



Illinois Solar for All

Illinois Solar for All Program

2/27/2025

Opportunities for Small and Emerging Businesses in Community Solar

- ILSFA overview
 - Sub-programs
- Community Solar (CS)
 - CS Model
 - Project Development Steps
 - Roles for Small and Emerging Businesses
 - Clean Energy Connector
- Small & Emerging Business Initiative
- Q&A



About Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA)

- Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) is one of two flagship state solar programs
- ILSFA provides incentives to bring solar to income-eligible households and non-profit and public facilities
- Approved Vendors (solar companies) drive projects



ILSFA Project Types: Residential Solar

- **Single-family homes**

Must have an income of 80% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI). Landlords can apply for single-family homes they own if tenants are income-eligible.

- **Two to Four Units**

At least two units must be occupied by households with incomes of 80% or less of the AMI.

- **Five units or larger**

At least half of units must be occupied by households with incomes of 80% or less of the AMI.



ILSFA Project Types: Non-Profit/Public Facilities

Organizations must meet all of the below criteria to be eligible for Illinois Solar for All:

- Occupy a property within an ILSFA environmental justice or income-eligible community.
- Be a critical service provider—a non-profit or public entity that offers critical services (e.g., hospitals, houses of worship, senior centers, food pantries, and libraries).
- Be a public facility that hosts a department or agency that is a critical service provider.
- Demonstrate community engagement.



ILSFA Project Types: Community Solar

Participant Requirements

- Households must have an income of 80% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI).
- Subscribers can enroll in an ILSFA project located anywhere in their utility service territory.



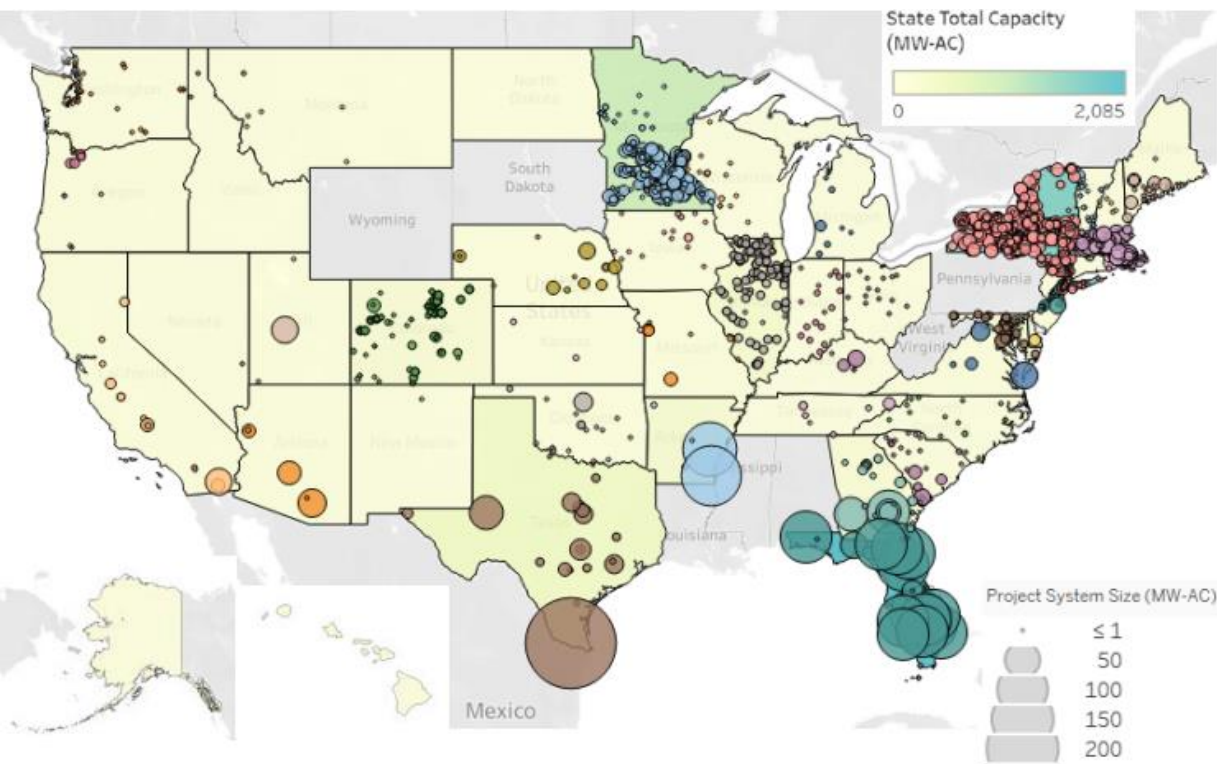
Community Solar Basics

What is Community Solar?

- A shared solar system that allows multiple participants (aka subscribers) to benefit from solar power without installing panels on their property.
- Ideal for renters, entities with limited rooftop space, and sites not suitable for onsite solar.



Community Solar Capacity by State



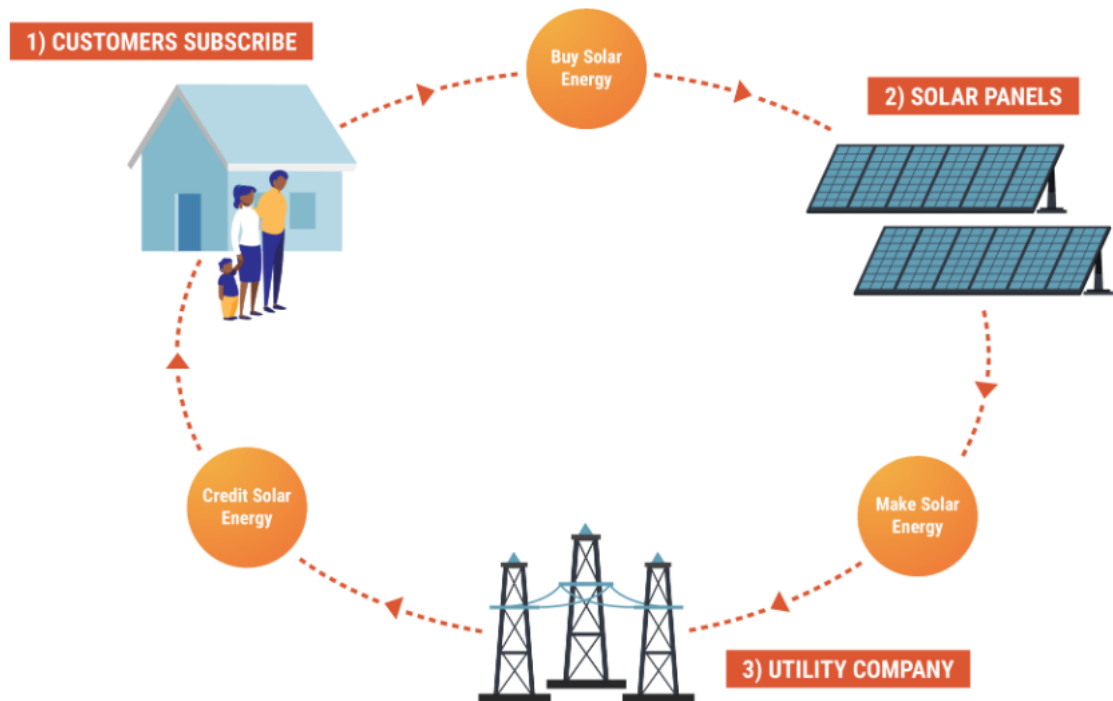
- **Total Community Solar Capacity:** As of June 2024, we estimate total community solar capacity of 7,870 megawatts-alternating current (MW_{ac}) across 3,404 projects in 44 states and localities, including the District of Columbia.
- **State Variability:** The distribution of community solar capacity among states ranges from 0 to 2,085 MW_{ac} . Notably, Florida claims the top position in terms of community solar deployment capacity.
- **Visual Representation:** The bubbles on the chart represent individual project sizes, ranging from less than 1 MW_{ac} up to 200 MW_{ac} . In Texas and Arkansas, projects over 100 MW_{ac} have partial capacity dedicated to community solar. The bubbles for each state are the same color, allowing for differentiation between states.

- Data Source: NREL, Sharing the Sun Project List 2024.



Community Solar Model

1. Customers subscribe to community solar
2. Solar panels produce energy
3. Utility company sends electricity to customers, receive bill credits



ILSFA Community Solar Energy Sovereignty

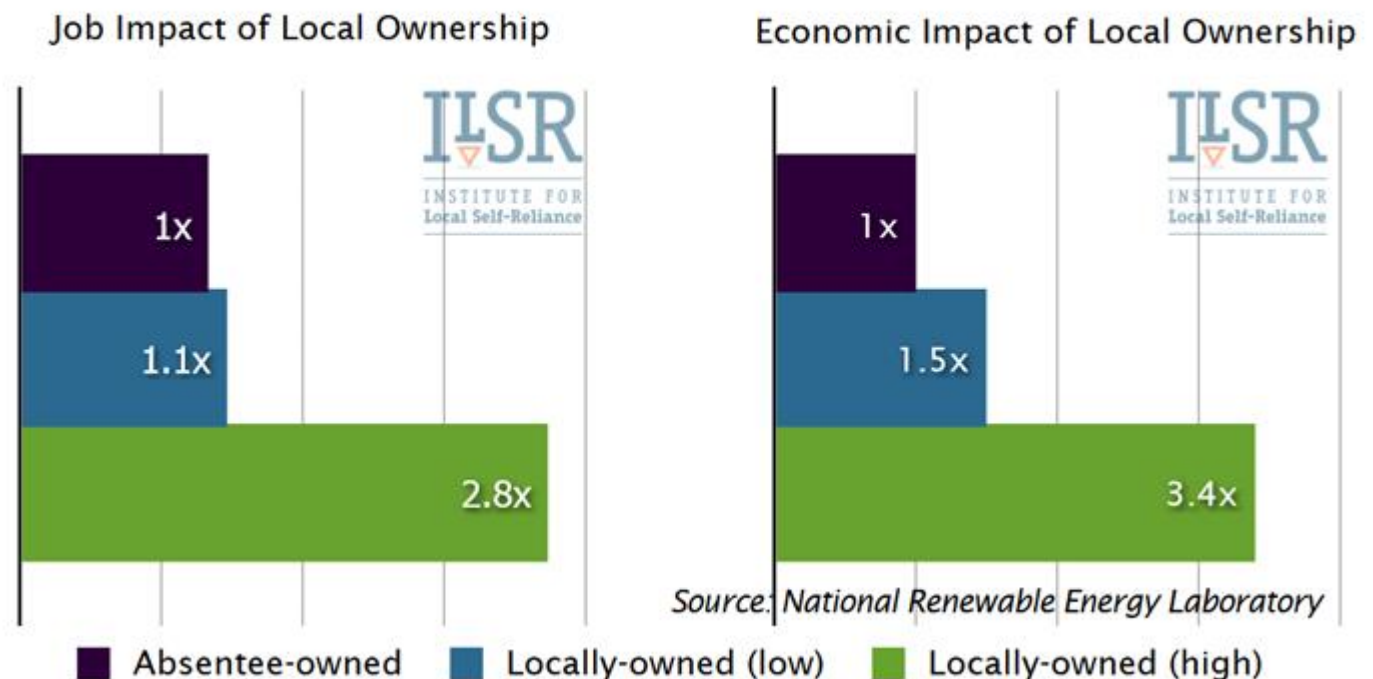
- ILSFA's CS subprogram has a 25% budget reservation for Energy Sovereignty projects
- CS projects can qualify for the Energy Sovereignty designation through an ownership (including ownership by income-eligible households, affordable housing owners, and non-profits) or cooperative model for at least 50% of the energy produced.



