In May 2016, US Department of Energy (USDOE) invited the Office of Energy (OOE) to participate in the Better Buildings Initiative focused on Clean Energy for Low Income Communities. This Accelerator aims to develop a strategy to identify funding that will lead to the implementation of expanded installation of energy efficiency and distributed renewables in low income communities. The Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator further aims to “lower energy bills in low income communities through expanded installation of energy efficiency and distributed renewables. Low income households spend an average of 15 to 20 percent of their income on energy bills, whereas energy burdens above 6 percent are typically considered unaffordable. Although the primary objective of increasing clean energy installations in low income communities is to help lower energy costs, a number of additional benefits would be provided. Distributed renewables can provide stability from rising energy costs, promote economic development, and improve the environment.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Accelerator Partners will collaborate with DOE to demonstrate successful models for expanding the installation of energy efficiency and distributed renewables in low income communities.

The OOE’s goals for the Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator are:

* Identify how to overcome market barriers related to clean energy installations in low income communities, particularly by leveraging the distinct advantages of energy efficiency and distributed renewables to create a more complete set of possibilities.
* Demonstrate successful partnership approaches for integrating energy efficiency and distributed renewables delivery across the key clean energy partners in a community, such as community-based organizations, program providers, contractors, financial institutions, and customers.
* Share solutions, resources, and technologies that help low income communities install energy efficiency and renewable energy.
* Increase visibility and replication of best practice approaches and successful models.
1. <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/accelerators/clean-energy-low-income-communities> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)