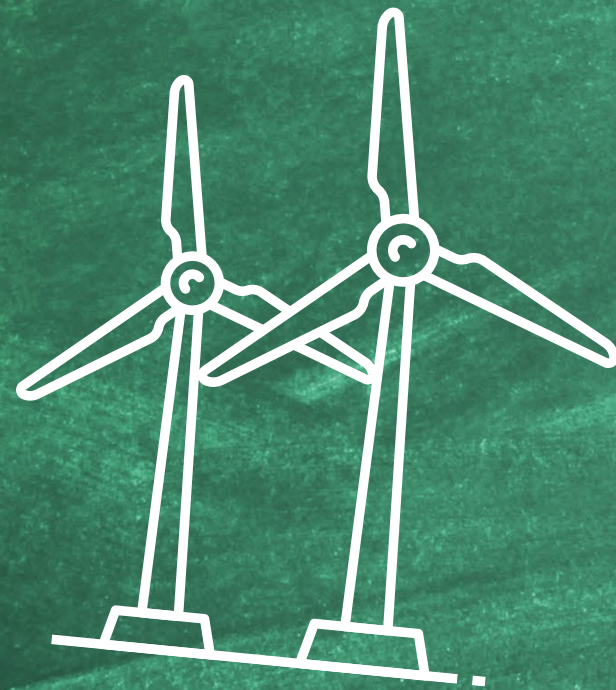


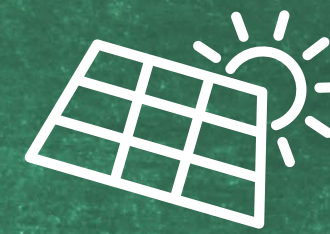
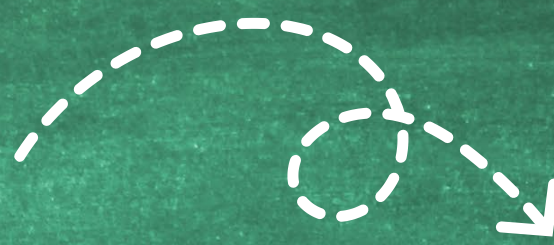
Advancing the IPA's Equity Initiatives in the Clean Energy Transition

Session 3

IPA's Summer School Virtual Series
for Legislators & Staff

9/5/24





IPA Summer School for Legislators & Staff **2024 Schedule**

Today

Session 3: Advancing IPA's Equity Initiatives in the Clean Energy Transition

Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 12:15 - 1 p.m.

Upcoming

Session 4: IPA's Clean Energy Dashboard & Progress Toward State Clean Energy Goals

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 12:15 - 1 p.m.

Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

Previous

Session 1: Understanding the IPA's Solar Incentive Programs

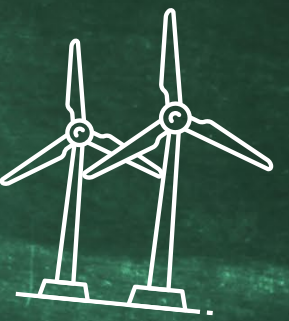
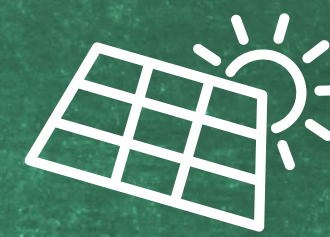
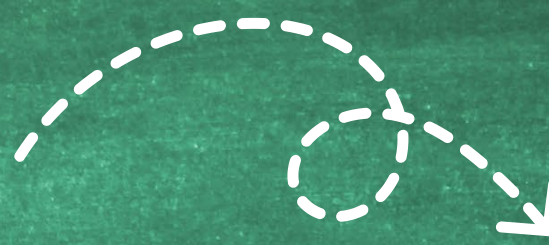
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 12:15 - 1 p.m.

[Watch the Recording & View the Deck Here](#)

Session 2: How Consumer Protections Work for the IPA's Solar Incentive Programs

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 12:15 - 1 p.m.

[Watch the Recording & View the Deck Here](#)



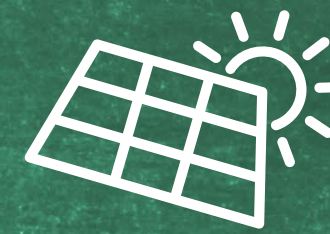
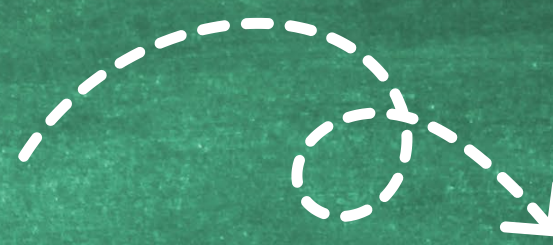
What is the Illinois Power Agency?

- **About the IPA:**

- Responsible for implementation of Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard
- Implement the state's two solar incentive programs
- Clean energy work incorporates equity provisions
- Continues to procure electricity for 20-25% of eligible retail customers in Illinois, established in 2007
- What distinguishes us from the ICC

- **IPA's Equity Responsibilities**

- CEJA (2021) set terms and conditions for equity requirements and initiatives



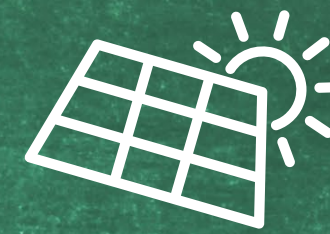
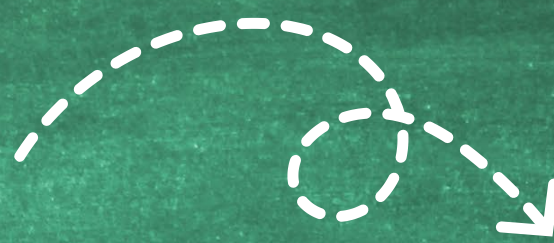
Today's Speakers



Tanvi Shah
Chief DEI Officer,
Illinois Power Agency



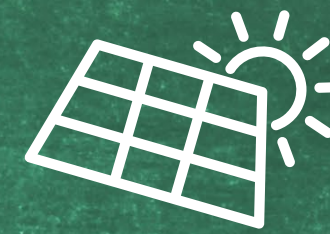
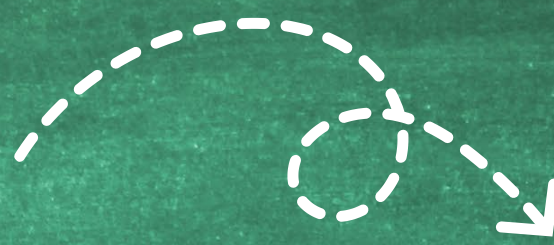
Jennifer Schmidt
Senior Program Manager, ILSFA
Illinois Power Agency



Session 3: IPA's Equity Initiatives

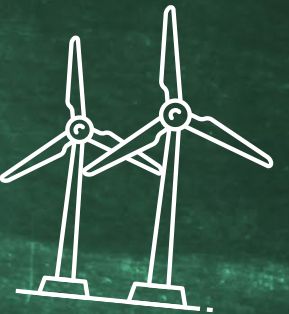
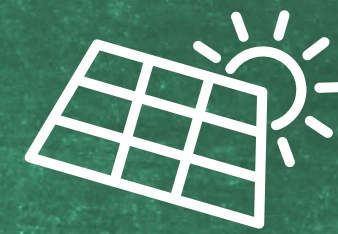
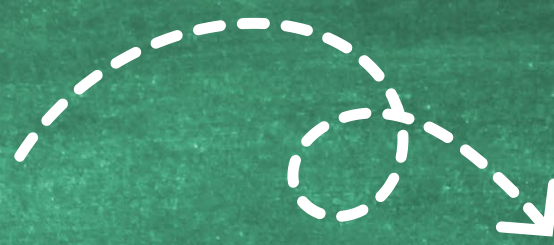
Today's Agenda

- IPA's Commitment to Equity
- Part I: Equity Initiatives under the Equity Accountability System
- Part II: Equity Initiatives within Illinois Solar For All
- Q&A



What does powering an equitable clean energy future look like, and what is the IPA's role?

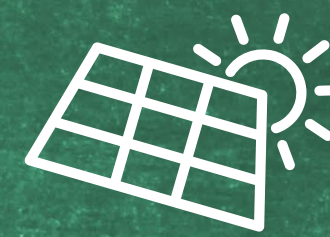
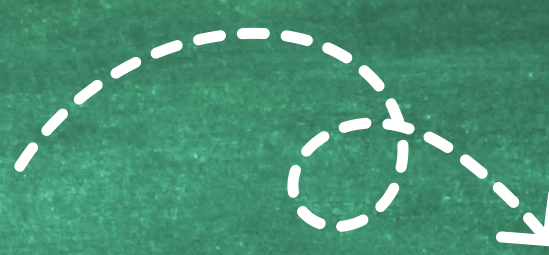
- The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) is committed to advancing equity in the clean energy transition, based on mandates outlined by **the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (2021)**.
- CEJA strengthened **equity and diversity requirements for IPA-administered incentive programs and procurements**.
- Implementation of the new CEJA provisions include an **Equity Accountability System (EAS)** featuring a Minimum Equity Standard, Equity Eligible Contractor Category for Illinois Shines and Equity Bid Adjustments for competitive procurements and **Data Transparency and Accountability measures**.



Part I: Equity Accountability System (EAS)

What is the EAS?

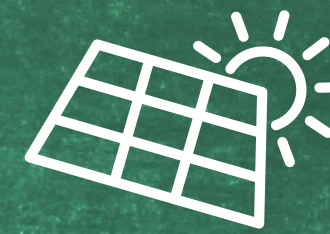
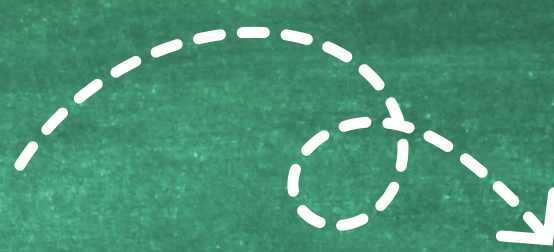
The EAS is an umbrella suite of policy levers and standards included in the Illinois Power Agency Act that advance “priority access to the clean energy economy for businesses and workers from communities that have been excluded from economic opportunities in the energy sector, have been subject to disproportionate levels of pollution, and have disproportionately experienced negative public health outcomes” (20 ILCS 3855/1-75(c-10)).