Locally-Owned Solar Provides Local Benefits

Local Ownership = higher jobs numbers and higher economic returns to communities.

Local Ownership Means More Jobs & More Local Economic Impact



Project Development Phases and Small and Emerging Business Opportunities

Small and Emerging Businesses can play key roles in CS project development:

- Site Selection
- Project Development and Financing
- Permitting and Interconnection
- Construction and Commissioning
- Subscriber Enrollment and Operations



Site Selection & Feasibility

- **Hosting a Project:** Businesses with suitable rooftops or land can lease space for community solar installations or play a role in identifying and securing a site.
- **Providing Services:** Contractors, electricians, engineers, surveyors, drone operators and other professionals can support development.
- **Site Feasibility Factors:**
 - Zoning & permitting for commercial and mixed-use buildings.
 - Roof condition & structural integrity.
 - Proximity to electrical infrastructure –ease and cost for interconnection.
 - Site control.



Project Development & Financing

Ways Small Businesses Can Engage:

As Solar Developers: Small firms lead development or can partner with larger developers.

As Service Providers: Opportunities for electricians, engineers, construction firms, site surveys and subscription managers.

Funding & Incentives:

- **Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA):** Offers 15-year Renewable Energy Contract (REC incentives) for selected projects.
- **Federal & State Incentives:** Investment Tax Credit (ITC), utility rebates, and DCEO grants.



Permitting & Interconnection

Navigating the Approval Process:

- Permitting requirements vary by location—early engagement with permitting/building officials is key.
- Understanding interconnection costs & processes helps determine feasibility and avoid delays.

Small Business Roles:

- Electrical contractors, engineers and project managers can assist with utility interconnection.
- Local engineering firms can support site assessments and designs.



Construction & Commissioning

Key Construction Phases:

1. Site preparation and infrastructure setup.
2. Solar panel installation and electrical work.
3. System testing, inspections, and final approvals.



Small Business Roles:

- Subcontracting work for installation, electrical services, or maintenance.
- Providing materials and logistics support.



Subscriber Enrollment & Operations

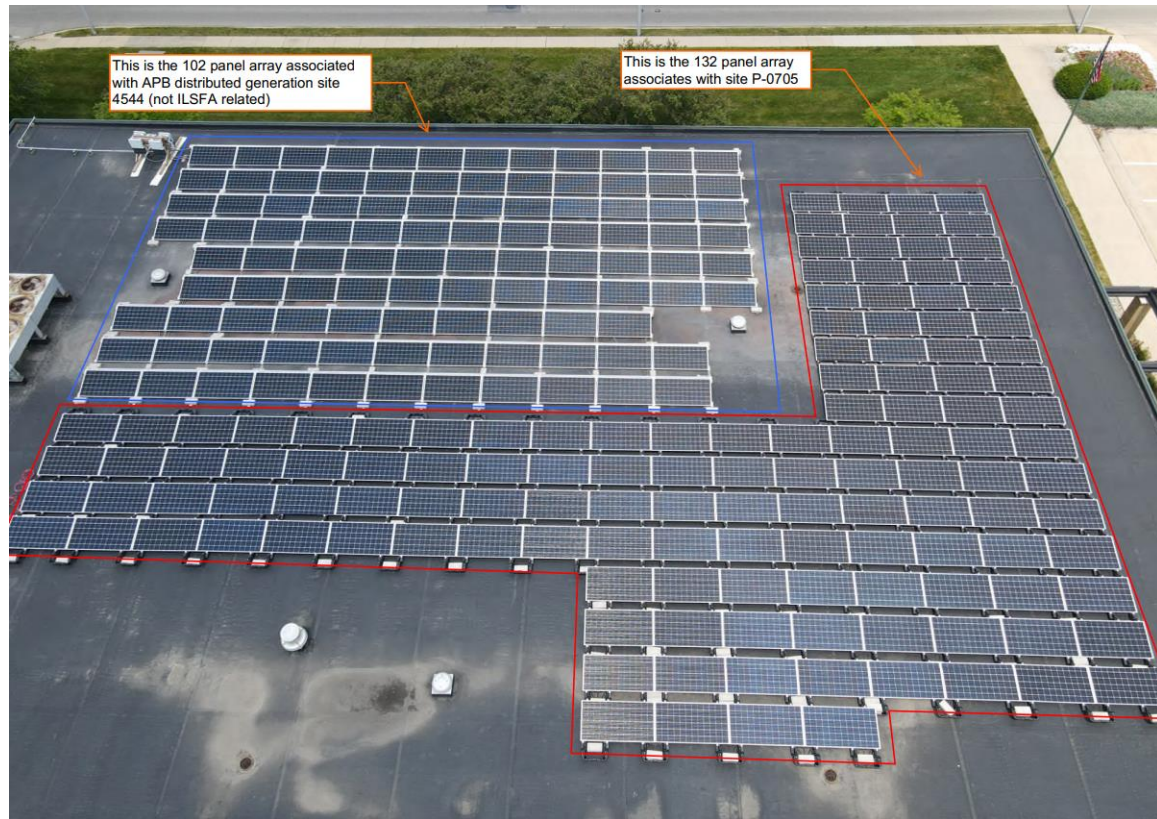
Roles for Small Businesses:

- Maintenance contracts for system upkeep and landscaping services.
- Outreach & education services for community engagement.
- Subscriber management services - enrollment and customer service.



Rooftop Community Solar Project Example

- Rooftop CS project
- 33kW
- Installed in 2021 in Champaign
- Provides subscriptions to four low-income households



Clean Energy Connector



The Clean Energy Connector is a digital platform that makes community solar projects with verified savings and strong consumer protections more accessible to households participating in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Subscription managers will grab basic household information from the Connector and complete enrollment outside of the platform.

All households uploaded into the Connector are LIHEAP-approved

- Subscription managers will not have to re-certify income
- Streamlined enrollment process to an ILSFA Community Solar project
- See: <https://connector.nrel.gov/>

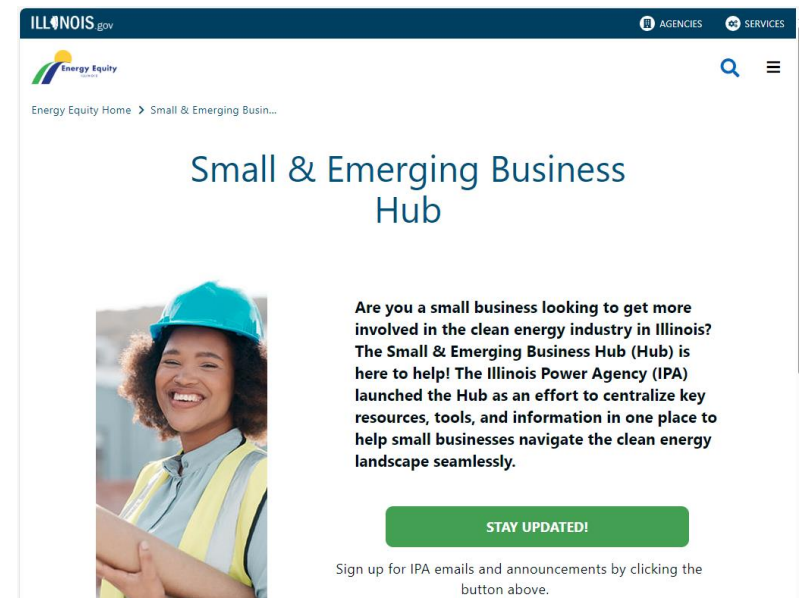


ILSFA Small and Emerging Business Initiative

- The Small & Emerging Business initiative supports Approved Vendors and prospective Approved Vendors through 1:1 meetings, workshops, webinars, partnerships, information and resources.

Small & Emerging Business Hub

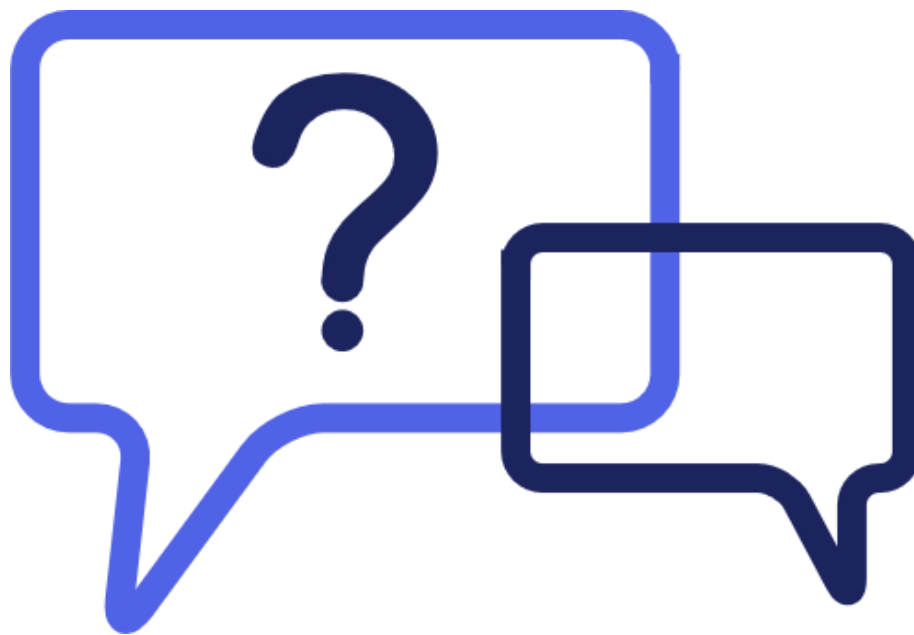
- Solar incentive programs
- Growing a Small Business
- Grants and Funding
- Workforce & Training Programs



- <https://energyequity.illinois.gov/small-emerging-business-hub.html>



Questions?



Contact Us

Jan Gudell

Jan.Gudell@elevatenp.org

Tonya Johnson

Tonya.Johnson@elevatenp.org

Illinois Solar for All Team

888-970-ISFA

Info@illinoisSFA.com



ILLINOIS SOLAR FOR ALL



Revolutionizing the future of clean energy

We're making decarbonization easy and accessible for generations to come.

nexamp

NEXAMP 2024 |

NEXAMP.COM

Who is Nexamp?

- DG/IC Community Solar provider founded in 2007 by two US Army Veterans
- HQ in Boston Mass.
- HQ2 announced in 2023 – Chicago, Ill.
- Named #1 Community Solar Company by Solar Power World for second year in a row

"Solar power belongs everywhere. By decentralizing the energy system and offering our subscribers savings on their electricity costs, we're building a future of energy that's clean, simple, and accessible."

