

JUST FOR KIDS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER



Location: Raleigh County, West Virginia

Recipient Type: Nonprofit

Congressional District: WV-1

Technology Type: Solar

Project Size: 6.72 kW

Project Cost: \$27,306

Lifetime Financial Savings: \$32,487

Tax Credits Leveraged: 30% Investment Tax Credit (ITC); 10% Energy Communities Bonus; Direct/Elective Pay

Other Programs or Incentives Leveraged: Appalachian Solar Finance Fund

Solar Saves Money for Children's Services in Beckley

After the Just For Kids Child Advocacy Center relocated to the inviting former bed-and-breakfast now known as Trudy's House of Hope in Beckley, West Virginia, in 2022, one of the main concerns of its executive director was keeping costs down. Executive Director Scott Miller looked to solar to reduce energy costs. Just For Kids installed a \$28,000-value solar array for a mere \$500 in 2023 thanks to tax credit equivalents made available through the Inflation Reduction Act, grants, and private donations.

Just For Kids Child Advocacy Center is a nonprofit organization where child protection, criminal justice and child treatment professionals dedicate themselves to providing children who have experienced sexual abuse or violence with a supportive place to share their stories and begin healing. Part of this journey includes the comforting atmosphere of Trudy's House of Hope, an environment much more fun for the kids than the office space in the bank building they previously operated in. "Kids look at it, and they see a castle," Miller said.

The castle-like headquarters, just a mile down the road from the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, is now expected to have 100% of its electricity powered by the 14-panel ground array for at least 25 to 30 years, saving over \$32,487 in electricity costs in the system's lifetime. Just For Kids was able to get the project off the ground by taking advantage of elective payment of the baseline 30% Investment Tax Credit and the 10% Energy Communities bonus credit, both made available through the IRA, as well as a grant from the Appalachian Solar Finance Fund and a zero-interest bridge loan from Invest Appalachia. The project was eligible for the energy communities bonus due to the area's high unemployment rate, significant employment tied to coal mining, and shuttered coal infrastructure.

"With the [Inflation Reduction Act] passing, one of the things that's happened for nonprofits and churches is that they can take advantage of the same tax credits that businesses have taken advantage of for years," said Thomas Ramey, a solar evaluator for Solar Holler and son of a coal miner who worked on the project.

"We thought this would be good for Just For Kids and a good model for the community," said Golden. "It will be really beneficial in both the short and long term."