Define Equity Eligible Persons, Equity Eligible Contractors, and Equity Investment Eligible Communities

Equity Eligible Persons (EEP) mean persons who would most benefit from equitable investments by the State designed to combat discrimination, specifically:

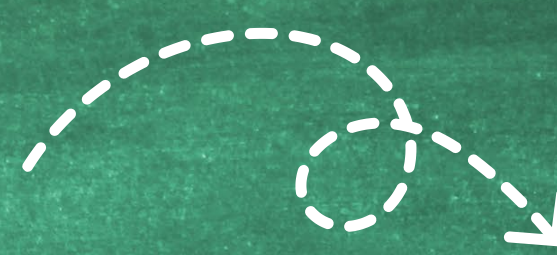
- (1) persons who graduate from or are current or former participants in the Clean Jobs Workforce Network, the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, the Illinois Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program, Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, or the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program, and the solar training pipeline and multi-cultural jobs program created by the Future Energy Jobs Act;
- (2) persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system;
- (3) persons who were formerly incarcerated;
- (4) persons whose primary residence is an equity investment eligible community.



Define Equity Eligible Persons, Equity Investment Eligible Communities, and Equity Eligible Contractors (cont.)

Equity Investment Eligible Communities (EIEC) are geographic areas throughout Illinois which would most benefit from equitable investments by the State designed to combat discrimination. The eligible communities are:

- (1) R3 Areas as established pursuant to Section 10-40 of the Cannabis Regulation Tax Act, where residents have historically been excluded from economic opportunities, including opportunities in the energy sector; and
- (2) Environmental justice communities, as defined by the Illinois Power Agency pursuant to the Illinois Power Agency Act, where residents have historically been subject to disproportionate burdens of pollution, including pollution from the energy sector.



Define Equity Eligible Persons, Equity Investment Eligible Communities, and Equity Eligible Contractors (cont.)

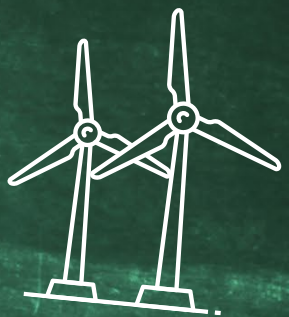
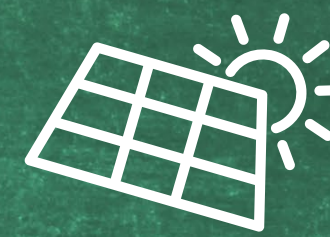
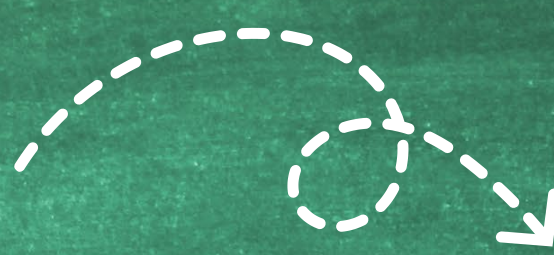
Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC) means a business that is majority-owned by Equity Eligible Persons, or a nonprofit or a cooperative that is majority-governed by Equity Eligible Persons or is a natural person that is an Equity Eligible Persons offering personal services as an independent contractor as defined in Section 1-10 of the IPA Act.

Become an Equity Eligible Contractor with Illinois Shines

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act established an [Equity Accountability System](#) to expand access to the clean energy economy, including establishing a project category for Equity Eligible Contractors (EECs) in Illinois Shines. The EEC category provides:

- A separate, reserved block of project capacity available only to EEC Approved Vendors (AVs)
- Opportunities to receive an advance of capital for REC incentives





Equity Eligible Contractors (cont.)

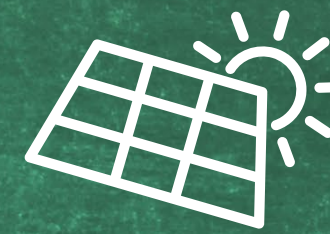
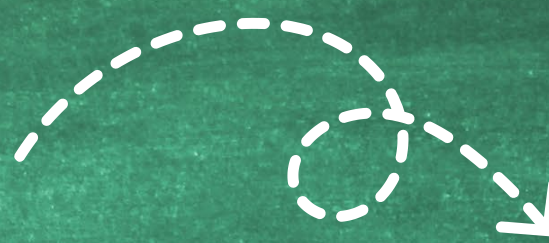
Who can be EECs?

- Approved Vendors, Designees, and Subcontractors registered to participate in the Illinois Shines solar incentive program who meet EEP criteria

Why become an EEC?

- EECs can get capital advance for projects, up to 50% of contract value

EEC Fun Fact: Out of 975 Approved Vendors and Designees registered to participate in Illinois Shines, 77 are EECs.



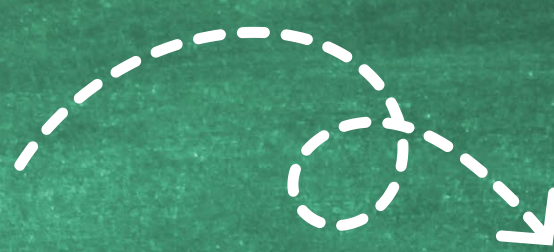
Equity Eligible Contractors (cont.)

Illinois Shines' EECs "Capacity Block" (aka the EEC Project Category)* is reserved for Distributed Generation and Community Solar Projects submitted by EECs registered to participate in the program.

Resources for EECs:

- Mentorship program ([pilot report](#))
- Dedicated EEC Sector Strategist
- 1:1 support upon request
- Open office hours
- EEC Approved Vendor Roundtable
- Feedback through satisfaction survey
- Info on equity-focused trainings/events
- [EEC Hub](#)

**Note: The term Capacity Block is not referring to block grants but, rather, the program's available REC contracts by project category.*



Other Equity Initiatives

Minimum Equity Standard (MES) is a minimum percentage of project workforce for participating projects that consists of EEPs or EECs. It applies to Illinois Shines and competitive procurements of Indexed RECs from utility-scale wind, solar, and brownfield projects. The MES is required by law to progressively increase each delivery year

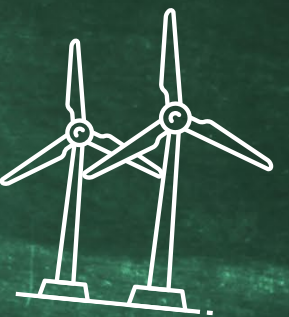
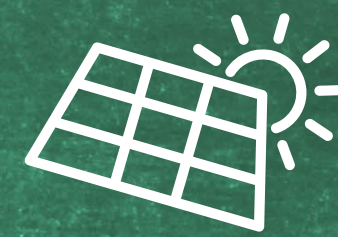
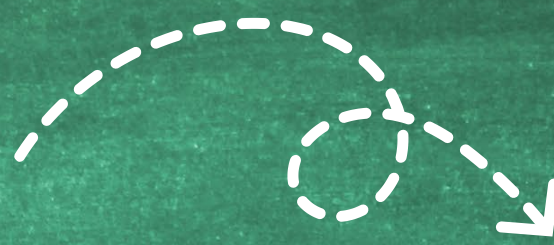
- **For Program Year 2023-2024 and 2024-2025:**

- At least 10% of project workforce for each entity must be comprised of Equity Eligible Persons or Equity Eligible Contractors.

- **By 2030:**

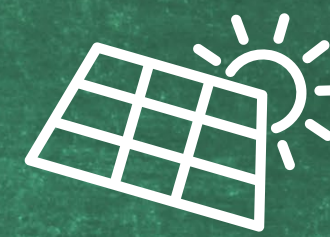
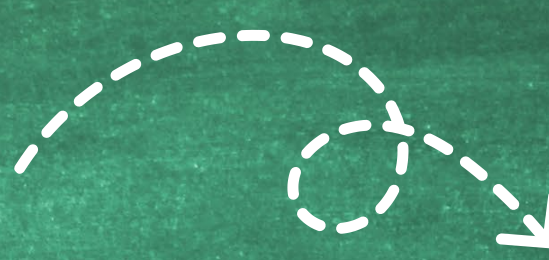
- At least 30% of the project workforce for each entity participating in a procurement program is comprised of EEPs.

Years	Scheduled MES Increase	% Increased
2024-2025	10%	-
2025-2026	14%	+4%
2026-2027	18%	+4%
2027-2028	22%	+4%
2028-2029	26%	+4%
2029-2030	30%	+4%



Other Equity Initiatives

Equity Bid Adjustment for Utility-Scale Projects: the IPA develops bid evaluation requirements that favor bids involving Equity Eligible Contractors, ensuring that large-scale projects also contribute to the State's equity goals.



[Energy Workforce Equity Portal](#)

The **“Equity Portal”** is an online source designed to help connect clean energy companies with Equity Eligible Persons looking to work in Illinois’ clean energy sector. Making these connections is a key aspect of ensuring that the clean energy industry in Illinois grows in an equitable manner.

Equity Eligible Persons can use the Portal to post their availability for employers. Developers of clean energy projects such as Approved Vendors and Designees in the Illinois Shines Program (also known as the Adjustable Block Program), or **developers of utility-scale wind and solar projects can use the Portal** to post clean energy jobs and to search for Equity Eligible Persons. This Portal is administered by the Illinois Power Agency.

If you are currently employed at a clean energy company and are looking to become certified as an Equity Eligible Person, click [here](#).

Welcome to the Energy Workforce Equity Portal

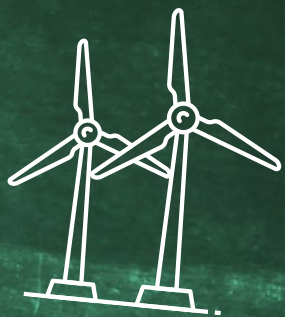
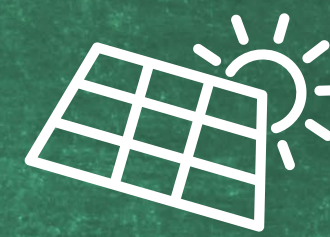
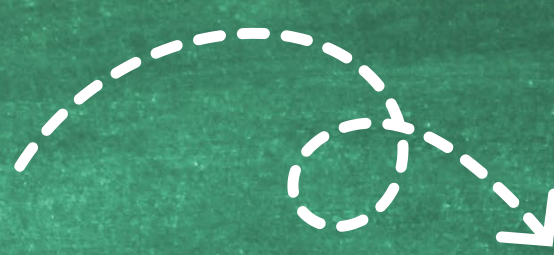
For Employers

CONNECT TO JOB SEEKERS, REGISTER AS A CLEAN ENERGY COMPANY, AND POST JOBS

For Job Seekers

CONNECT TO EMPLOYERS, EXPLORE JOBS, AND APPLY TO BECOME EQUITY ELIGIBLE PERSONS





Get Started!

[FIND JOBS IN THE CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY >](#)

[LEARN ABOUT THE QUALIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME AN EQUITY ELIGIBLE PERSON >](#)

[REGISTER AS AN EQUITY ELIGIBLE PERSON >](#)

Job Seeker Resources

[User Guide](#) to help job seekers navigate the portal.