[Zaid Ashai, Chairman and CEO](#)

- Own and operate sites we build
- www.nexamp.com

Nexamp Illinois

- Illinois is Nexamp's fastest growing region in the US
- Forecasted to build ~ 70 solar sites in Illinois in 2025
- Average size of sites in Illinois is 5 MWdc
- Sites located across entire state of Illinois
- Typically located in an agricultural field close to a community, but can be located within city limits
- Traditional Solar, Community Solar are the typical spaces we operate in, utility scale in the future

5MWac site in Illinois

- Civil needs vary by topography and AHJ requirements
 - Site entrance road, equipment pad, array grading if needed
 - Ground mount tracker 2P racking system – manufacturers vary. 700 to 1000 piles driven (manufacturer design driven)

PILE TYPE	SYMBOL	TYPE	MIN. EMBED- MENT*	MIN. REVEAL	MAX. REVEAL**	TOTAL LENGTH**	TOTAL LENGTH**	F _y YIELD	DESIGN QTY.	COLOR
			(ft)	(ft)	(ft)	(ft)	(m)	(ksi)		CODE
EDGE, INTERMEDIATE DRIVE PILES	A	W8x18	15.25	7.64	9.14	24.39	7.43	50.00	50	BLACK
EXTERIOR DRIVE PILES	B	W8x24	15.25	7.64	9.14	24.39	7.43	50.00	106	RED
EXTERIOR, INTERMEDIATE, EDGE DAMPER PILES	C	W8x18	15.25	8.22	9.72	25.0	7.61	50.00	420	GREEN
EXTERIOR, INTERMEDIATE, EDGE NO DAMPER PILES	D	W8x18	15.25	8.22	9.72	25.0	7.61	50.00	307	MAROON

- 10,000 to 12,000 – 530W to 580W bifacial solar panels
- Buried and above ground conductors
- Combiner boxes per string
- Equipment pad
- Central inverter or string inverters
- Pad mount transformer
- Equipment pad
- MV construction – 4 poles, meter, disconnect, isolation switches, metering, interconnect equipment

Financial Information

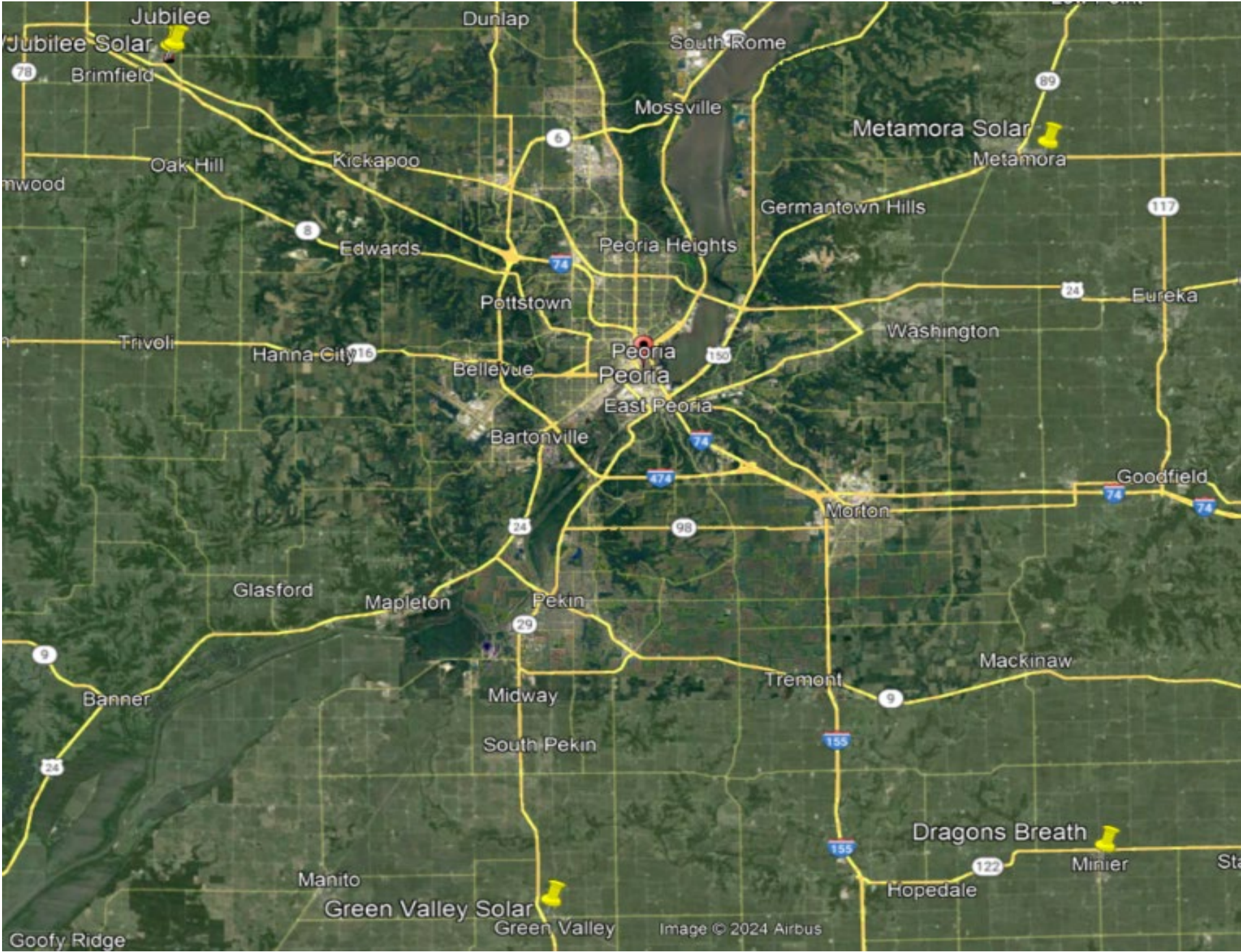
5MWac – 6.5MWdc Budgets vary widely based on equipment needs and terrain

- All budgets vary depending upon complexity or special conditions and equipment
- Typical civil scope ~ \$500,000.00 labor and materials – typical head count – 4 people, various equipment
- Typical electrical scope ~ \$3,000,000.00 labor and materials - typical head count – 20 people (includes MV and testing)
- Typical mechanical scope ~ \$1,300,000.00 labor and equipment – head count – 20 people
- Typical fence scope ~ \$130,000.00 labor and equipment – head count – 6 people
- Landscape can vary widely depending upon local requirements, \$50k to \$200k, headcount varies also
 - Specific seed mixes, tree and shrub requirements vary widely
- Supervision not included in headcount

Becoming a Nexamp vendor

- Vendor onboarding process
 - Executed MNDA
 - Executed Master Contract
 - Proof of insurance
 - General Liability - \$1M per occurrence; \$2M aggregate
 - Auto Liability - \$1M
 - Worker's comp - \$1M
 - Umbrella/Excess - \$5M
- OSHA 300 logs - past three years incident rate
- Project Agreement per project, PDS per project
- Must pay prevailing wage "Heavy Highway" classification – ABP/MES/IRA standards
- Contact me - thansen@nexamp.com – Director Deployment
- Kevin Moore – kmoore@nexamp.com - Program Manager
- Denice Hallstein – dhallstein@nexamp.com – Construction Manager
- Marion Jones – mjones@nexamp.com – V. P. Workforce Development

Peoria sites



Jubilee Solar – 3.01 MWdc

Metamora Solar – 7.72 MWdc

Dragons Breath – 7.2 MWdc

Green Valley – 6.43 MWdc

20 to 35 miles from Peoria

Programs at Nexamp – CO, Solar Sunrise. Fellowships

Contact me for questions or vendor set up:

Todd Hansen – thansen@nexamp.com

Illinois Shines Program

Presented by Illinois Shines
Program Administrator



Agenda

1 Illinois Shines Overview

2 What is a REC

3 Program Block Categories

4 Block Structure

5 Types of Program Participants

6 Approved Vendor Application and
Ongoing Program Requirements

7 Designee Registration and Ongoing
Program Requirements

8 Equity Eligible Contractor

9 Minimum Equity Standards

10 Project Application Process

11 Program Support and Resources

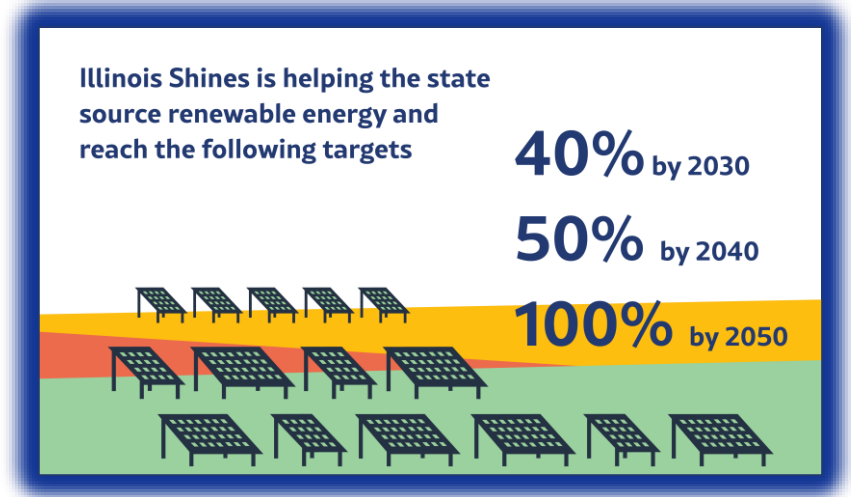
13 Questions



What is Illinois Shines?

Program Overview

- Illinois Shines is a state-administered incentive program supporting the development of new solar energy generation in Illinois.
 - The program was created under the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) and continued under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA).
- State-mandated Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) require Illinois utilities to demonstrate that a certain portion of their energy is generated by renewable sources.
 - The Illinois Shines program incentivizes Approved Vendors to develop solar projects by certifying renewable energy credits (RECs) for the electricity produced by their projects.
 - RECs are purchased from Approved Vendors by Illinois utilities.
 - Approved vendors pass the value of these payments to the customer in the form of reduced purchase prices, installation costs, lease payments, or other methods agreed upon in a contract.



What is a REC?

- A Renewable Energy Credit (REC) represents the environmental value of the electricity generated from solar panels, but not the electricity itself.
- Illinois Shines is based on the purchase and retirement of RECs.
- RECs are assigned a monetary value to incentivize the development of renewable generation.
- Each Program Year, the IPA sets the price for RECs for various types of projects that apply to Illinois Shines in that Program Year.

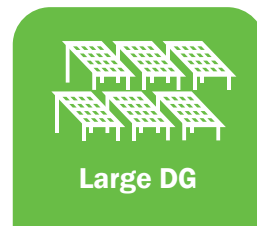
1 REC = 1 MWh



Program Block Categories

The Program created separate sectors targeting the needs of developers and Illinois residents and businesses. Current Program sectors include:

Small Distributed Generation:	Projects up to and including 25 kW in size suited for homeowners and small businesses.
Large Distributed Generation:	Projects greater than 25 kW and up to and including 5 MW in size, such as large installations targeting business and utility-scale power producers.
Traditional Community Solar:	Projects up to 5MW in size targeting those who are unable to host a project on their property.
Community-Driven Community Solar:	Projects up to 5MW for which development is driven by the members of the community the project will serve.
Equity Eligible Contractors:	Projects submitted by an Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC) Approved Vendors certified by the Program.
Public Schools:	Any solar project, whether Small or Large Distributed Generation, or community solar project that serves a public school in Illinois.



