC.



**Montell Khaldi, Bikes Not Bombs** Montell (or Monty) is an individual deeply committed to leaving the world around him better than he found it. Hailing from Accra, Ghana, Monty is a global citizen who takes pleasure in discovering the various cultures and languages that make up the wider world around us. As a Youth Organizer, Monty dabbles in the organization's outreach efforts, staffing BNB's partnership programs with Boston Public Schools, and curriculum development for Youth Apprentices. Monty has been working on the Outreach working group of BCSC.



**Joseph Pires, Bikes Not Bombs** Joseph Pires is a Bikes Not Bombs veteran and Senior Youth Apprentice. Since 2016, Joseph has worked Bicyclists Organizing for Community Action (BOCA), the bike shop, and Bike School. At RCC Joseph will study business and finances and aspires to be an investment strategist and wealth manager. He is on the Outreach working group with BCSC.



**Kendra Beaver, FICC** Kendra Beaver is passionate about improving the lives of and bringing power to communities by working on issues including sustainability, environmental justice, environmental policy, and climate change. As Climate Justice Coordinator for the Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative (FICC) Kendra is coordinating the implementation of a three-year action plan to mitigate the impact of climate change and build community resilience, engagement, health equity, and policy change in the primarily environmental justice neighborhoods of Dorchester, Mattapan,

Hyde Park, & Roslindale. Kendra appreciates the ability to work in the community she also lives in, as a Dorchester resident. She is on the Outreach working group of BCSC.



**Beth Enrique Griffith, Renewable Renegades** A Servant Leader with a demonstrated history of working in the energy industry. Beth's work promotes and supports the flow of financial instruments and technology toward the development and implementation of sustainable business models, investments, economic, environmental, and social projects. Beth is skilled in Nonprofit Organizations, Training, Project Management, Team Building, Investing, and Public Speaking. CEO of Renewable Renegades a company that provides high-quality training, consulting, and energy brokerage in the renewable energy industry. She has been focused on the workforce training group of BCSC.



**Diana Eddowes, Solstice Initiative** Diana is the Program Director at Solstice Initiative and oversees the research, education and project development work for the non-profit. Diana manages a team that advocates for community-led solar projects for a more equitable and sustainable clean energy transition. Diana is a passionate environmental manager with extensive experience leading diverse teams to build cross-sector partnerships and complex programs to tackle environmental issues, encourage sustainability action and promote environmental justice. She's excited to bring her passion to this project and work towards a clean and equitable future for all.



**Eli Goldman, Solstice Initiative** Eli works to make energy equity a reality for all by leading research initiatives, engaging with stakeholders, and building long-lasting community partnerships. He's passionate about environmental sustainability and is excited to work towards meeting Solstice's mission. Before joining Solstice, Eli worked as an environmental planner where he helped communities to enhance their resilience to climate change. Eli is one of the lead facilitators for BCSC.



**Eve Lukens-Day, Solstice Initiative** Eve works on clean energy projects that center community and environmental justice in her role as a Program Coordinator. She strongly believes that everyone has the right to affordable, renewable energy and looks forward to helping Solstice Initiative realize that goal. Prior to joining Solstice, Eve worked with Environment America to promote clean transportation policies, from expanding funding for electric school buses to sharing ways local governments can make electric vehicles more accessible. Eve is part of the working group mapping potential sites for BCSC solar arrays.



**Cassandre Arkema, Solstice Initiative** Cassandre works at the intersection of energy, environmental, and racial justice to center communities in climate solutions. Cassandre has experience in environmental justice, community advocacy, and environmental education. Cassandre worked for the environmental education non-profit EcoRise to prioritize authentic justice, equity, and inclusion in communications. She earned a fellowship with the Citizens' Climate Lobby Diversity and Inclusion department to advocate for the social cost of carbon and community-led initiatives that complement traditional carbon pricing.