[Portal Flyer](#)

Portal Training (April 4, 2023)

- [Recording](#)
- [Presentation Slides](#)

[FEJA and CEJA Workforce Training Programs](#) (These trainings qualify individuals to become Equity Eligible Persons)

[Other Education and Training Programs](#) (These trainings do not qualify individuals to become EEPs, but **may aid in building your knowledge and skillset to get you ready to enter the clean energy workforce**)

[Equity Eligible Contractor \(EEC\) Approved Vendors](#)

[EEC Designees](#)

This page is designed for individuals who seek to identify as an [Equity Eligible Person](#), and desire to either work in Illinois' clean energy industry or to help their current employer meet the Minimum Equity Standard.

Through this page, Equity Eligible Persons can view open jobs in the clean energy industry. In addition, this page contains information about clean energy workforce programs managed by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to ensure the state workforce is prepared for the jobs of the future and support communities facing energy transitions.

By registering through this portal, Equity Eligible Persons will have the option to be included in a listing of Equity Eligible Persons to be available to clean energy companies that register on this portal. Registrations to be listed as an Equity Eligible Person will be reviewed and verified by the Illinois Power Agency. Registration as an Equity Eligible Person through this portal is voluntary but helps facilitate consideration as an Equity Eligible Person.

The Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 3855/1-10) defines Equity Eligible Persons as "persons who would most benefit from equitable investments by the State designed to combat discrimination, specifically:

- (1) persons who graduate from or are current or former participants in the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Clean 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;
- (2) persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system;
- (3) persons who were formerly incarcerated;
- (4) persons whose primary residence is in an [equity investment eligible community](#)."

Get Started!

[FIND JOBS IN THE CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY >](#)

[LEARN ABOUT THE QUALIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME AN EQUITY ELIGIBLE PERSON >](#)



Get Started!

[REGISTER AS A CLEAN ENERGY COMPANY >](#)

After registration, you will be able to submit job postings and view list of Equity Eligible Persons.

[SUBMIT NEW JOB POSTINGS >](#)

[VIEW LIST OF EQUITY ELIGIBLE PERSONS >](#)

Please note, Equity Eligible Person listing is voluntary. Equity Eligible Persons that have listed to be identified have been reviewed and verified by the Illinois Power Agency. There may be other people who qualify as an Equity Eligible Person but have chosen not to be listed.

Employer Resources

[Minimum Equity Standard](#)

- [Equity Accountability System Assessment Part I](#) (August 16, 2024)

[User Guide](#) to help clean energy companies navigate the portal.

[Portal Flyer](#)

Portal Training (April 4, 2023)

- [Recording](#)
- [Presentation Slides](#)

[FEJA and CEJA Workforce Training Programs](#) (These trainings qualify individuals to become Equity Eligible Persons)

[Other Education and Training Programs](#) (These trainings do not qualify individuals to become EEPs, but **may aid in building your knowledge and skillset to get you ready to enter the clean energy workforce**)

[FEJA Grantees List](#)

This list may not be complete and will be updated when we receive additional information.

[Grants & Funding Opportunities](#)

[Equity Eligible Contractor \(EEC\) Approved Vendors](#)

[EEC Designees](#)

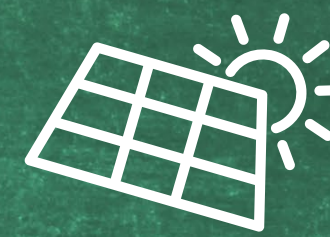
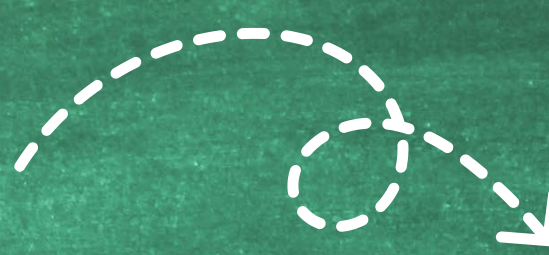


This page is designed for clean energy companies (such as Approved Vendors and Designees in the IPA's Adjustable Block developers of utility-scale wind and solar projects participating in the IPA's competitive procurements) who are looking to [Equity Eligible Persons](#). This is one way that these companies can comply with the [Minimum Equity Standard](#). Through energy companies can register to submit job postings and view a list of registered Equity Eligible Persons.

Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 3855/1-10) defines Equity Eligible Persons as, "persons who would most benefit from investments by the State designed to combat discrimination, specifically:

- (1) persons who graduate from or are current or former participants in the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Contractor Incubator Program, the Illinois Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, Returning Residents Clean Job Program, or the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program, and the solar training pipeline and multi-cultu created in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3) of Section 16-108.21 of the Public Utilities Act;
- (2) persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system;
- (3) persons who were formerly incarcerated;
- (4) persons whose primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community."

Get Started!



[Energy Workforce Equity Portal](#) (cont.)

Details:

- Phase I and Phase II Updates & Refinements
- See [EAS Assessment Part 1](#), pgs. 51-52
- For questions about the portal, contact:
IPA.EnergyEquity@illinois.gov



Energy Workforce Equity Portal

REGISTER. EXPLORE. CONNECT.

The Portal is designed to:

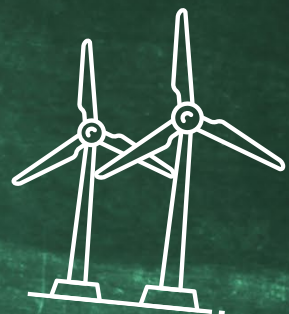
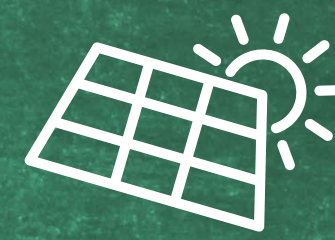
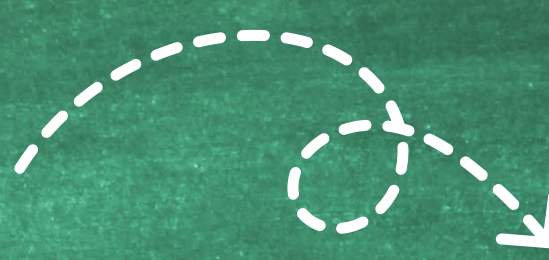
- Connect clean energy companies with Equity Eligible job seekers seeking employment in Illinois' clean energy sector.
- Help individuals find out whether they qualify as Equity Eligible job seekers, connect with prospective employers, and find jobs.
- Help clean energy companies post jobs and search for Equity Eligible job seekers.
- Help Equity Eligible job seekers find information on workforce training programs and more.

More Information:
energyequity.illinois.gov

Employers
Job Seekers
Resources

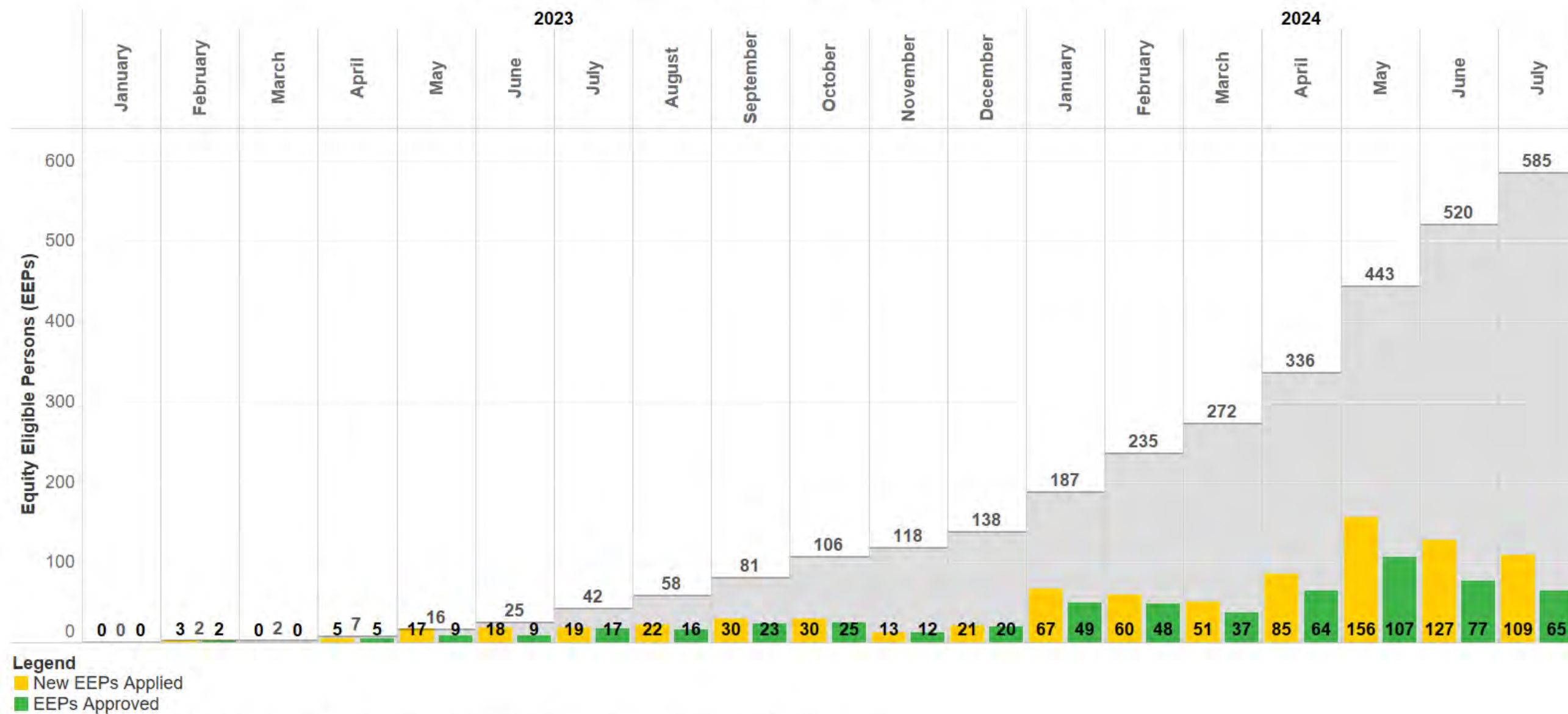
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Illinois
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity



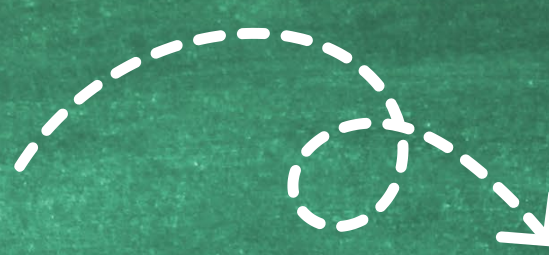
Energy Workforce Equity Portal (cont.)

Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs) in the Energy Workforce Equity Portal
New EEPs Applied, EEPs Approved and Total EEPs Approved by Month



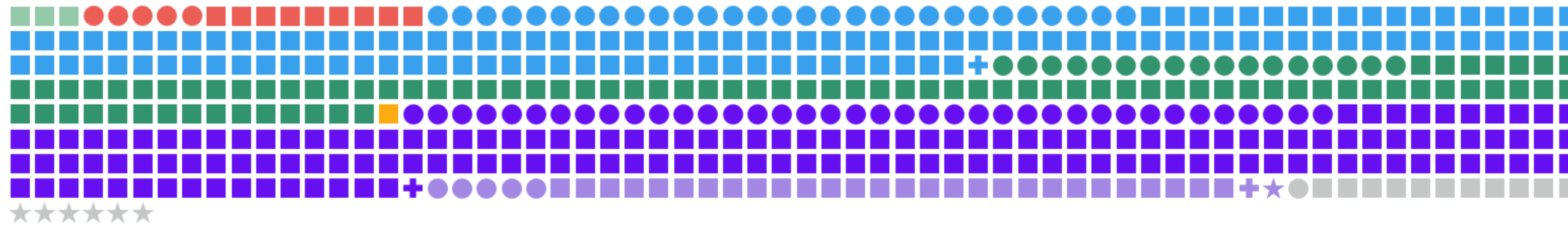
Legend
■ New EEPs Applied
■ EEPs Approved

Source: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau, Illinois Power Agency (July 2024)
Note: The reference line and shading represents the total EEPs approved.



Energy Workforce Equity Portal (cont.)

Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs) Registered in the Energy Workforce Equity Portal
Gender, Race and/or Ethnicities Reported in Registration



Gender

- Female
- Male
- ⊕ Non-Binary
- ★ Did not self-identify/Not disclosure

EEPs

95 person(s)
 413 person(s)
 3 person(s)
 7 person(s)

Percentage of Total EEPs

18.34%
 79.73%
 0.58%
 1.35%

Race and/or Ethnicities

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African-American
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White or Caucasian
- Two or more races
- Did not self-identify/Not disclosed

EEPs

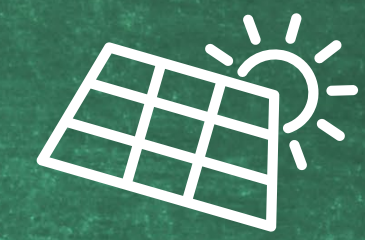
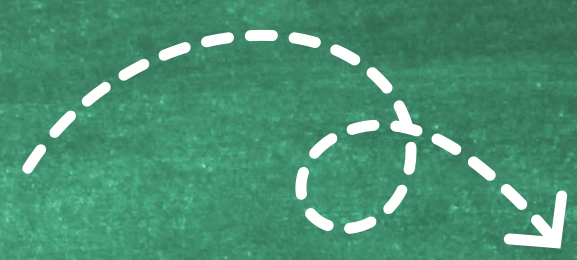
3 person(s)
 14 person(s)
 151 person(s)
 103 person(s)
 1 person(s)
 193 person(s)
 35 person(s)
 18 person(s)

Percentage of Total EEPs

0.58%
 2.70%
 29.15%
 19.88%
 0.19%
 37.26%
 6.76%
 3.47%

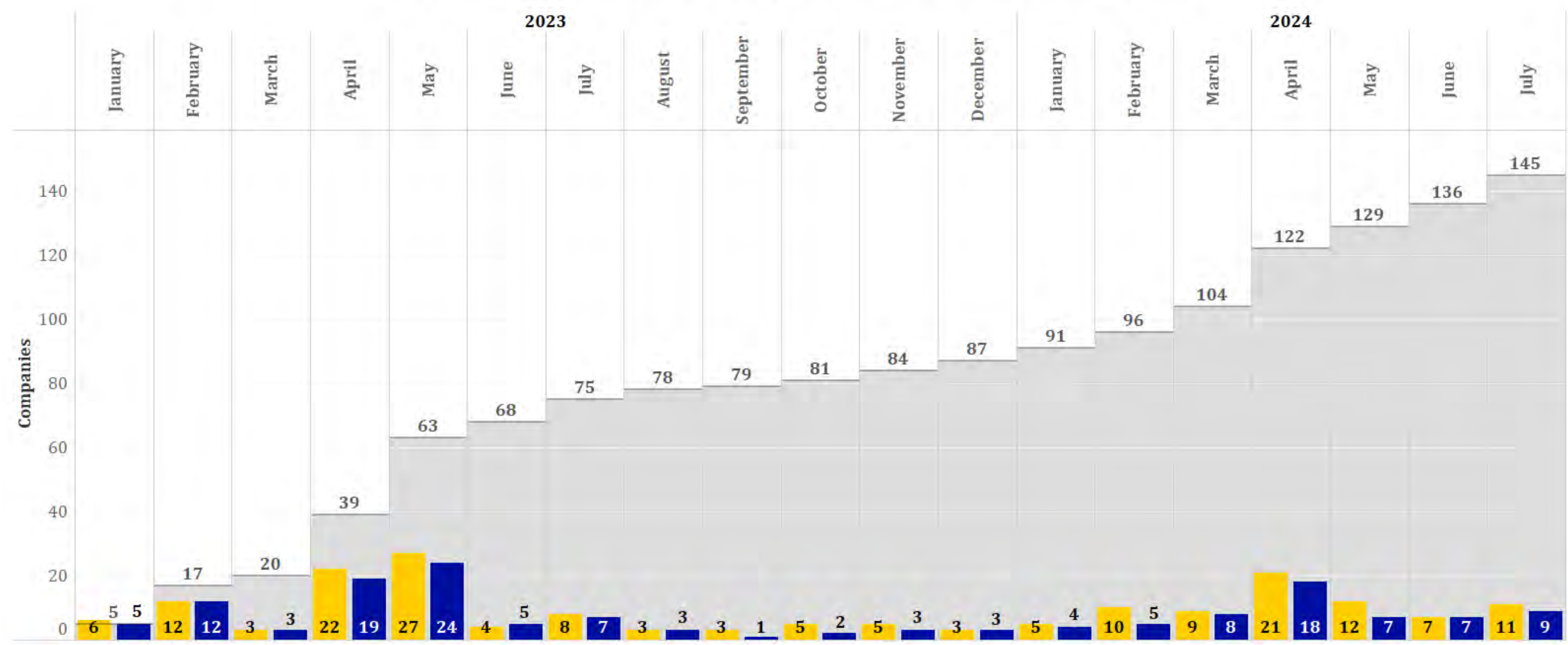
Source: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau, Illinois Power Agency (July 2024)

Note: The gender, race and/or ethnicity reflected is collected during the EEP registration process on the Portal. The option of *Two or more races* is available as its own option. For the purpose of this visualization when two or more races were reported, they are reported as under the *Two or more races* option.



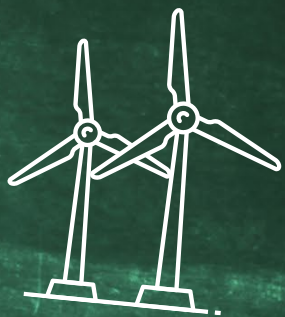
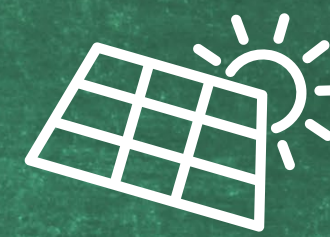
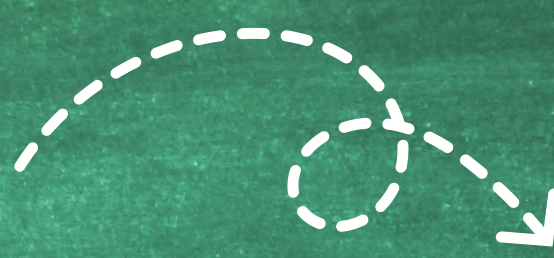
Energy Workforce Equity Portal (cont.)

Companies Registered in the Energy Workforce Equity Portal
Companies Applied, Companies Approved and Total Companies Approved by Month



Legend
■ Companies Applied
■ Companies Approved

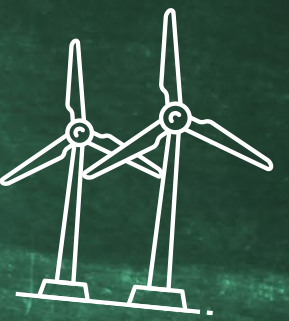
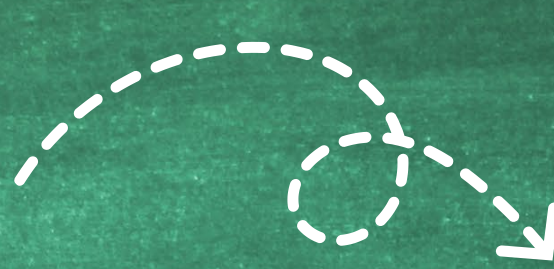
Source: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau, Illinois Power Agency (July 2024)
Note: The reference line and shading represents the total companies approved.



IPA's Equity Outreach

Outreach Goals:

- Outreach is geared toward minority business associations and organizations to:
 - Increase access to program education pertaining to Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs, including program requirements, registration, etc.
 - Share information of potential interest to Equity Eligible Contractors and Equity Eligible Persons
 - Increase visibility of the Energy Equity Workforce Portal, designed to connect clean energy companies with EEPs looking for jobs in the clean energy sector



Outreach Events



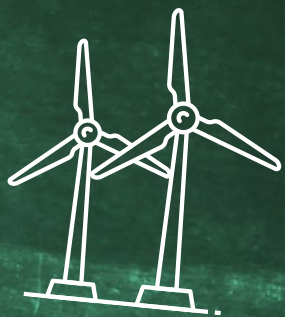
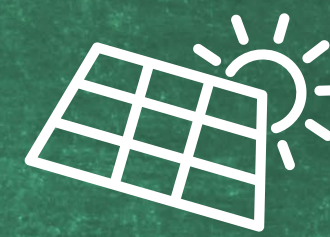
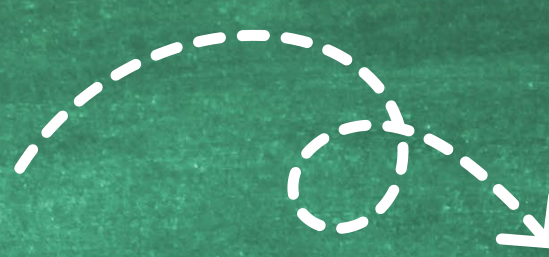
Photo I: Illinois Shines and ILSFA Program Administrators at Chicago Urban League Event



Photo II: IPA outreach table at Job & Career Expo and Resource Fair, hosted by 4th Ward Alderman Lamont Robinson



Photo III: ILSFA staff presentation at the Access to Capital Workshop for Small and Emerging Businesses, hosted at the NAACP's Chicago Westside Branch



Outreach Materials



Are you looking for new opportunities in the cutting-edge renewable energy sector?