Types of Program Participants

- **Approved Vendors**

- Approved Vendors are entities approved by the Program Administrator (as an agent of the Illinois Power Agency) to submit project applications to the Illinois Shines Program and act as a counterparty to the Illinois Shines contracts with utilities.

- **Designees**

- Designees are third party (i.e., non-Approved Vendor) entities that have direct interaction with end-use customers; they include installers, marketing firms, community solar subscriber agents, lead generators, and sales organizations.

- **Equity Eligible Contractors**

- Defined as "a business that is majority-owned by equity eligible persons (EEPs), or a nonprofit or cooperative that is majority-governed by eligible persons, or is a natural person that is an eligible person offering personal services as an independent contractor."



Approved Vendor Application and Ongoing Program Requirements



Approved Vendor (AV) Registration

Prospective AVs must first submit an Approved Vendor application form

- Form includes contact information, company background, vendor classification and project types, legal and regulatory information.

Required Supplemental Documents for AV Registration:

- Illinois Secretary of State Statement of Good Standing dated within the past 12 Months
- Proof of PJM-GATS aggregator account or M-RETS account ownership
- DG Installer Certification from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) (if applicable)
 - This is required only for AVs that are applying to become a DG Installer
- A representative sample of your company's marketing resources (if applicable)

Review process is approximately 4-6 weeks

- Applicants are expected to respond to requests for additional information within 2 weeks



Approved Vendor Application form can be found in the Become an AV or Designee section of the Illinois Shines Website:
<https://illinoisshines.com/become-an-av-or-designee/>

Supplemental Documents must be emailed to admin@illinoisshines.com

Ongoing Program Requirements for AVs

There are ongoing program requirements that must be met **regardless** of whether the AV has any active REC contracts or not:

Bi-Annual Report	Minimum Equity Standards (MES) Compliance Plan
Annual Report	MES Compliance Mid-Year Report
Approved Vendor Renewal	MES Compliance End of Year Report
Designee Management Plan	

There are ongoing, REC contract-specific program requirements that must be met:

 Community Solar
Subscriber Verification

 Project Inspections

Designee Registration and Ongoing Program Requirements




Designee Types

Designees of Designees are called Nested Designees and may hold only Marketing/Sales Designee or Installer Designee roles since only Approved Vendors can add Disclosure Form Designees and Community Solar Subscriber Agent Designees directly beneath their Approved Vendor account.

- **Disclosure Form Designees:** An entity that the Approved Vendor has designated that is permitted to generate Disclosure Forms on behalf of the Approved Vendor.
- **Community Solar Subscriber Agent Designees:** An entity that the Approved Vendor has designated to manage the community solar subscription information for an Approved Vendor's community solar projects.
- **Marketing or Sales Designees:** An entity that the Approved Vendor or Designee has designated to act as a marketing agent and/or customer acquisition agent on behalf of the Approved Vendor or Designee.
- **Installer Designees:** An entity that the Approved Vendor or Designee has designated to install systems on the Approved Vendor's or Designee's behalf.

Requirements Upon Registration as a Designee



Approved Vendor/Parent Designee

Approved Vendor/Parent Designee ID

Designee/Nested Designee Information

Name

Company Name

Street Address

Phone

City

State

Email Address

Zip Code

Type of Designee/Nested Designee:

☐ Disclosure Form Designee

☐ Community Solar Subscriber Designee

Select all that apply

☐ Marketing or Sales Designee

☐ Installer Designee

D/B/A Information: Please provide information related to "trade name", "assumed name" or other "doing business as" (d/b/a) company name information.

Social Media: Please include all social media accounts that contain Illinois Shines information, market your company's Illinois Shines offers, and/or connects customers to the Illinois Shines program.

We hereby agree to the following terms and conditions for our approval and ongoing participation as an Approved Vendor Designee ("Designee") in the Illinois Shines Program.

☐ We have reviewed and commit to comply with all Illinois Shines requirements applicable to our work as a Designee.

☐ We have read, understand, and will abide by the Consumer Protection Handbook, Program Guidebook, and associated materials, and commit to ensuring that our employees and any agents operating on our behalf are trained to understand and abide by these requirements.

☐ We acknowledge that, subject to our approval as a Designee by one or more Approved Vendors, we will be listed in a public database of Designees on the Illinois Shines website (illinoisshines.com).

☐ We will maintain accurate, current, and comprehensive registration information related to our business relationships with Approved Vendors and Designees and acknowledge this information is subject to review, verification, and acceptance by the Approved Vendor.

☐ We acknowledge and accept that Designees that act in violation of Illinois Shines requirements are subject to disciplinary action from the IPA which could result in suspension from the Illinois Shines program of both the Designee and/or any Approved Vendors on whose behalf the Designee ultimately acts.

Additionally, through my execution below, I assert that I have the authority to enter into binding agreements on behalf of this Designee.

Signature

Print Name

Title

Company

Date


2


Acknowledge business relationship with their AV

Identify categories of the consumer-facing services provided

Submit an annual MES Compliance Plan (exception: EEC Designees)

Submit an Illinois Secretary of State Statement of Good Standing dated within the past 12 months

 Illinois Shines

 **IPA**
ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY

Equity Eligible Contractors Category Overview



Equity Eligible Contractors (EECs)

- Illinois Shines created a category for Approved Vendors, Designees, and subcontractors defined as "a business that is majority-owned by **equity eligible persons (EEPs)**, or a nonprofit or cooperative that is majority-governed by eligible persons, or is a natural person that is an eligible person offering personal services as an independent contractor." ([p.16 of Program Guidebook](#))
- Equity Eligible Person:
 - a) people who graduated from or are current or former participants in the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, the Illinois Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program, Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, or the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program, and the solar training pipeline and multi-cultural jobs program created in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3) of Section 16-108.21 of the Public Utilities Act;
 - b) people who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system;
 - c) people who were formerly incarcerated
 - d) people whose primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community (<https://energyequity.illinois.gov/resources/equity-investment-eligible-community-map.html>)
- EEPs may register in the [Energy Workforce Equity Portal](#). If they are not listed on the portal, EEPs must provide evidence of the criterion they are meeting to determine eligibility.



There are three different ways to participate in the Program as an EEC:

EEC Approved Vendors (AVs):

- Are able to submit applications into a separate, reserved block of project capacity available only to EEC Approved Vendors
- May request an Advance of Capital to the lesser of \$750,000 or 50% of the REC contract value per project
- Are exempt from meeting the Minimum Equity Standard

EEC Designees and Subcontractors:

- May utilize their EEC status to appeal to interested customers or Approved Vendors that wish to partner with EECs
- Contribute additional points toward projects in the Traditional Community Solar and Community-Driven Community Solar categories (thus increasing the chance of moving forward and obtaining a REC contract)
- Are exempt from meeting the Minimum Equity Standard



New EEC Subcontractor Designation

- Intended for businesses that qualify as an EEC and seek to participate in the Program but do not have a relationship with an AV or Designee and/or do not have a customer-facing role.
- EEC Subcontractors must work with an Approved Vendor or Designee to participate in the Program, but may register prior to establishing such relationships. Any EEC Subcontractor that intends to interact with end-use customers on behalf of an Approved Vendor must register as a Designee before acting in that capacity.
- Approved Vendors working with EEC Subcontractors can score points for Traditional Community Solar and Community Driven Community Solar projects.
- EEC Subcontractors will need to re-certify as an EEC each year.



How to Register as an EEC

1. Visit the [Become an Equity Eligible Contractor \(EEC\)](#) located on the Illinois Shines website and download EEC attestation form
2. Complete and Submit the EEC Attestation and the [EEC Application](#)
 - The Program Administrator may ask for additional documentation showing proof of eligibility
3. Check your email frequently and respond to any follow up requests from the Program Administrator during your application review
 - The application review takes approximately two weeks



CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATION FOR EQUITY ELIGIBLE CONTRACTOR STATUS

Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Organization/Entity: _____

Please select the option that best describes your association with the organization/entity:

<input type="checkbox"/> Sole Owner	<input type="checkbox"/> Shareholder
<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Owner or Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Board member
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent contractor offering professional services	


This certification will be used to determine the whether the above-listed individual, organization, or entity qualifies as an equity eligible contractor under Section 1-10 of the Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 3855/1-10) as amended by Public Act 102-0662. Under this provision, a business that is majority-owned by eligible persons or a non-profit or cooperative organization that is majority-governed by eligible persons qualifies as an equity eligible contractor. Persons identifying as one of the following qualify as an eligible person offering personal services as an independent contractor.

By checking a box and signing below, you certify that the information provided is true and complete and that you understand that this document will be used for state government purposes. Please select the category for which you qualify:

- ☐ I have graduated from or am a current or former participant in the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, the Illinois Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, or the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program, and the solar training pipeline and multi-cultural jobs program created in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3) of Section 16-108.21 of the Public Utilities Act.
- ☐ I am a graduate of or am currently enrolled in the foster care system.
- ☐ I have been convicted of a crime and was incarcerated for that conviction.
- ☐ My primary residence is located in an equity investment eligible community, as defined by Section 1-10 of the Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 3855/1-10) and amended by Public Act 102-0662.

Illinois Shines
(877) 783-1820 | admin@illinoisshines.com
www.illinoisshines.com

Illinois Shines is a state-administered solar incentive program developed and managed by the Illinois Power Agency and administered through its third-party Program Administrator, Energy Solutions.



If you would like the Illinois Power Agency to treat this attestation and the information therein as confidential, please check the box below.

☐ Please keep the information attested to above confidential and do not release it without my written permission.

I certify that I have personal knowledge of the above information and that it is true and correct.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPROVED VENDOR

As the applying Approved Vendor seeking certification as an equity eligible contractor, I attest to understanding that this information will be used for state government purposes and that knowingly providing false or misleading information may result in denial of the application or other consequences, including possible Program disciplinary action against an applicant Approved Vendor.