**Gregory King, TSK Energy Solutions** Gregory King, Managing Director of TSK Energy Solutions, a black owned and operated small business. Greg is the chair of the SBN Mass Go Solar Workforce Development Advisory Committee. Greg is a clean energy workforce development consultant with deep expertise in renewable energy and building energy efficiency. Greg designs world class workforce development programs that connect employers, job seekers, technical training organization and community-based organization including the Center for Smart Building Technology at Roxbury Community College, the MassSave Clean Energy Pathways Program, the Clean Energy Equity Workforce Development Program. He is also on the MassCEC Workforce Diversity Advisory Board and a member of the City of Boston, Department of Energy, Environment and Open Spaces Community Advisory Board which assists the City of Boston in making workforce development investments in "Green Jobs" training and job placements. Greg is one of the lead organizers for BCSC.



**James Manzer, ReVision Energy** James Manzer is the Director of Commercial Sales and Senior Solar Designer at ReVision Energy a 100% Employee Owned Solar Company. James has led teams and projects across New England including a portfolio of projects for the City of Boston including a 261 kW Solar Canopy. ReVision Energy Co-Owners are thrilled to be working on the BCSC project as we recognize the intersectional relationship between environmentalism and social justice, and to highlight the work that needs to be done in the clean energy industry and beyond. ReVision Energy feels it is a critical aspect of our mission to amplify the voices of underrepresented groups to educate and lead, both within ReVision Energy and with our customers and communities.



**Mela Bush-Miles, Co-op Power** Mela Bush-Miles is a Native Bostonian who has spent decades organizing and advocating for transit equity and environmental justice. She brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to her community and beyond. She formerly served as the Acting Director and Lead Organizer for The Greater Four Corners Action Coalition. She has been championing the fight for transit justice for the 100,000 plus riders and residents along the Fairmount corridor in Massachusetts. She is the Director of Transit Oriented Development and T Riders Union (TRU) at Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE). Mela is on the Board of Co-op Power and People's Solar Energy Fund and a member of the Dorchester Food Co-op, Mela founded the Co-op Power Boston Metro East CEC.



**Kate Raisz, Co-op Power** Kate Raisz is an award-winning media producer, director, and writer with thirty years of experience making films, websites, and interactive experiences for museums and broadcast television. Her expertise lies in translating complex ideas from science and natural history into compelling and dramatic media pieces for the general public. Clients include HISTORY, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Utah Museum of Natural History, Ellis Island National Immigration Museum, Biomuseo Panama, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Inner Space Center, NOAA, New England Aquarium, the Aquarium of the Pacific, Discovery

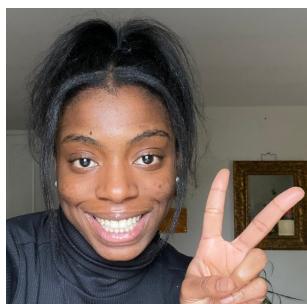
Channel, and National Geographic. Kate is involved with the Governance working group for BCSC and is a member of Co-op Power and the Dorchester Food Co-op.



**Olive Knight, Co-op Power/ Dorchester Food Co-op** Olive looks forward to the future that will make the reality of alternative energy accessible to everyone, no matter their level of economy, home ownership or status. Olive is a retired librarian, and previously worked for Co-op Power as an office manager. She brings skills in communications, project management, and technology. I have served as the Administrator for the Boston Metro East Community Energy Co-op for a number of years. Olive is part of the Dorchester Food Co-op Solar Committee and is a member of Co-op Power.



**Alphonse Knight, Co-op Power/ Dorchester Food Co-op** As a youth, Alphonse was known for his experimentations with electricity and electronics on his island home in Nevis, West Indies. After 5 years working in the field of electricity he came to the US to further his education. He became involved with solar cells as part of his training, and he visited solar installations and manufactures of solar panels. He then became a member of Co-op Power where he was exposed to the reality of alternative energy: wind, solar and geothermal. As an active member of the Co-op Power, he works in his community to get the word out about the best ways to get affordable solar in Boston. Through his influence, his own church, Second Church in Dorchester, became the first house of worship to install affordable solar and this expanded to other churches in the region. Alphonse is part of the Dorchester Food Co-op Solar Committee.