If you are, you could qualify for a new initiative in Illinois. Illinois law requires companies participating in the Illinois Shines solar program and select utility-scale renewable project developers to hire a minimum percentage of Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs) to support the state goal of an equitable and inclusive clean energy economy.

You qualify as an EEP if you meet just ONE of these requirements:

- Live in an equity investment eligible community
- Have graduated from, or are a current or former participant of, the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program; the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program; the Illinois Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program; the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program; the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program; Solar training pipeline and multicultural jobs program created by the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)
- Were formerly incarcerated
- Are formerly or currently a member of the foster care system

To learn more, visit energyequity.illinois.gov

To register as an Equity Eligible Person, please scan the QR code:



¿Está buscando nuevas oportunidades en el sector de las energías renovables de vanguardia?

Si es así, podría calificar para una nueva iniciativa en Illinois. La ley de Illinois requiere que compañías participantes en el programa solar Illinois Shines y los desarrolladores selectos de proyectos renovables a escala de servicios públicos contraten un porcentaje mínimo de Personas de Equidad Elegible (EEP, por sus siglas en inglés) para apoyar el objetivo estatal de una economía de energía limpia equitativa e inclusiva.

Usted califica como EEP si cumple solo con UNO de estos requisitos:

- Vivir en una comunidad elegible para inversión de capital
- Haberse graduado, haber participado o estar participando actualmente en el Programa de la Red de la Fuerza Laboral de Empleos Limpios; el Programa de Incubadoras de Contratistas de Energía Limpia; el Programa de Preaprendizaje de Illinois Climate Works; el Programa de Capacitación en Empleos Limpios para Residentes que Regresan; el Programa Acelerador de Contratista de Clean Energy Primes; y el Programa de canalización de capacitación solar y multiculturales
- Fue anteriormente encarcelado
- Es miembro anterior o actual del sistema de crianza temporal

Para más información, visite energyequity.illinois.gov

Para registrarse como Persona de Equidad Elegible, escanee el código QR:



Energy Workforce Equity Portal

REGISTER. EXPLORE. CONNECT.

The Portal is designed to:

- Help clean energy companies post jobs and connect with Equity Eligible Persons seeking employment
- Help individuals find out whether they qualify as Equity Eligible Persons, connect with prospective employers, and find jobs
- Connect Equity Eligible Persons with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) on workforce training programs
- Certify Equity Eligible Persons
- Show maps of equity investment eligible communities

WEAR YOUR GREEN PRIDE: CLIMATE TO LEADERSHIP



Equity Eligible Person and Requirements

An Equity Eligible Person ("EEP") is a person who "would most benefit from equitable investments by the State designed to combat discrimination."

Individuals can qualify as "equity eligible" if they meet one of the following requirements:

1. persons who graduate from or are current or former participants 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;
2. persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system;
3. persons who were formerly incarcerated;
4. persons whose primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community.



More information:

energyequity.illinois.gov

Become an Equity Eligible Contractor with Illinois Shines

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act established an **Equity Accountability System** to expand access to the clean energy economy, including establishing a project category for Equity Eligible Contractors (EECs) in Illinois Shines. The EEC category provides:

- A separate, reserved block of project capacity available only to EEC Approved Vendors (AVs)
- Opportunities to receive an advance of capital for REC incentives



Simple steps to becoming a certified Equity Eligible Contractor:

- 1 **Review the Eligibility Criteria**
Note that both Approved Vendors and Designees can become certified as an Equity Eligible Contractor.
- 2 **Complete and submit the AV or Designee registration and attestation form**
The Program Administrator may also request additional documentation showing proof of eligibility. It's helpful to have these documents ready to make your application process easier.
- 3 **Check your email frequently and respond to any Program Administrator follow up requests**
Application review typically takes two weeks.

Get Started!



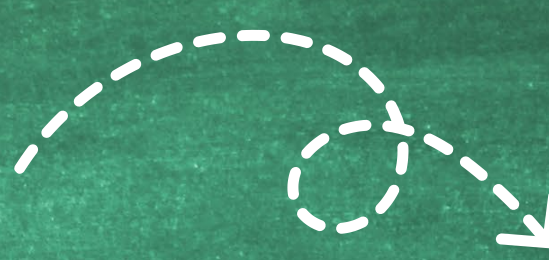
A dedicated EEC Sector Strategist is ready to support prospective & current EECs with:

- Illinois Shines Approved Vendor and/or Designee enrollment or renewal
- Fulfilling required Program reporting
- Submitting project applications, including accessing technical support
- Supporting prospective EEC mentees
- Directing EECs to the Energy Workforce Equity Portal to connect with job seekers
- And more!

Illinois Shines and the Illinois Power Agency are committed to the success of Equity Eligible Contractors. For assistance at any time, contact the EEC Sector Strategist Conner Rettig at eec@illinoisshines.com or the Program Administration team at admin@illinoisshines.com.

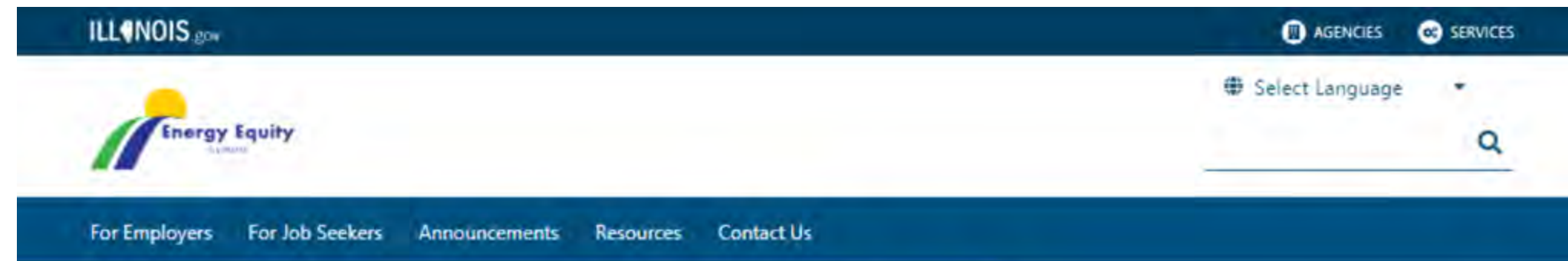


Illinois Shines Program Administrator | admin@illinoisshines.com | (877) 783-1820



Small & Emerging Business Hub (Coming Soon!)

The “Hub” will include expanded information for small and emerging companies on the market landscape, including information on how to start and grow businesses, certifications, workforce needs, etc.

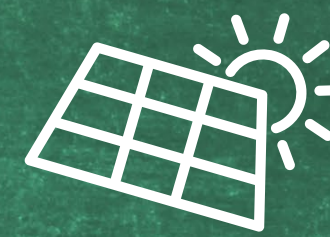
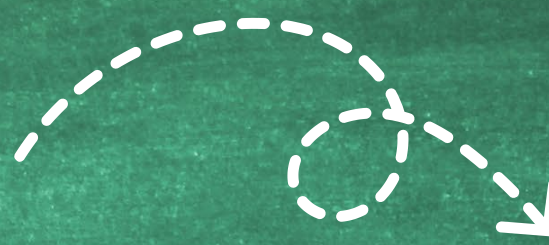


Small & Emerging Business Hub



Small and emerging businesses play a crucial role in Illinois for several reasons: they are a platform for entrepreneurship, they provide career opportunities, services, social and community benefits and strengthen local economies. However, launching a new venture in the solar energy industry can be challenging for small business owners and entrepreneurs. Start-up costs, obtaining technical expertise and certifications, access to capital, and understanding and navigating the policy and regulatory environment are some of the hurdles facing business owners.

The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) launched the Small & Emerging Business Hub (Hub) to bring together key resources, tools, and information to help businesses get started and seize opportunities in the state's solar economy. As the Agency in charge of the state's two solar incentive programs, the IPA wants to ensure the market develops equitably.



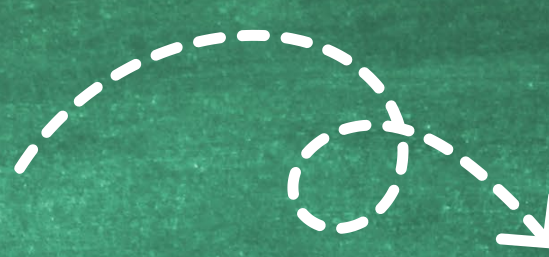
Additional data collection and reporting requirements

1. EAS Assessment – occurring in 2 parts

Objectives:

- Evaluate effectiveness at increasing participation of EEPs/EECs in programs/ procurements
- ID areas for improvement and propose recommendations to ensure EAS meets its goals

2. Racial Disparity Study – partner with DCEO, Dept. of Labor to commission, conduct and publish a study to "measure the presence and impact of discrimination on minority businesses and workers in Illinois' clean energy economy" as a whole