Printed Name: _____

Authorized Vendor Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

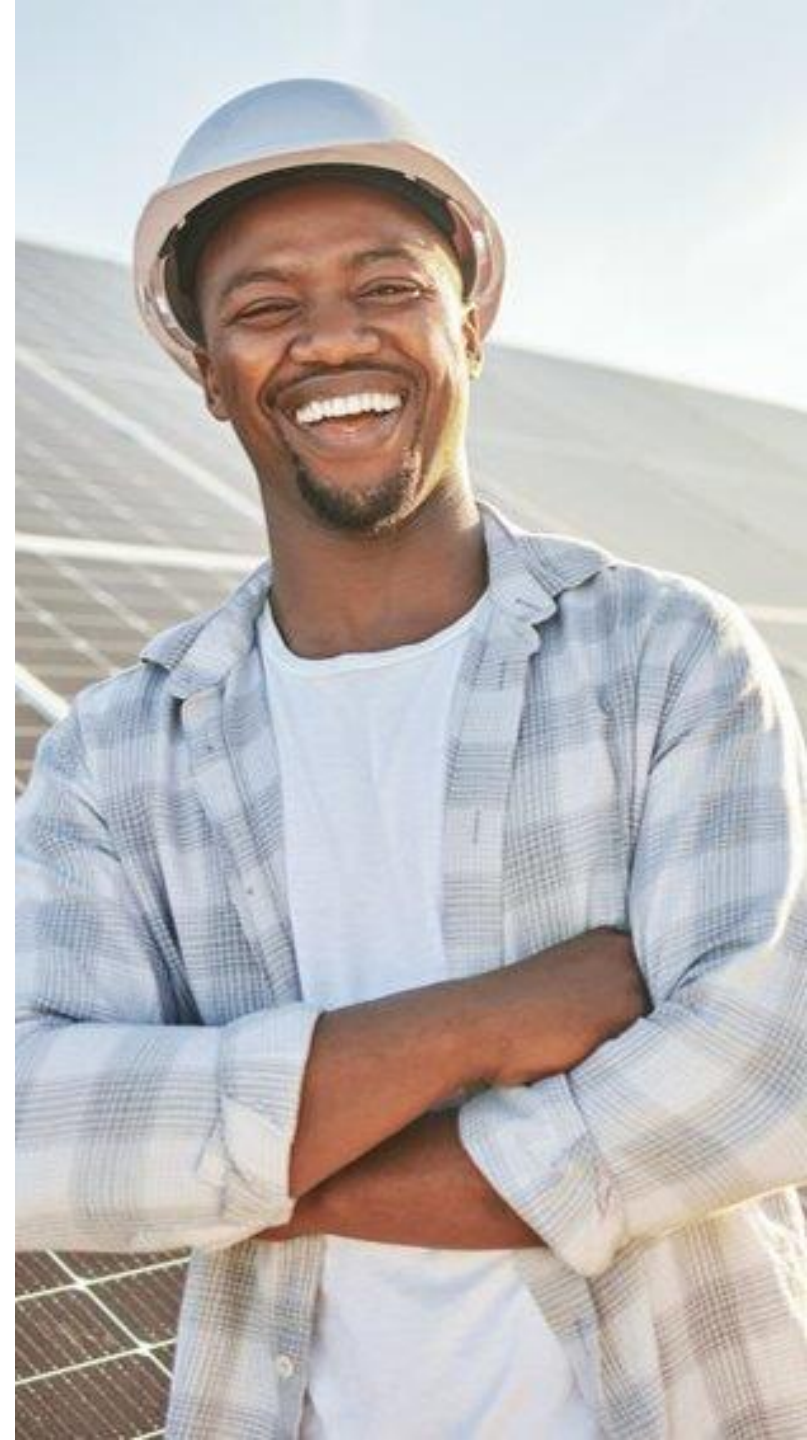
Illinois Shines
(877) 783-1820 | admin@illinoisshines.com
www.illinoisshines.com

Illinois Shines is a state-administered solar incentive program developed and managed by the Illinois Power Agency and administered through its third-party Program Administrator, Energy Solutions.

EEC Attestation

Abilities and Benefits of Being an EEC

1. Access to capacity in EEC Category
2. Scoring Points in the Community Solar Category
3. Advance of Capital
 - Up to 50% of contract value may be advanced to an EEC-certified Approved Vendor
 - [Scoring Criteria](#) and [Rationale](#)
4. Priority Reallocation
5. Program Support
6. Waived from meeting Minimum Equity Standards



Minimum Equity Standards



MES Compliance Requirements

Beginning in Program Year 2023-24, each participating Approved Vendor and Designee must meet a required minimum percentage of their project workforce that includes Equity Eligible Persons, with this required percentage increasing to 30% by 2030.* The MES requirement for the 2023-24 Program year is 10% EEPs for an entity's workforce.

MES Compliance Plans

- Approved Vendors and Designees are required to file an annual Minimum Equity Standard Compliance Plan (“Compliance Plan”) at the beginning of each Program Year. The Compliance Plan will reflect how the Approved Vendor or Designee plans to achieve compliance with the minimum equity standard percentage for work completed in the upcoming Program Year.

MES Mid-Year Report

- Halfway through the Program year, each Approved Vendor and Designee must respond to a written inquiry from the Agency or Program Administrator, by submitting a Mid-Year report confirming that their Minimum Equity Standard Compliance Plan is progressing in accordance with MES requirements.

MES End-Year Report

- Within 45 days after the end of the Program year, each Approved Vendor or Designee must submit a Year-End Report. The Year-End Report will confirm or update information from the original Compliance Plan including data on actual performance.

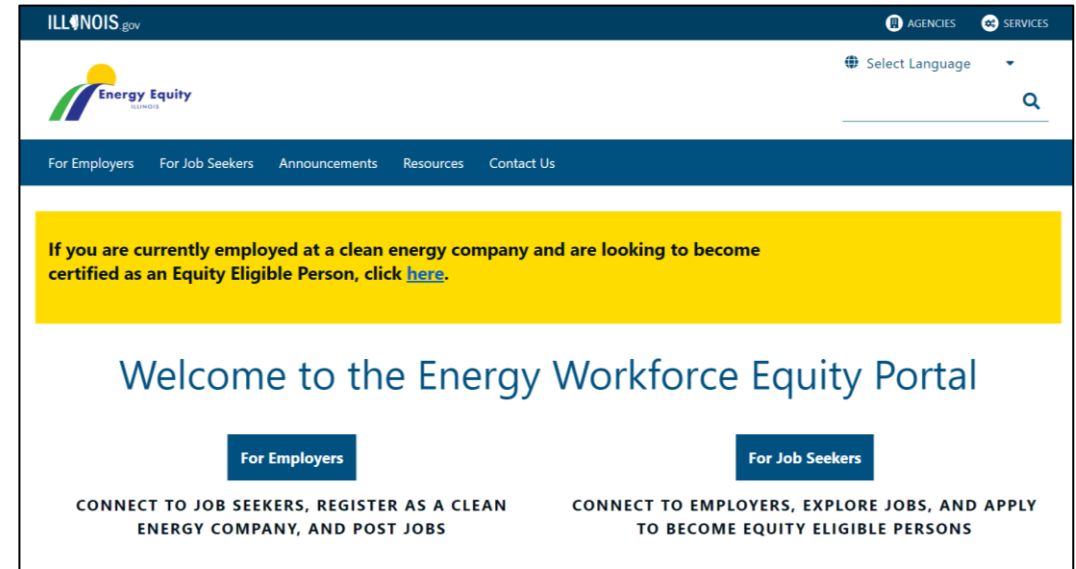
Energy Workforce Equity Portal

<https://energyequity.illinois.gov/>

Managed by the IPA and designed to help connect clean energy companies with Equity Eligible Persons (EEP) looking to work in the clean energy sector in Illinois.

The Energy Workforce Equity Portal can be used in two ways:

- **For Employers:**
 - For hiring EEPs to meet the MES
 - Post job opportunities accessible to EEPs
- **For Job Seekers:**
 - For applying to jobs as an EEP
 - Register as an EEP and apply to jobs with AVs



Project Application Process



Project Application Timeline

1 *Dependent*

Customer
Disclosure Form

2 *Dependent*

Customer Contract

3 *2-6 Weeks*

Part I
Application Submitted

4 *2-3 Weeks*

Batch Submitted and
ICC Approved
Application fee of \$20/kw, not
to exceed \$15,000 per project

5 *1-4 Weeks*

REC Contract
Executed
Post collateral of 5% of
REC Contract value

6 *0-18 Months*

Project Installed
& Energized

7 *Any time after
Energization*

GATS/M-RETS
Registration Submitted
& Approved

8 *2-6 Weeks*

Part II Application
Submitted & Approved

9 *Within the month
following Part II
Verification*

Payment issued to
Vendor/Ongoing
Requirements

REC Payments Calculator

- Tool created to calculate the estimated value for specific projects for Disclosure Form submission.
 - Can be found here: <https://illinoisshines.com/program-documents/> under "REC Prices"

Enter First Year Production Here (kWh)

8,400,000

Total Production Over 15 Year Contract Term (MWh)

121,684

Total Production Over 20 Year Contract Term (MWh)

160,254

Degradation

0.50%

ENTER your project information in the fields with the **GREEN** headings to generate REC Payment estimates. Copy/paste relevant values to complete Disclosure Forms for Distributed Generation and Public School Projects

* Degradation is assumed at 0.5%
* First Year Production should be entered as kWh AC

Your Estimated REC payment is calculated below

	Distributed Generation	
	Group A	Group B
≤ 10 kW	\$ 8,969,369	\$ 10,205,758
> 10 - 25 kW	\$ 7,730,822	\$ 9,434,699
> 25 - 100 kW	\$ 6,800,481	\$ 8,545,475
> 100 - 200 kW	\$ 6,525,495	\$ 7,707,045
> 200 - 500 kW	\$ 5,667,920	\$ 6,644,336
> 500 - 2000 kW	\$ 5,326,612	\$ 6,022,195
> 2000 - 5000 kW	\$ 4,019,124	\$ 4,508,942

* based on 15 year contract term

	Public Schools	
	Group A	Group B
≤ 25 kW	\$ 12,366,024	\$ 14,931,337
> 25 - 100 kW	\$ 10,988,041	\$ 13,615,662
> 100 - 200 kW	\$ 10,546,976	\$ 12,324,479
> 200 - 500 kW	\$ 9,250,424	\$ 10,717,323
> 500 - 2000 kW	\$ 8,735,269	\$ 9,781,707
> 2000 - 5000 kW	\$ 6,754,964	\$ 7,490,693

* based on 20 year contract term

	Distributed Generation	
	Group A	Group B
≤ 10 kW	\$ 73.71	\$ 83.87
> 10 - 25 kW	\$ 63.53	\$ 77.53
> 25 - 100 kW	\$ 55.89	\$ 70.23
> 100 - 200 kW	\$ 53.63	\$ 63.34
> 200 - 500 kW	\$ 46.58	\$ 54.60
> 500 - 2000 kW	\$ 43.77	\$ 49.49
> 2000 - 5000 kW	\$ 33.03	\$ 37.05

	Public Schools	
	Group A	Group B
≤ 25 kW	\$ 77.17	\$ 93.17
> 25 - 100 kW	\$ 68.57	\$ 84.96
> 100 - 200 kW	\$ 65.81	\$ 76.91
> 200 - 500 kW	\$ 57.72	\$ 66.88
> 500 - 2000 kW	\$ 54.51	\$ 61.04
> 2000 - 5000 kW	\$ 42.15	\$ 46.74

Program Support

Consumer Protection

- The Consumer Protection team investigates consumer complaints and other potential Program violations and enforces requirements laid out in the [Consumer Protection Handbook](#) and [Program Guidebook](#). Approved Vendors and Designees may be issued warnings or suspended from program participation due to violations of the Consumer Protection Handbook policies.

Customer Support Team

- The call center that responds to customer, Approved Vendor, and Designee inquiries.

Mentorship Program

- 8- week Program presentation series with a goal of providing less experienced AVs with Program knowledge and skills to successfully participate.

Sector Strategists

- Each Program category has a corresponding Sector Strategist who is assigned to and works closely with Approved Vendors (AV) to increase the participation of AVs and EECs. Sector support can include:
 - Provide resources to understand and adhere to Program rules
 - Facilitate technical support
 - Solicit sector-specific insights and feedback
 - Explain the Equity Accountability System and the Minimum Equity Standard



Program Support

- 1. 1-on1 Check-Ins**
- 2. AV Roundtables**
- 3. Mentorship Program**
- 4. Program Resources**

- [Become an AV or Designee](#)
- [Vendor FAQs](#)
- [Program Guidebook \(PY 2024-2025\)](#)
- [Consumer Protection Handbook \(PY 2024-2025\)](#)
- [REC Prices Spreadsheet](#)
- [REC Payments Calculator](#)
- [Program announcements](#)

- 5. Program-Wide Contacts**

- admin@IllinoisShines.com
- (877) 783-1820



Questions?