**Ruth Lazare, CoEverything/Co-op Power** Ruth is currently earning her electrical engineering degree from Umass Dartmouth. As she advances in her Electrical Engineering studies, she is beginning to realize how vital her acquired skills will be in preparing to step up to global challenges. Ruth has a strong desire to innovate, expand and scale clean energy infrastructures worldwide to promote a sustainable, equitable and resilient future. She is especially dedicated to ensuring that the future of renewables is to the benefit of all people. She is currently interning at CoEverything to help organize and develop the 195 Bowdoin Solar Array and BCSC. She is in the workforce training working group and is a member of Co-op Power.



October 8, 2022

Dear MASS CeC,

The Dorchester Food Co-op (DFC) is writing in support of the formation of the Boston Community Solar Cooperative (BCSC), a Special Purpose Entity (SPE) that will be developing a solar array at 195 Bowdoin St. This will be the new home of the Dorchester Food Co-op, which will be an energy off taker of the solar array via a power purchase agreement (PPA).

Dorchester Food Co-op is a grassroots initiative to build a community & worker-owned grocery store that makes healthy food accessible and advances economic opportunity through neighborhood engagement. With plans for a grand opening in Spring of 2023, Dorchester Food Co-op envisions a diverse and inclusive community with opportunities for employment, ownership, and access to healthy food. As a food co-op, we will serve and reflect the wide variety of cultural, racial, and socio-economic groups that make up the neighborhoods of Boston.

The Boston Community Solar Cooperative will be an energy cooperative composed of members from Co-op Power Boston, Dorchester Food Co-op, other partners that we have been working with through Solstice Initiative's Community Advisory Board, and Dorchester residents. The energy cooperative will be built on a direct and immediate member-ownership model that will also encourage investment and ownership by low-income neighbors.

The BCSC mission to fortify frontline communities with clean energy and wealth-building opportunities strongly aligns with our mission at the Dorchester Food Co-op. An EmPower Massachusetts grant award would benefit both of our community-based organizations. It is with the utmost confidence that Dorchester Food Co-op offers its support for BCSC's proposal. We look forward to working together to ensure that this project is successful and the residents of Dorchester benefit from this funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jen Silverman".

Jen Silverman  
Board Treasurer  
Dorchester Food Co-op

**Our Community. Our Market.**



October 17, 2022

Dear Mass CEC,

Solstice Initiative writes to show strong support for forming the Boston Community Solar Cooperative (BCSC), a Special Purpose Entity (SPE). The BCSC's first project at the soon-to-be-completed Dorchester Food Co-op at 195 Bowdin Street aligns with community values and is a strong representation of neighborhood resilience.

Solstice Initiative is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing equitable access to renewable energy. We were founded on the belief that every household should be able to access affordable clean energy. Our goal is to democratize the just transition to renewables by centering traditionally excluded communities in our work. The work being done at the Dorchester Food Co-op aligns with our mission to revolutionize the energy system by centering traditionally excluded communities through clean energy projects, policy advocacy, and education.

Once established, the BCSC will be led by member-owners representing the Dorchester Food Co-op, Solstice Initiative's Community Advisory Board, Co-op Power Boston, and local residents. Energy infrastructure is rarely community owned. Under the proposed model, income-qualifying households living nearby will have the opportunity to invest in and own a portion of the solar array powering the Dorchester Food Co-op.

An EmPower Implementation grant is an ideal funding source for this project. It aligns with Mass CEC's intent to provide funding to projects that will reach priority groups. Solstice Initiative is excited to collaborate on this project and see the value that it will bring to the neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Yesenia Rivera  
Executive Director  
Solstice Initiative