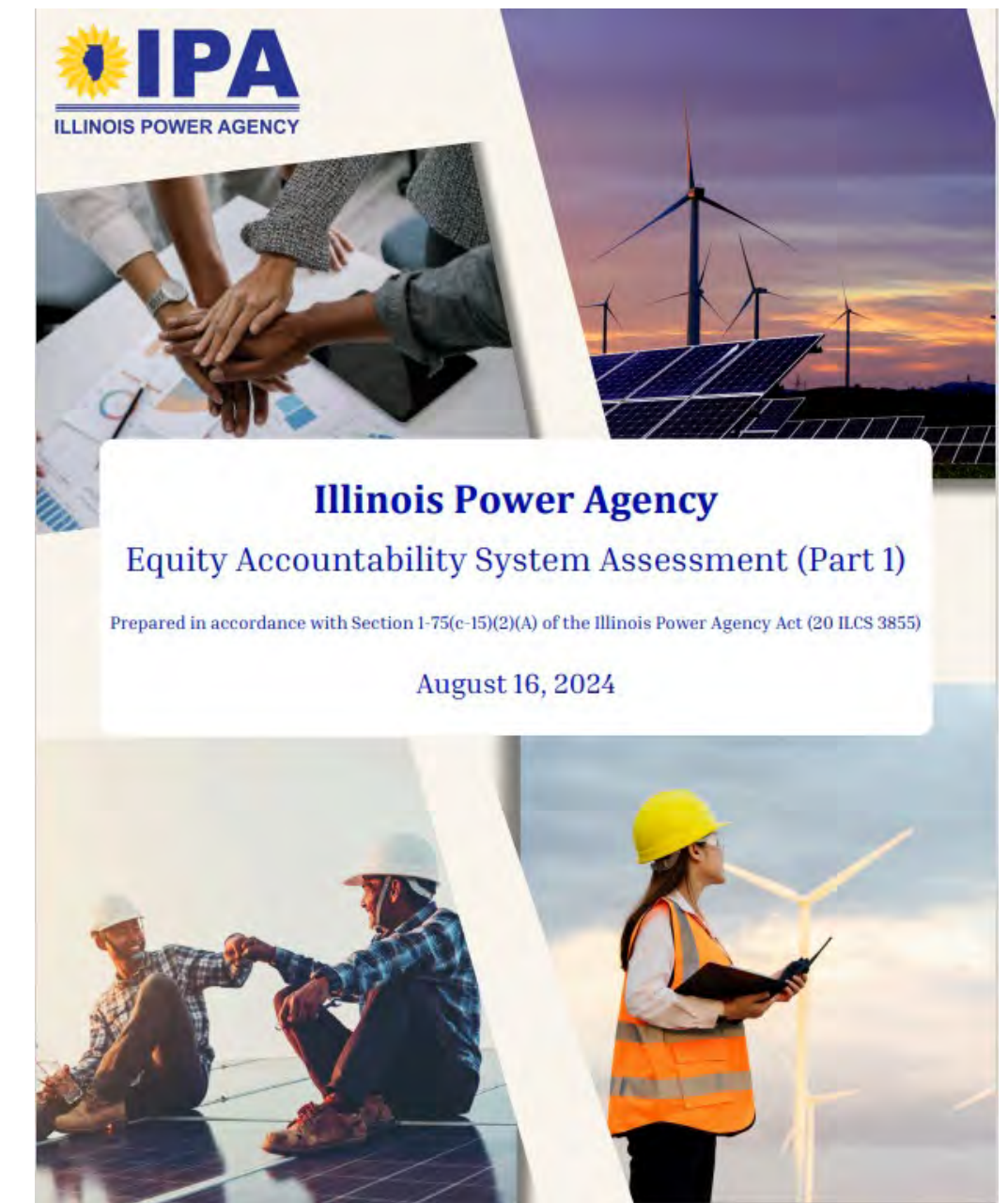


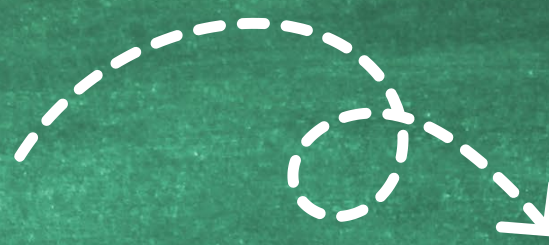
Deeper Dive: EAS Assessments

Part 1 focus: on available data and insights, covering several key areas: MES Compliance Plans and Mid-Year Reports, EEC Project Category, Competitive Procurement Bid Adjustments, and the Energy Workforce Equity Portal ([Part 1 Assessment](#) released August 16, 2024)

Part 2 focus: delve deeper into MES Year-End Reports, MES Waivers, Workforce Demographics, Annual Reporting Data, and will culminate in an overall assessment of the EAS complete with final recommendations for improvements

**This bifurcated approach helps ensure the assessment is as thorough and informed as possible given the timing of data availability.*

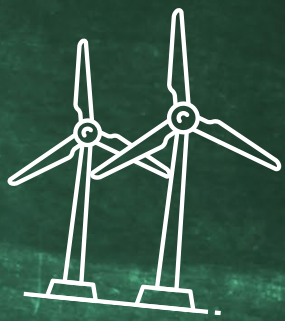
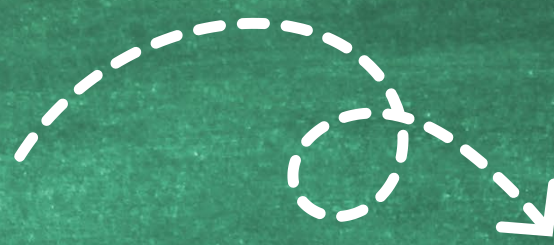




Deeper Dive: Racial Disparity Study

Objective: to provide complete, comprehensive and legally supportable Racial Disparity and Availability Study to assess the presence and impact of racial discrimination or disparities in Illinois' clean energy economy

Status: Released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in Spring 2024 in search for qualified, knowledgeable experts to conduct the study. Responses were due June 21, 2024. Following review of responses, the Agency will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP), inviting responses from firms found qualified through the RFQ process.



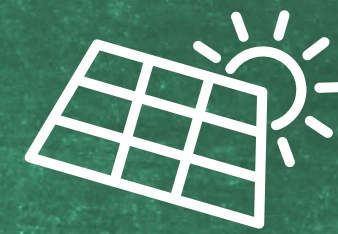
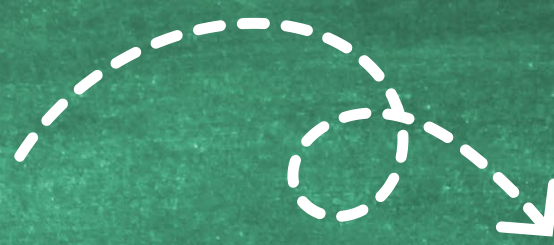
DCEO Workforce Programs

Roles: Ongoing Partnership between agencies, DCEO vs. IPA's role

DCEO's CEJA Workforce Training Programs

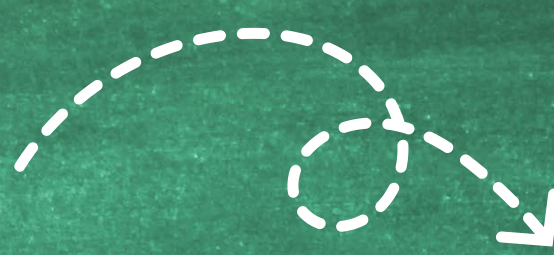
- IPA does not administer CEJA Job Training Programs
- DCEO is charged with implementing many programs under CEJA, including the Clean Jobs Workforce and Contractor Programs

For questions on CEJA workforce training programs, please read the [**CEJA Workforce Programs FAQ**](#) and contact [**CEO.CEJA@illinois.gov**](mailto:CEO.CEJA@illinois.gov) with questions



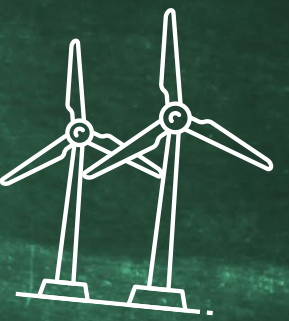
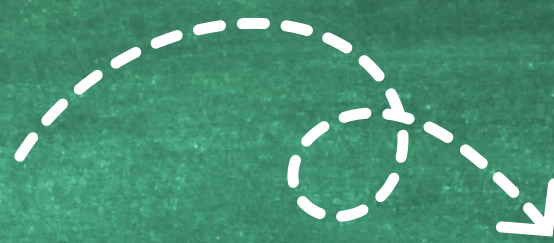
Part II: Equity Initiatives within Illinois Solar for All

- Eligibility Criteria
- Grassroots Educators
- Sub-program incentives
- Project selection scoring
- Support services for Approved Vendors and Designees
- Workshops for small and emerging businesses



Illinois Solar for All Eligibility Criteria

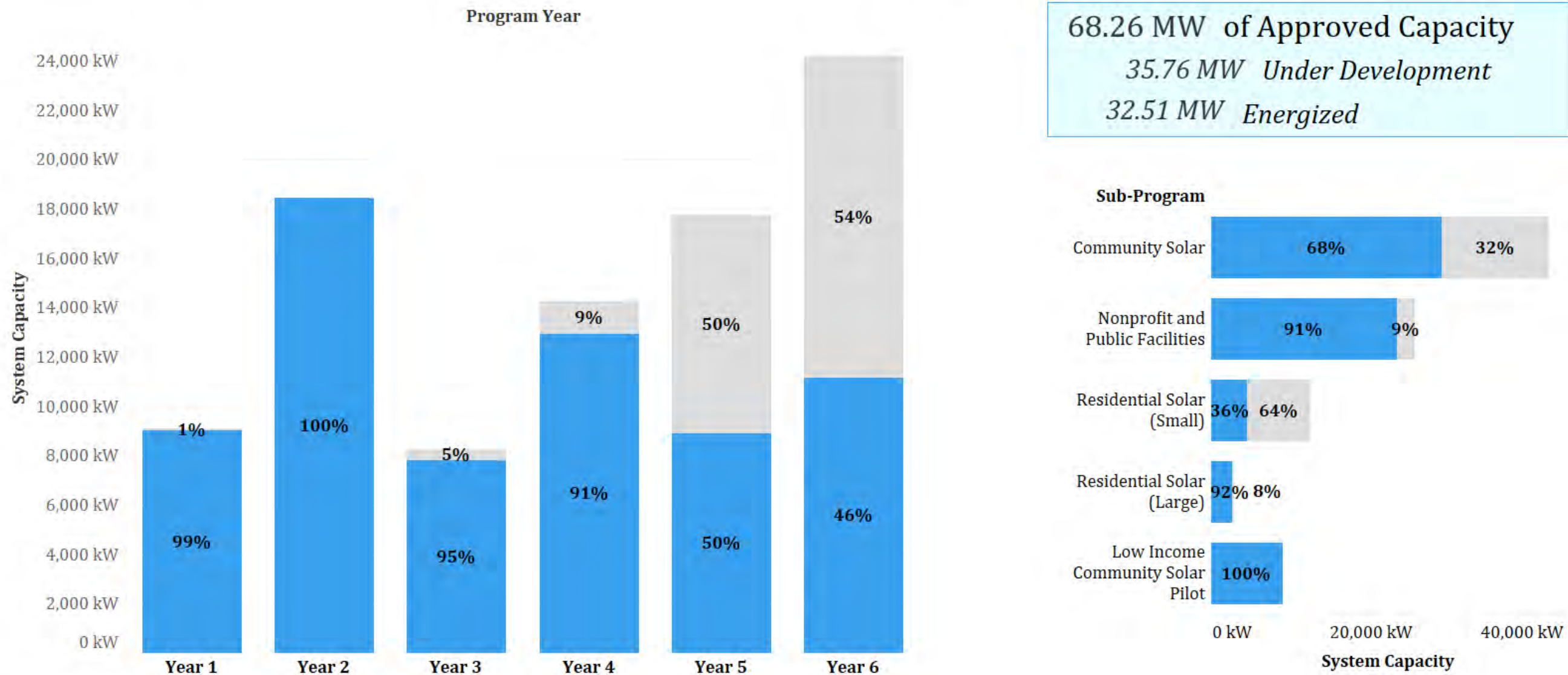
- **Eligibility Criteria – ILSFA focuses on:**
 - Income-eligible households: households with an income 80% or less of Area Median Income (AMI) - *income verification*
 - Non-profit and public facilities located in an [environmental justice](#) or income-eligible community and is a "critical service provider" for income-eligible residents