**For Further Comments, Questions,
and Discussion – Please contact:**

Ola Tomaszewski

Illinois Shines Program Associate

admin@illinoisshines.com

**104 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 725
Chicago, IL 60603**



Illinois Shines

CEJA Update: Summer 2024



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Disclaimers

- At this time information COULD change; is NOT final.
- No questions regarding specific applications will be answered other than, “It is in the Merit Review Process”.
- No questions on specifics for the Year 2 grants can be answered other than, “It is going through the internal DCEO NOFO grant establishment process”.
- (We must adhere to these policies to insure a fair and balance process for all parties).
- The grant NOFO and corresponding statutes are the ultimate authority.



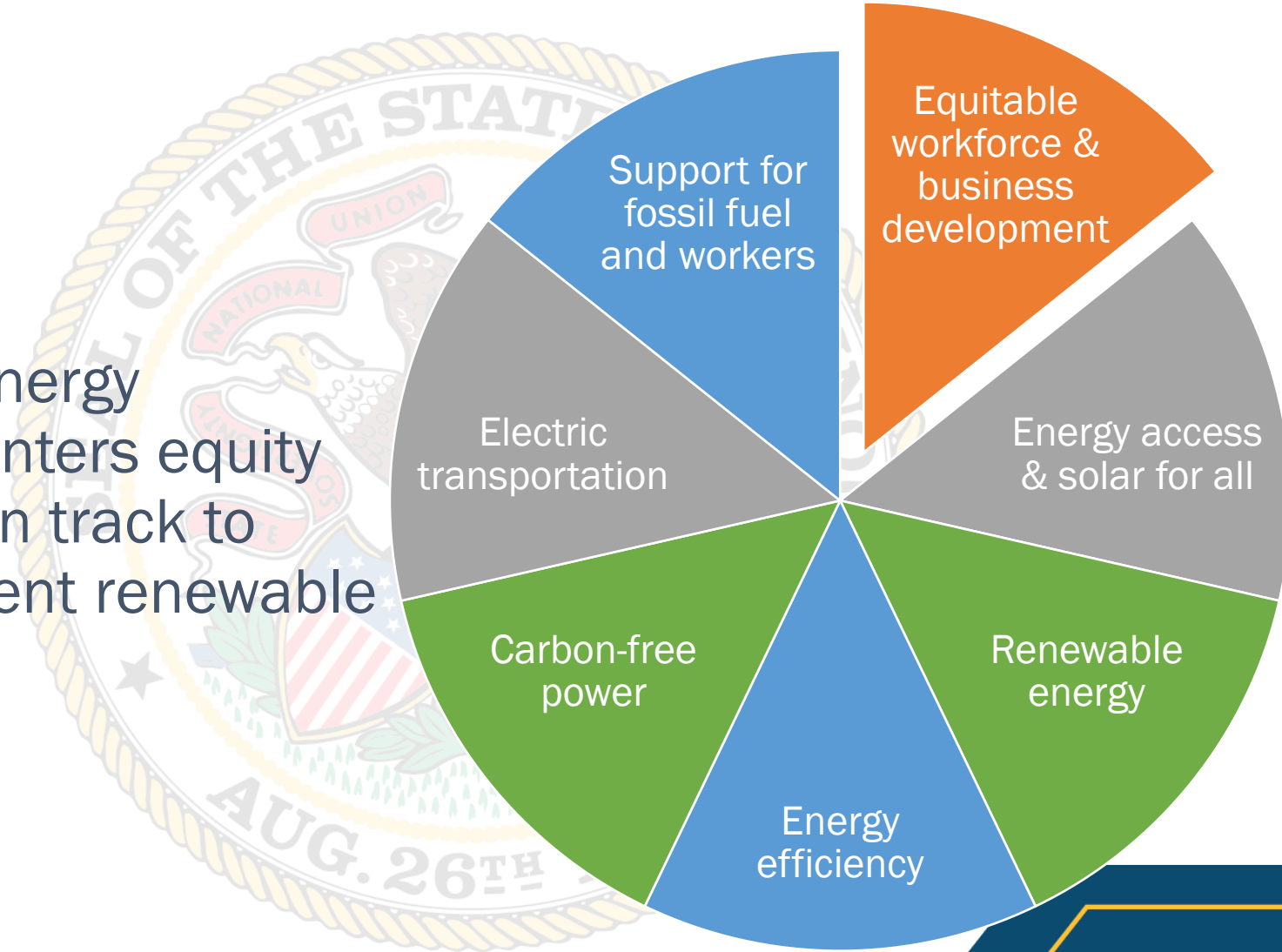
Agenda

- CEJA Overview & Ecosystem
- Funding 101 (build that capital stack)
- OEPU Programs in Year 1 (current state) & what we learned (Improvements)
- Equitable Energy Future: Round 2 (A Preview) – **Disclaimer: Not Final nor “official”.**
- Community Solar Sovereignty Round 2 (A Preview) – **Disclaimer: Not Final nor “official”.**
- Take Aways
- Office of Employment and Training: Contractor and Workforce Programs
- Wrap-up & Questions



What is the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, or CEJA?

Comprehensive energy legislation that centers equity and puts Illinois on track to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

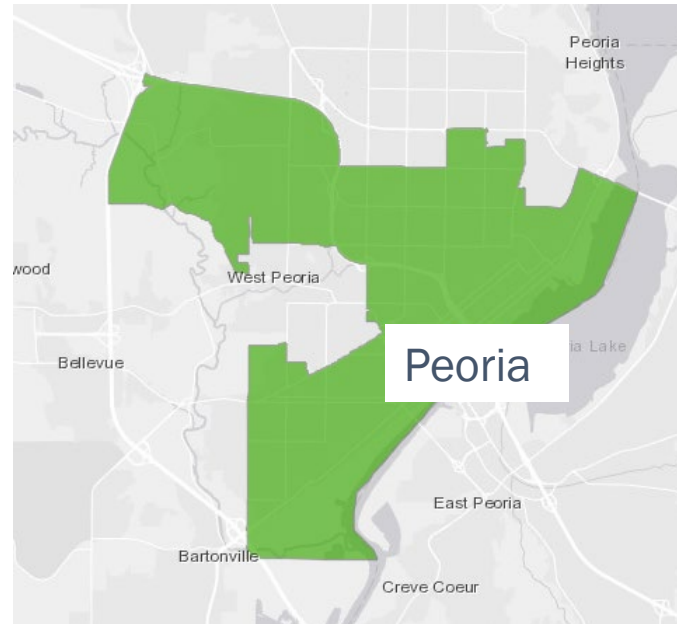
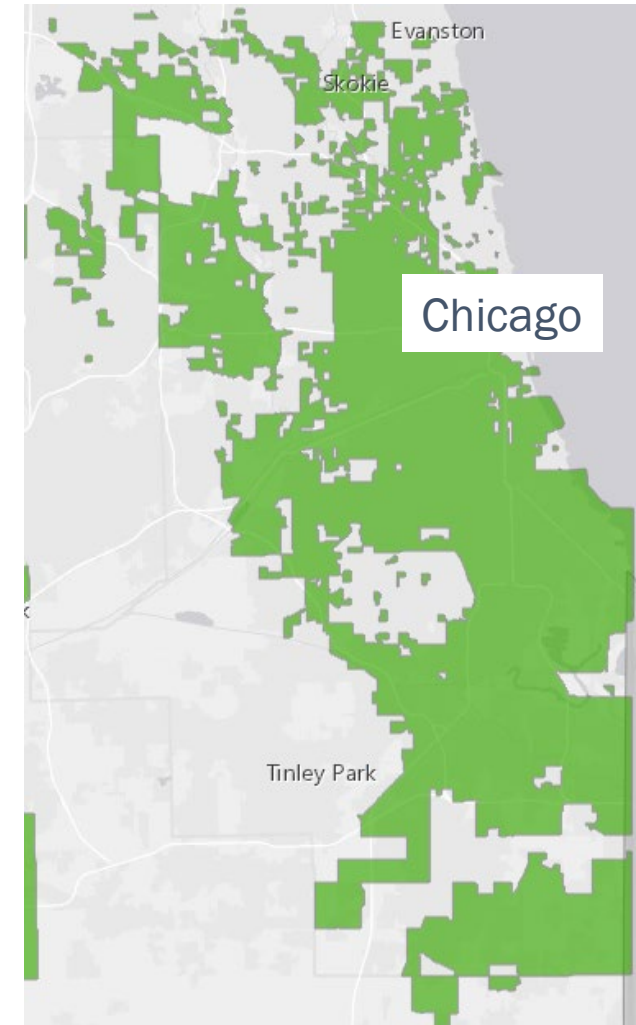
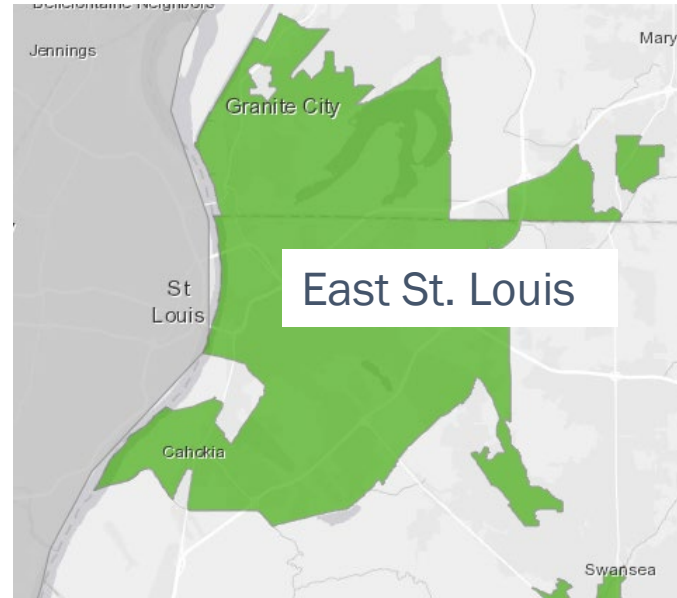


Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Equity Eligibility?

