



**FACT SHEET (March 2, 2015)**  
**Energy Sharing Campaign**  
**Benefiting Community First! Village And Creating**  
**The World's First Community Powered By Crowdsourced Energy**

### **Mission**

Inspire people to improve the lives of others by donating energy to help power [Community First! Village](#) during its first year of full operation. This will create the world's first community powered by crowdsourced energy. The campaign seeks to raise \$85,000 of the estimated \$213,000 in electricity the village will need.

### **Village Snapshot**

A project of [Mobile Loaves & Fishes](#), the visionary 27-acre, master planned Community First! Village in Southeast Austin, Texas will provide affordable, sustainable housing and a supportive community for approximately 240 disabled, chronically homeless people. Scheduled to open in Spring 2015.

### **Campaign Facilitators**

- Mobile Loaves & Fishes, a social ministry that provides food, clothing, housing and dignity to homeless people in Central Texas.
- [Gridmates](#), the world's first internet platform designed to eliminate the global problem of energy poverty by enabling peer-to-peer energy sharing. Energy poverty occurs when people cannot afford to pay for electricity and other utilities.

### **Sponsors and Supporters**

Mobile Loaves & Fishes and Gridmates are collaborating with a coalition of leading Texas corporations and nonprofits that are passionate about the success of Community First! Village and ending energy poverty.

- Sponsors
  - [CLEARResult](#)
  - [Silicon Labs](#)
  - [ITRON](#)
- Supporters
  - Austin Mayor Steve Adler
  - [Energy Thought Summit](#)
  - [Angelou Economics](#)
  - [Annie's Café & Bar](#)
  - [CleanTX](#)
  - [CMG](#)
  - [Energy Thought Summit](#)
  - [Net Impact](#)

### **Community First! Village Energy Costs**

Community First! Village needs electricity to power 240 micro-homes, RVs and canvas tents, outdoor kitchens, bath houses, laundry facilities, chapels, a great hall, a medical office, an outdoor theatre and an operations building. The



following numbers are estimates based on current electricity rates in Texas combined with Mobile Loaves & Fishes' projections about the village's first-year electricity usage.

Category	Costs (\$)
First-year total electricity costs	\$ 213,000.00
Annual electricity cost/resident	\$ 895.00
Daily cost for village's electricity	\$ 581.00
Daily cost of electricity/resident	\$ 2.50

### Energy Donation Impacts for Community First! Village

- \$10 funds a village resident's energy needs for more than five days
- \$20 covers the cost of electricity for:
  - One resident for more than a week.
  - Heating/cooling for one resident for one month.
  - Lighting the entire village for approximately one day.
  - Operating the village's kitchens for about four days.
- \$40 buys daily electricity for the laundry rooms so 240 residents always have clean clothing.
- \$50 is the cost for running the bathhouses every day so everyone can take a hot shower.

### Energy Poverty Prevalence

- Austin: More than 169,000 people living in Austin are at or below the federal poverty line. At risk of experiencing energy poverty, they qualify for energy-related government assistance. (Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#))
- Texas: More than 4.6 million people in Texas are at or under the federal poverty line and likewise may have trouble paying their electric bills. They also are candidates for energy assistance from the government. In 2013, approximately 192,705 households received energy assistance for heating and cooling from the federal [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP). (Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Campaign for Home Energy Assistance -- LIHEAP Action Center](#))
- United States: Approximately 48 million people are at or below the poverty line and may be suffering from energy poverty. In 2014, LIHEAP provided energy assistance to roughly 6.9 million households nationwide. (Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); Campaign for Home Energy Assistance, ["Investing in LIHEAP – Why Energy Assistance Is More Important Than Ever," March 2014](#))

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