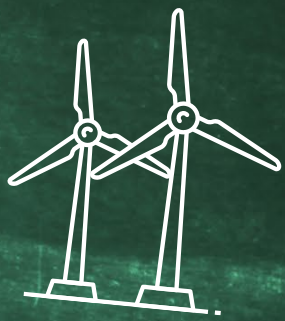
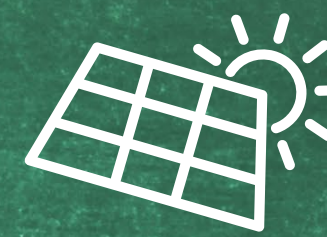
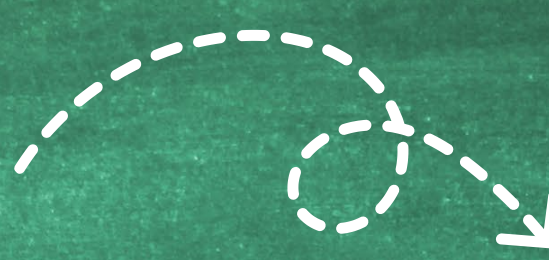
ILSFA Project Data: Income-Eligible Communities

Illinois Solar for All

Projects located in Income-Eligible Communities by Program Year and by Sub-Program



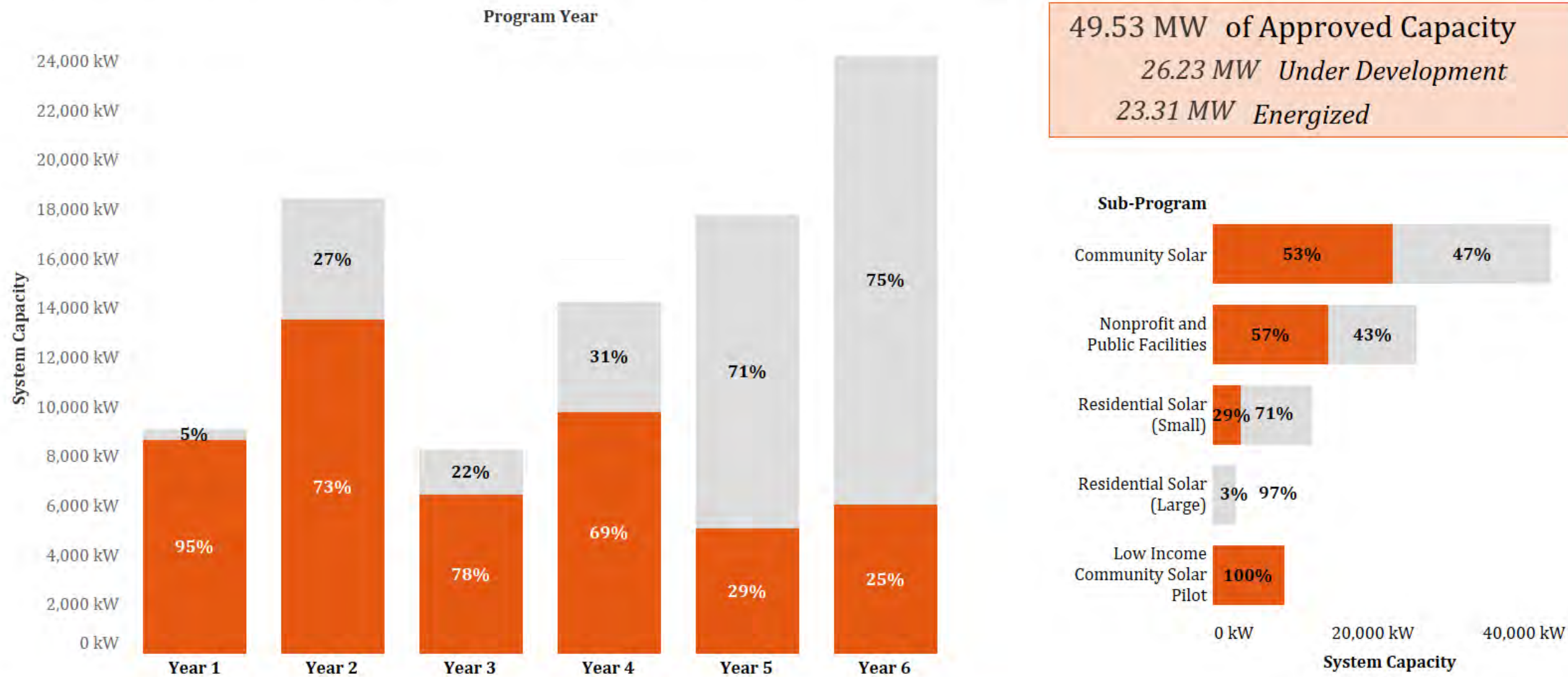
Source: Illinois Solar for All, Illinois Power Agency (July 2024)



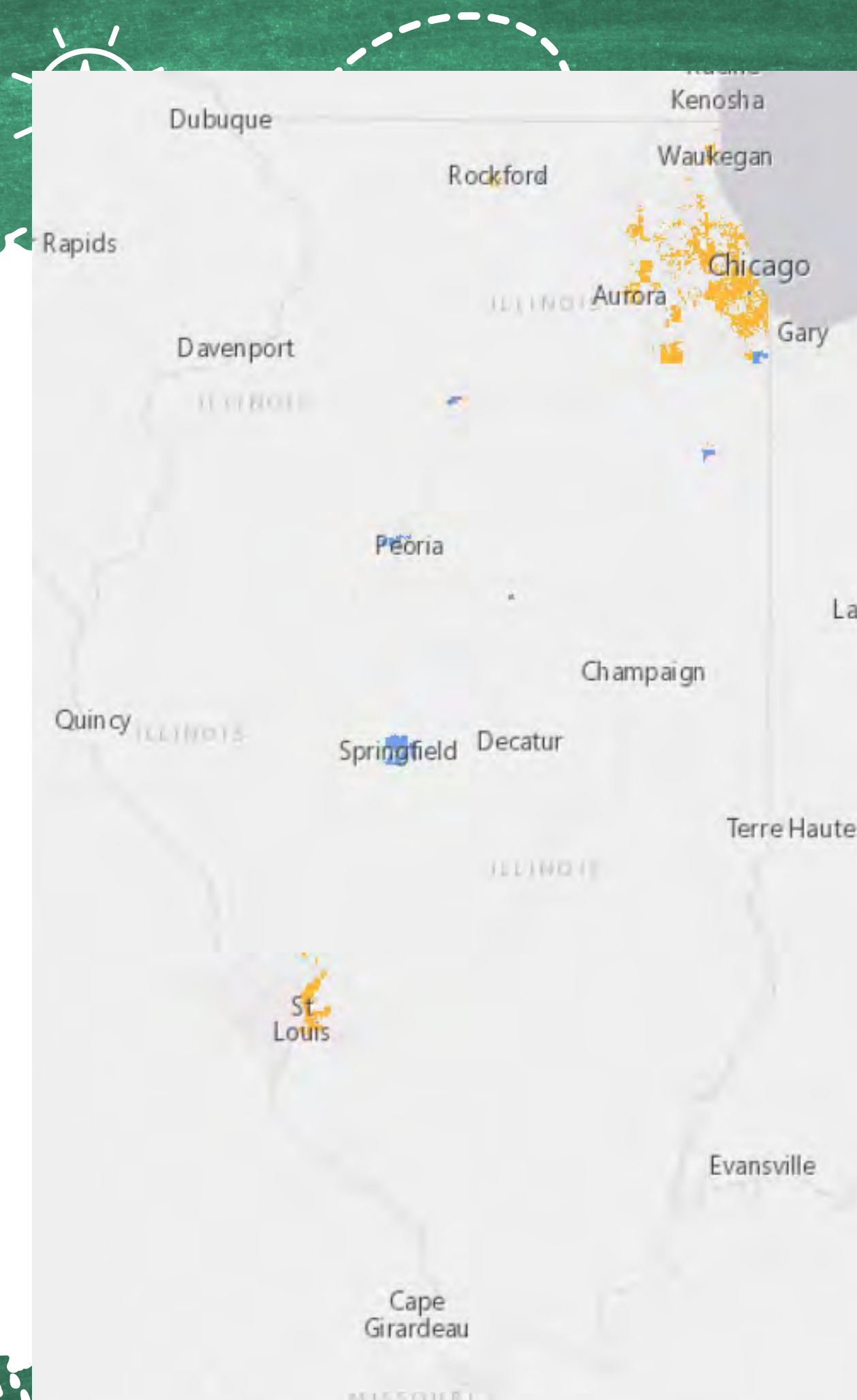
ILSFA Project Data: Environmental Justice Communities

Illinois Solar for All

Projects located in Environmental Justice Communities by Program Year and by Sub-Program

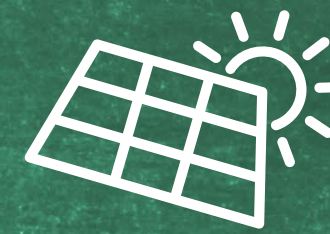
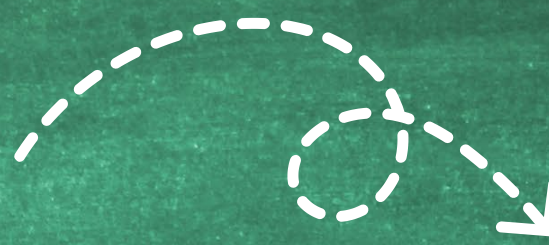


Source: Illinois Solar for All, Illinois Power Agency (July 2024)



ILSFA Project Data:
Environmental Justice
Community Map

- The orange areas indicate EJCs that currently meet calculated criteria.
- Communities in blue are those that were created through the self designation process.