Target populations:

1. Primary Residence in an Environmental Justice (EJ) or R3 community
2. Former member of foster care
3. Graduate of Criminal Justice System
4. Graduates of FEJA/CEJA programs
5. *Other Employment Challenges, Impacted by Power Plant Closures*



DCEO CEJA

- [CEJA Workforce Training Programs \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov)
- [Contractor programs](#)
- [Community economic development programs](#)
- [Reimagining Energy and Vehicles in Illinois Act \(REV\)-Manufacturing](#)

Illinois Finance Authority

- IL Climate Bank Finance (CBF)
- [C-PACE](#)
- [GRID: muni. utility/rural coops,](#)
- [State Small Bus. Credit Initiative](#)
- [Charging & Fueling Infra.](#)
- [Greenhouse Gas Reduction](#)
- [Solar For All/Energy Sovereignty Loan](#)

Illinois Dept. of Transportation

- [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program](#)
- [Carbon Reduction Program](#)
- [Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality](#)
- [Competitive Freight-Port Infrastructure](#)

Federal Programs

- [Ride and Drive Electric,](#)
- [IRA, Justice 40...](#)and more

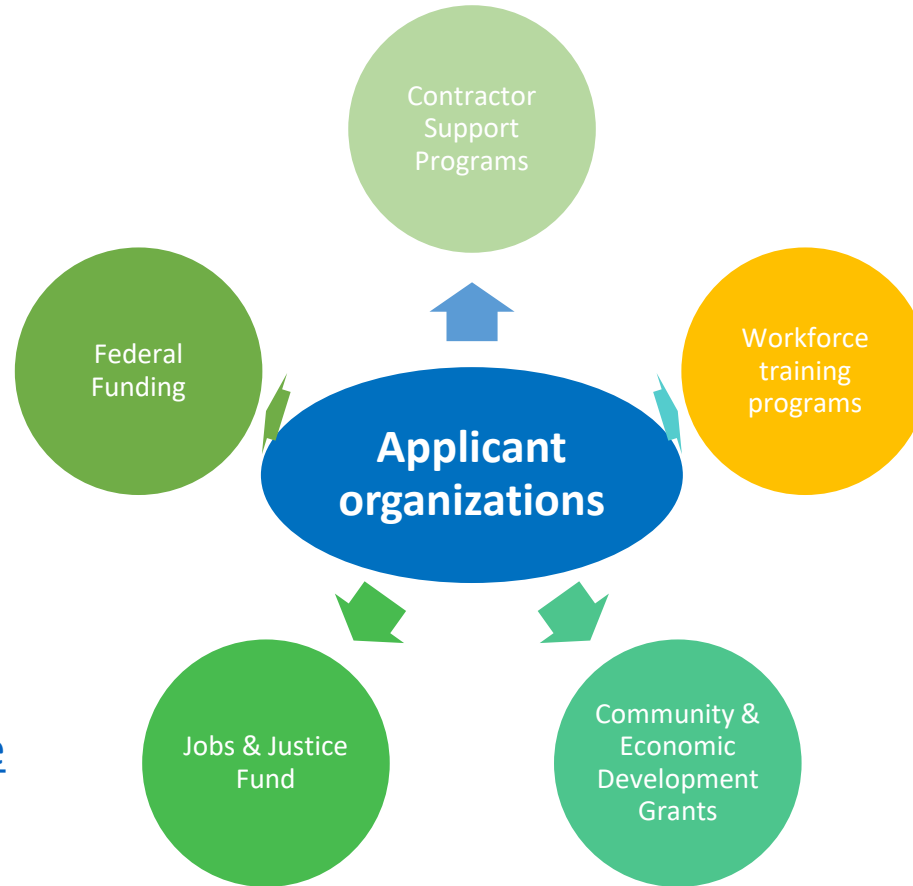
Capital Develop Board

- [Stretch Goals](#)

Illinois Community College Board

- [IAC Program: Clean Energy Build/Manufacturing Workforce](#)

IL Renewable/Clean Energy Transition Ecosystem



Illinois Power Agency

- [Illinois Shines](#)
- [IL Solar For All](#)
- [Energy Equity Portal:](#)
- [Min. Equity Standard](#)
- [Utility Scale Procurement](#)

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

- [Energy Codes Training](#)
- [EE Trust Fund](#)
- [Electric Vehicle Rebate](#)
- [Electric School Bus](#)
- [Energy Assessments](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant \(illinois.gov\)](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Variety](#)
- *EE Contractor Training*

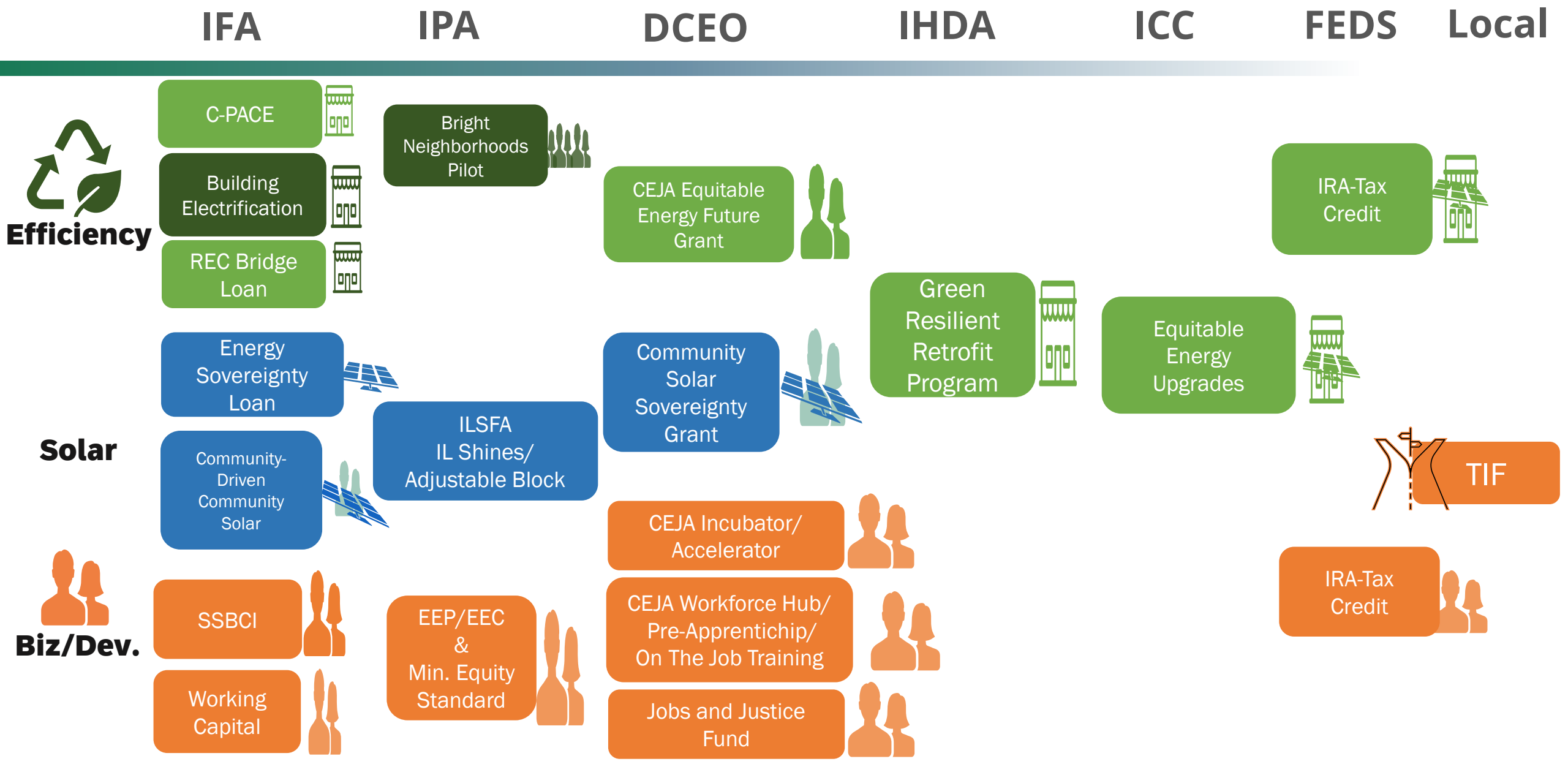
Illinois Commerce Commission

- [Equitable Energy Upgrade Program \(illinois.gov\)](#)

Illinois Housing Authority

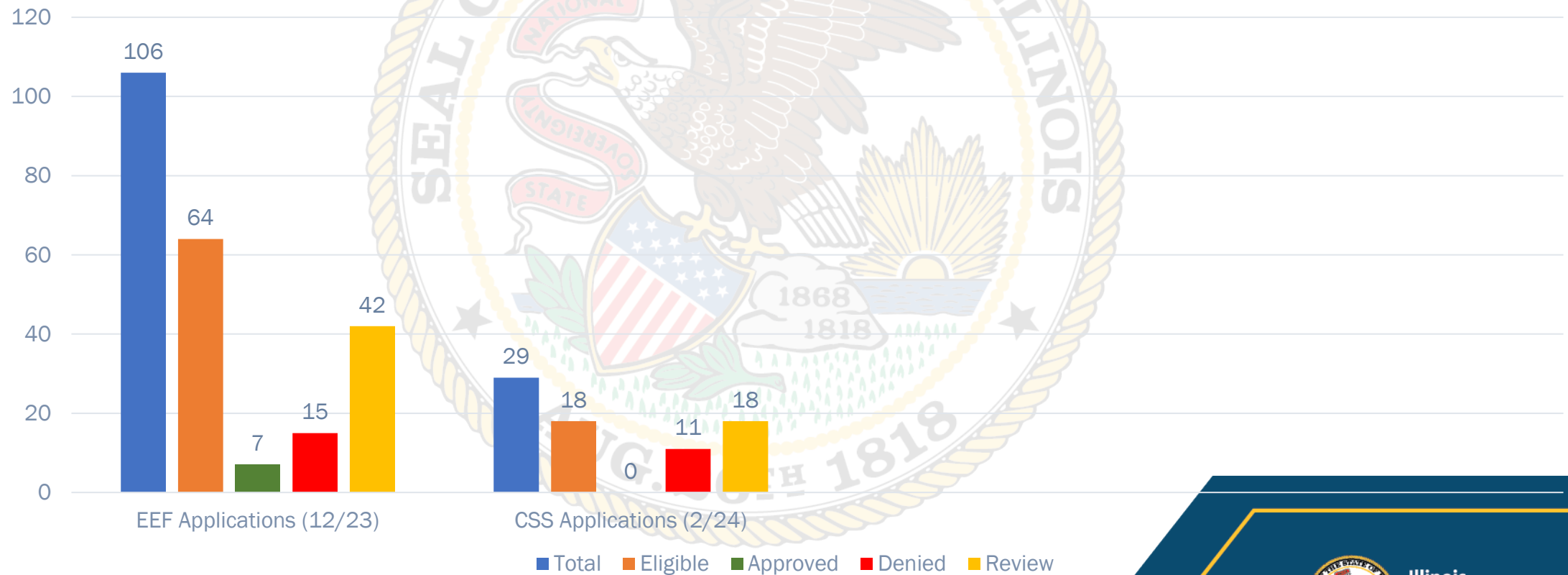
- [Energy Efficiency Program](#)
- [Green Resilient Retrofit Program](#)

Project Scenario: Non-profit organization, Net Zero/Near Net Zero Retrofit, located in and/or serves EJ/R3/DAC, mixed use commercial/residential building with market rate and low-income tenants



CEJA: Applications (1st year)

Jobs & Environmental Justice Grant Programs



NOFO Improvements

- 1) Provided diagram of grant process
- 2) NOFO sections referenced on the Application
- 3) Program Application:
 - a) Added tables
 - b) Included funding resources and live links
 - c) Improved definitions/phrased questions
 - d) Provided sample answers
- 4) Merit Review Rubric: connecting application content to merit score
- 5) DEIA Plan:
 - a) reviewed by Becky Gabany the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access Plan Coordinator – PSC.
 - b) Template provided for applicants and required for submission.
- 6) Project Timeline:
 - a) Template provided and required for submission



Equitable Energy Future Grant Program

Office of Energy & Business Utility (OEBU)



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Overview

- Grant provides seed funding and predevelopment funding opportunities for equity-eligible contractors to start work on renewable energy projects.
- Awards ranging from \$250k - \$1 million
- Statutes/ Rules: PA 102-0662, Section 5-60
- Phase 1, Phase 2, or both
 - Phase 1 (Planning and Feasibility)
 - Phase 2 (Pre-development)
- Construction costs are NOT covered.



