From: Aliya Bagewadi
To: IPA.Storage; Ernest Benjamin
Subject: [External] StorageForAll RFI Multifamily Focus
Date: Friday, November 6, 2026 5:59:58 PM

Dear IPA Storage for All Team,

Please accept BVRE's comments on Storage for All. We recognize that the deadline was 5 p.m. Central today and respectfully request consideration of this submission, as we were unaware of its deadline till today.

1. Design shared storage to reach multifamily residents

Storage for All should explicitly support a single battery system sharing stored energy across multiple separately metered apartments, with measurable benefits delivered directly to residents. This avoids requiring a battery for every apartment or limiting shared storage to the common-area meter.

Income-qualified renters should be a deliberate priority: they face high energy burdens but generally do not control their roofs or building investments. Shared storage can give these households access to energy savings and, where authorized, financial benefits from supporting the grid.

2. Learn from multifamily solar implementation

Our team brings a combined ten years of experience working on multifamily clean energy access. In our experience, ILSFA's Residential Solar (Large) pathway has not sufficiently addressed owners' financing and administrative needs or configurations that share one rooftop system across multiple meters. The approximately $7.9 million remaining in the sub-program, reported in October, underscores the need to address participation barriers.

Storage for All should establish clear eligibility for shared systems, practical verification of resident benefits, and support for engineering, utility coordination, energy-sharing equipment, and resident engagement.

3. Build on international experience

Shared solar and battery systems are being deployed in the UK, and battery-sharing technology has launched in Australia. One example is SolShare Mark 2, marketed internationally as SolShare 2, which distributes energy from a shared system across apartment meters. Its Australian launch extends shared storage access to apartment residents.

E.ON Next and Allume's FlatSave project combines solar and a communal battery serving six social housing apartments in England. It couples resident energy benefits with grid flexibility and payments for participating residents. We are working to bring this next-generation shared-storage approach to the United States, subject to applicable engineering and approvals.

4. Clarify the pathway for multifamily participation

In sum, it is critical that the Agency recognize technologies that enable shared energy access for low-income multifamily residents and ensure its programs can support these projects in

financially and operationally feasible ways. Our questions for the multifamily pathway within Storage for All are:

1. **Eligibility and applications:** Will one battery serving multiple separately metered apartments qualify as a single project, with one coordinated building application?
2. **Eligible costs and financing:** Will incentives cover the equipment and development work needed to share stored energy, and how will payment timing support projects without upfront costs to income-qualified residents?
3. **Resident benefits:** How will the program verify household savings, protect existing solar benefits, and maintain benefits through tenant turnover?
4. **Grid participation:** How will the Agency coordinate with utilities and the ICC so shared systems can deliver resident savings and participate in grid services, with clear rules for dispatch, charging costs, and revenue allocation?
5. **Retrofits and pilots:** Can existing ILSFA projects add shared storage through a streamlined process, and what support could enable demonstration projects before full program implementation?

5. Use a pilot to inform program design

BVRE is working with the owner of a seven-unit building in Woodlawn on Chicago's South Side to share rooftop solar with residents using SolShare. The owner is keen to add shared battery storage and explore backup capability, which requires separate engineering and approvals.

A supported pilot could resolve practical questions about interconnection, applications, and benefit tracking before full program implementation. We would welcome a discussion about potential support and how its lessons could inform Storage for All.

We would be happy to speak with your team to provide more information or clarify these recommendations and questions.

If you would like to discuss more, please feel free to find a time here:
https://calendly.com/aliya-bvre/30min?back=1&month=2026-11

All the best,
Aliya

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