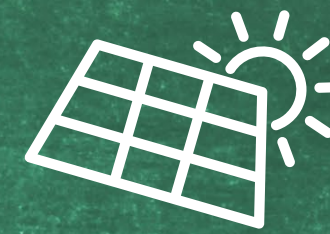
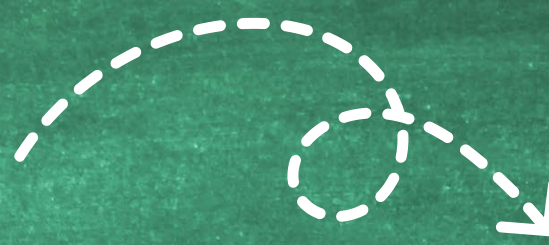
Grassroots Educators

Grassroots Educators are:

- Non-profits and trusted members of their communities
- Contracted to conduct Grassroots Education campaigns to educate income-eligible residents about ILSFA

They bridge the divide of accessibility and education by:

- Being trusted sources of information on ILSFA and the Illinois solar market
- Advising on technical process
- Engaging community members in stakeholder feedback processes
- Promoting opportunities for community members to engage with solar training programs



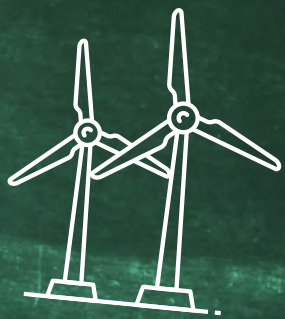
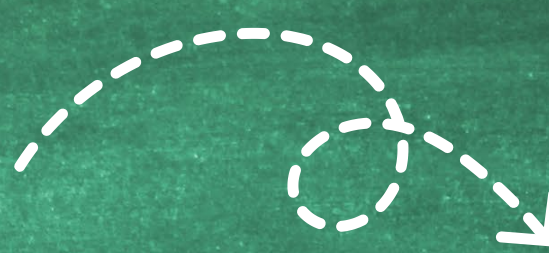
Funding

Grassroots Education Funding

- Up to 5% of program funding can be used for Grassroots Education efforts
- Up to 60% of the budget can focus on environmental justice communities

ILSFA Program Budget allocates 25% of sub-program incentives for:

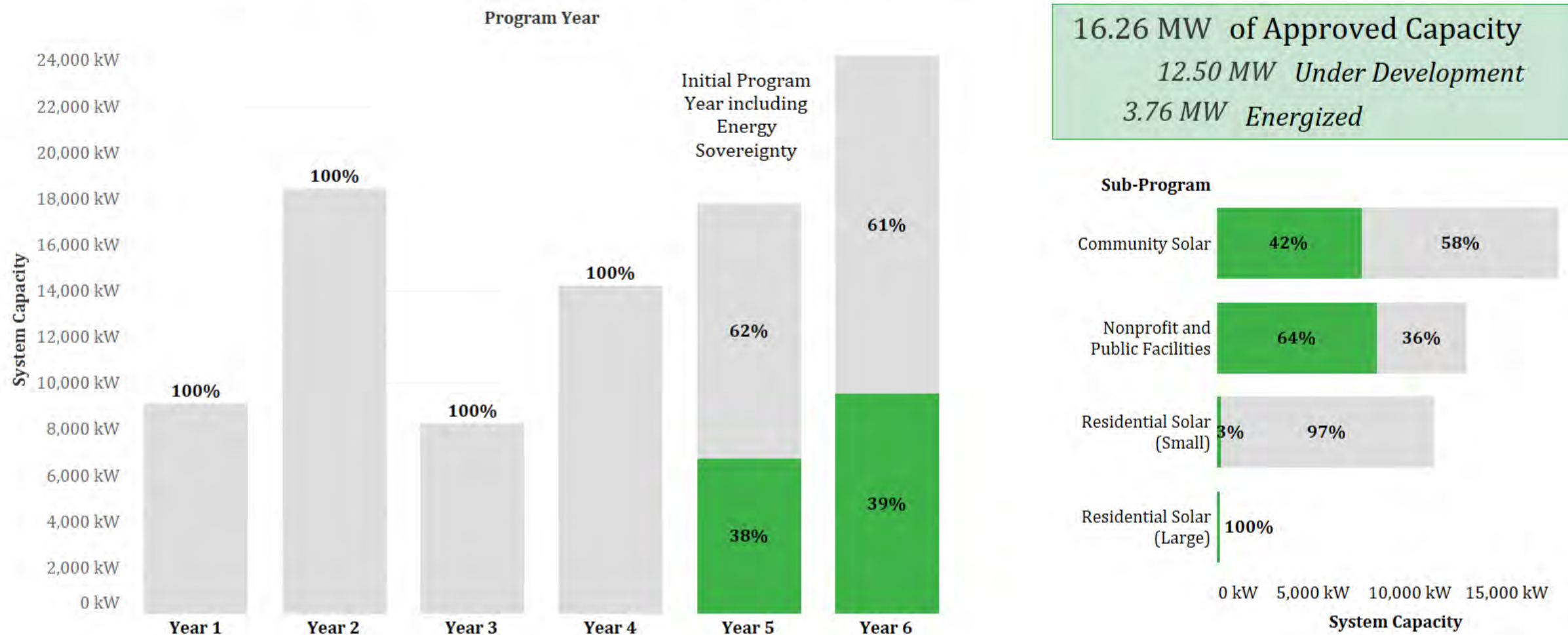
- Projects located in Environmental Justice communities
- Projects that promote "**Energy Sovereignty**" which:
 - Promotes ownership and local community wealth-building,
 - Brings benefits to participants beyond electricity cost-savings by promoting a path to full ownership, and
 - The right to decision-making over the governance, maintenance, and use of the system/facility.



ILSFA Project Data: Energy Sovereignty Projects

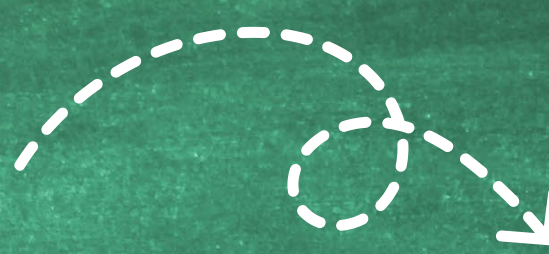
Illinois Solar for All

Projects featuring Energy Sovereignty by Program Year and by Sub-Program



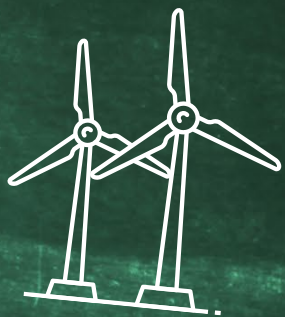
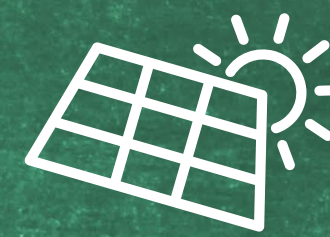
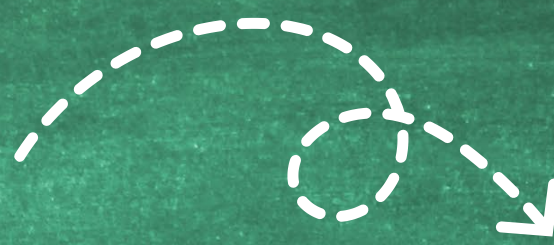
Source: Illinois Solar for All, Illinois Power Agency (July 2024)

Note: The data reported by sub-program is based on Program Years 5 and 6, when Energy Sovereignty was applicable in Illinois Solar for All.



ILSFA Support Services **for Approved Vendors and Designees**

- Approved Vendor office hours hosted by ILSFA Vendor Managers
- 1:1 support with members of the AV Management Team and Small & Emerging Business Initiative:
 - Program overview and registration
 - Guidance on program resources
 - Networking/industry support and referrals
 - Understanding program requirements
- Workshops held by the ILSFA Program Administrator, Elevate, help small and emerging business leaders understand the gaps/needs of small and emerging businesses so they can better engage with the growing Illinois solar market

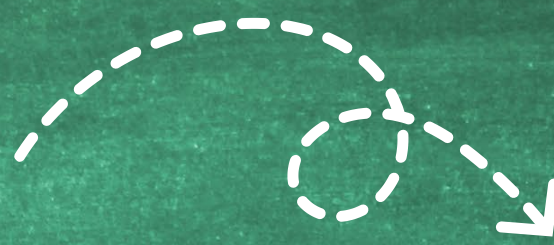


Project Selection Scoring

During project selection, additional points are awarded to eligible projects:

- Located in income-eligible communities
- Located in environmental justice communities
- Promoting energy sovereignty
- Minority/women-owned business enterprises (MWBE), Approved Vendors, and MWBE sub-contractors

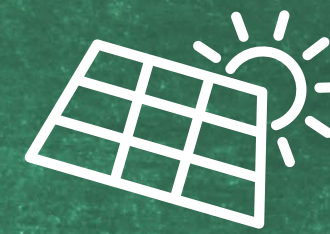
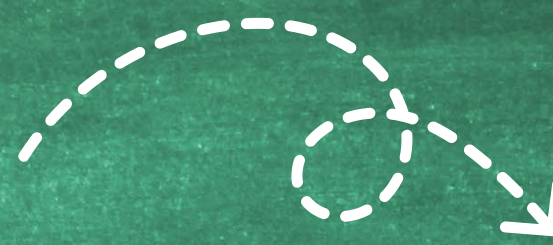
Note: Project selection ensures that when there is more demand for project funds than available, the incentives are going to the programs that best represent the various equity goals that the ILSFA Program is attempting to serve.



Q&A

We welcome you to ask general questions related to today's program. Please contact us with more specific questions about these programs or related topics.

(And join us for our final "IPA Summer School" session of the year on the IPA's progress toward state clean energy goals)

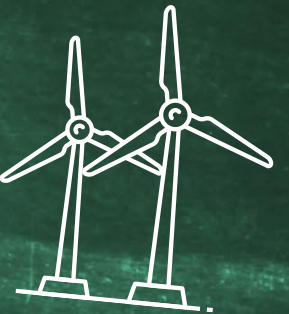
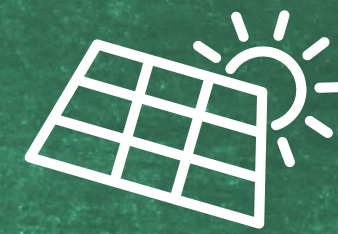
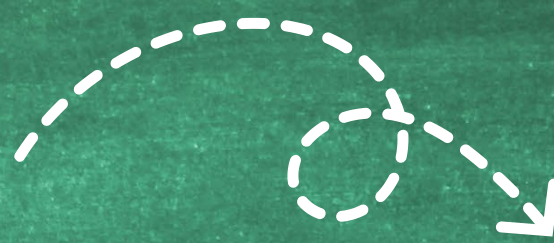


Thank you for coming!

Register for the final session in the series [here](#).

Join us in two weeks:

Session 4: IPA's Clean Energy Dashboard &
Progress Toward State Clean Energy Goals
Thursday, September 19, from 12:15-1pm



Contact us

Whitney Richardson

IPA Legislative Affairs Manager

Whitney.Richardson@Illinois.gov

312-639-9486