Funding

- Funding Source: Energy Transition Fund
- Total NOFO amount: \$25.5m
- Award Range: \$250k up to \$1m
- Number of Anticipated Awardees: up to 40
- Matching Requirements: N/A
- Pre-award Costs Allowed: Yes
- Indirect Allowed: No (see NOFO)



Phase 1 Activities

- Market Analysis
- Property due diligence
- Community outreach and engagement
- Architecture, design, or engineering services
- Auditing, consulting, or developer services
- Project pro forma/budget
- Site acquisition planning
- Sourcing project writing
- **(Not comprehensive list; used for guidance)**



Phase 2 Activities

- Selecting contractors/securing contracts
- Project application
- Purchasing and/or leasing of land
- Permitting and zoning
- Interconnection application cost, fees, studies, & expenses.
- Project equipment and supplies
- Employee training on project activities
- Community outreach, marketing, & engagement
- Staff & operations expenses (project related only)
- **(Not comprehensive list; used for guidance)**



Awardee Selection Process

- Applications will be graded using the Merit Review Process and scored on the criteria specified in Section E.1 of this NOFO.
- The Department will designate an evaluation committee to grade each application received for this funding opportunity.
- The final score of each committee member will be calculated and an average of all scores will be the final applicant score. Merit review scores 75 and over will receive a negotiation offer.
- Applicants that successfully address negotiation requests will receive a recommendation.



Important Dates

- Anticipated Round Two (2) NOFO Posting Date: TBD
- NOFO Closing Date: December 31, 2024
- **Rolling – First Come; First Served or Until money runs out!!!!**
- Anticipated Award Start Date: Various dates within 2024 (August 2024-December 2024)
- Anticipated Project Award End Date: up to four years after Start Date
- Round Three (3) Open Date: January 1, 2025
- Round Three (3) Closing Date: December 31, 2025



Metrics

- 1) Planning/development activities completed
- 2) Renewable project(s) successfully completed
- 3) Energy efficiency projects successfully completed
- 4) Installed capacity of completed renewable energy projects
- 5) Projected output of completed renewable energy projects
- 6) Projected annual energy savings of completed energy efficiency projects
- 7) Permanent full-time equivalent jobs created
- 8) Number of trainees entering employment recruited from CEJA or FEJA Workforce Programs
- 9) Number of low-wage/low-skill trainees receiving a wage/benefit increase
- 10) Expenditures spent with an Equity Eligible Contractor
- 11) Investment leveraged



Equitable Energy Future Grant

Section 5-60 pg 51

Program Criteria:

- Seed funding and pre-development funding to equity eligible contractors to support energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) projects.

Project Activities:

- planning and project development,
- professional services: architecture, design, engineering, auditing, consulting, and developer services;
- project application, deposit, and approval;
- purchasing and leasing of land;
- permitting and zoning;
- interconnection application costs and fees, studies, and expenses;
- equipment and supplies;
- community outreach, marketing, and engagement;
- staff and operations expenses

Applicant Criteria:

- Equity Eligible Contractors: [Become an Equity Eligible Contractor – Illinois Adjustable Block Program \(illinoisabp.com\)](https://illinoisabp.com), [Illinois Adjustable Block Program - EEC Designee Application & Attestation \(office.com\)](https://office.com)
- Provide demonstrable proof of a historical or future, and persisting, long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program

Office of Energy & Business Utility (OEBU)



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Overview

- The grant program provides upfront and seed capital to support pre-development activities and community ownership of community solar projects and/or development of programs or entities to assist in the long-term governance, management, and maintenance of these projects.
- Awards ranging from \$50k - \$1 million
- Statutes/ Rules: [Public Act 102-0662/](#)



Funding

- Funding Source: Energy Transition Fund
- Total NOFO amount: upto \$8.5 million
- Award Range: \$50k to \$1 million
- Number of Anticipated Awardees: up to 40
- Matching Requirements: N/A
- Pre-award Costs Allowed: Yes
- Indirect Allowed: No



Awardee Selection Process

- Applications will be graded using the Merit Review Process and scored on the criteria specified in Section E.1 of this NOFO
- The Department will designate an evaluation committee to grade each application received for this funding opportunity.
- The final score of each committee member will be calculated and an average of all scores will be the final applicant score. Merit review scores 75 and over will receive a negotiation offer.
- Applicants that successfully address negotiation requests will receive a recommendation.



Important Dates

- Anticipated NOFO Posting Date: TBD
- NOFO Closing Date: December 31, 2024
- Anticipated Award Start Date: Various dates within 2024
- Anticipated Award End Date: up to four years after Start Date
- Round 3 Open Date: January 1, 2025
- Round 3 Closing Date: December 31, 2025



Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant

Section 5-60 pg 51

$\leq \$8.5M$

Program Criteria:

- Support pre-development and development of community solar projects that promote community ownership and energy sovereignty
- ability and intent to create community ownership and other local community benefits, including local community wealth building via community renewable generation projects.

Project Activities:

- Pre-development work
- Development of programs and entities to assist in the long-term governance, management, and maintenance of community solar projects: such as community solar cooperatives.
- Early-stage project planning
- Project team organization
- Site identification;
- Organizing a project business model and securing financing
- Procurement and contracting;
- Development of project models that allocate benefits to equity investment eligible communities.

Applicant Criteria:

- Include community-based organizations,
- Technical service providers working in direct partnership with community-based organizations



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Take Aways

1. If not an Equity Energy Contractor, become one
2. Begin working with DCEO Workforce Hubs and Navigators in your area.
3. Reach out to DCEO CEJA staff
4. Attend Technical Assistance webinars.
5. Attend Webinars across state agencies
6. Review DCEO CEJA website for grant opportunities.
7. Could I be a Lead Applicant?
 1. Who should I partner with?
 2. Who else needs to know about this? (Enough work to go around).
8. State of Illinois is heavily invested in these programs.
 - a. Transition to Clean Energy = Economic Development Strategy
 - b. \$ flip around multiple times in your community: Projects, local workforce, local contractors,
 - c. Seed funding and pre-development funding (Project based)
 - d. Investment in underserved and unjustly impacted over prior decades
 - e. Generate city revenue, decrease operating
9. Stay Engaged & Connected: [CEJA Interest Form \(smartsheet.com\)](https://smartsheet.com)





Comments & Questions

Aaron McEvoy

Grants Manager, Office of Energy & Business Utility

Aaron.Mcevoy@illinois.gov

217.720.5910

(on Energy Equitable Futures or Community Solar Sovereignty)

Nate Keener

Central Illinois Regional Administrator, Office of Employment & Training

Nate.Keener@illinois.gov



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Nat

CEJA: Contractor and Workforce Programs

Office of Employment & Training (OET)



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program

- 13 Program delivery Hub Sites
- Connects contractors to low-cost capital & financial support for small clean energy businesses.
- Provides support for business operations, such as obtaining permits and insurance
- Provides training and mentorships
- Provides recruitment and ongoing engagement with entities that hire contractors and subcontractors for renewable energy projects
- Connection to DOL resources for prevailing wage compliance
- **Participant Criteria:**
 - Owners of clean energy contractor businesses & nonprofits who reside in EJ or R3 communities
 - Preference shall be given to applicants who:
 - face barriers to employment; such as low educational attainment,
 - have prior involvement with the criminal legal system,
 - have language barriers;
 - are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system;
 - Displaced energy workers as defined by the Energy Community Reinvestment Act



Contractor
Incubator
Program
\$21M/yr.



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program

- Program Status:
 - Identified applicants from Chicago South Side, Chicago West/Southwest Sides, Rockford, Aurora, Joliet, Peoria, and Decatur – Grant Negotiation Underway
- Accepting applications to administer the program from Waukegan, Champaign, Danville, Carbondale, East St. Louis, and Alton – DUE AUGUST 5th



Contractor
Incubator
Program
\$21M/yr.



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program

- 3 Program Delivery Areas: Northern, Central, Southern Illinois
- Participants will receive one-on-one coaching to develop a 5-year business plan
- Operational support grants up to \$1m annually for upfront project costs and pre-development funding, among others
- Mentorship program – 2 years of ongoing services – OJT, Site Walkthroughs, QAQC Reviews, etc
- Build capacity to:
 - Apply for opportunities
 - Apply for certifications
 - Prepare bids and RFP responses
 - Participate in Illinois Shines Program
 - Apply for assistance through the Climate Bank
- Participant criteria:
 - 2+ years of experience in a clean energy or a related contracting field;
 - At least \$5,000 in annual business;
 - Commitment of investing in and partnering with individuals and institutions in equity investment eligible communities.



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program

- Program Status
 - Applications to administer the program were due July 2nd, deadline extended to August 1st
 - In Merit Review now



Primes
Contractor
Accelerator
\$9M/yr.



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

CEJA Workforce Program Updates

- Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program – provide training to prepare people for Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Programs in Construction and Building Trades, with an emphasis on clean energy
 - 3 grantees identified in the North, Central, and Southern Regions – grant agreement complete, orientation and technical assistance ongoing, programs starting in coming weeks
 - Northern Region – 548 Foundation
 - Central Region – HIRE360
 - Southern Region – HIRE360



CEJA Workforce Program Updates

- Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program – will train people for entry level clean energy jobs
 - Identified the following grantees:
 - Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
 - Joliet Junior College
 - College of Lake County
 - Safer Foundation
 - The Workforce Connectoin
 - Parkland College
 - Lewis and Clark Community College
 - 548 Foundation
 - College of DuPage
 - Richland Community College
 - Danville and Peoria regions are still open – will be solicited again in the Fall



CEJA Workforce Program Updates

- Energy Transition Navigators Grant – the recruiting arm of the workforce programs and will help bring participants to the Workforce Hubs and Climate Works Programs.
 - Identified the following grantees:
 - Chicago Urban League
 - Community Assistance Program
 - Goodwill Industries of Northern IL
 - North Lawndale Employment Network
 - Central States SER
 - The Community Works, Inc. NFP
 - Goodwill Industries of Metropolitan Chicago
 - Heaven's View CDC
 - Vermilion Advantage NFP
 - Carbondale Branch NAACP
 - The Community Foundation of Macon County
 - Senior Services Plus
 - Danville is still open – will be solicited again in the Fall



CEJA Workforce Program Updates

- Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program: will provide training within Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC) correctional facilities to prepare people in custody for entry-level clean energy jobs.
 - 4 sites for training:
 - Kewanee Life Skills Reentry Center
 - Western Illinois Correctional Center in Mt. Sterling
 - Decatur Correctional Center (women's facility)
 - Vienna Correctional Center
 - Applications currently in Merit Review





Comments & Questions

Aaron McEvoy

Grants Manager, Office of Energy & Business Utility

Aaron.Mcevoy@illinois.gov

217.720.5910

(on Energy Equitable Futures or Community Solar Sovereignty)

Nate Keener

Central Illinois Regional Administrator, Office of Employment & Training

Nate.Keener@illinois.gov



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Nat