

<u>Mission</u>

Groundswell is a 501c3 nonprofit that builds community power through equitable community solar projects and resilience centers, clean energy programs that reduce energy burdens, and pioneering research initiatives that help light the way to clean energy futures for all.

Proposed Project

In the coming year Groundswell will leverage lessons learned from program implementation in rural communities and experience serving marginalized communities with clean energy projects to launch the development of a community resilience hub in a rural community in Will County, IL. Resilience hubs combine solar and energy storage on a microgrid to keep the lights and heat or cooling on when the power goes off, which provides essential services for local members of the community. Groundswell's approach to hub development puts people at the center by engaging community members to determine where hubs should be located and what services are a priority. Development of the resilience hub in Will County will pair with an expansion of the model to urban communities in IL and ensure that we develop a blueprint for bringing resilience hubs to additional rural communities in the future, both in Will County and other geographic areas where Groundswell works, including rural MD and rural GA.

