



# Illinois Power Agency Offeror Q&A Workshop

Illinois Solar for All Evaluation

January 31, 2025

# Agenda

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- **Housekeeping**
- **Evaluator Selection Process Timeline**
- **Origin in IPA Act**
- **ILSFA Evaluation To-Date**
- **Proposed Evaluation Report Approach**
- **Questions for Feedback**
- **Q&A**
- **Closing**

# Evaluator Selection Process Timeline



**Request for Stakeholder Feedback** – Released December 2, 2024 (*completed*)

**Stakeholder Feedback Webinar** – December 16, 2024 (*completed*)

**Stakeholder Feedback Responses Due** – December 20, 2024 (*completed*)

## **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**

Publish RFQ – January 24, 2025 (*now live*)

Offeror Questions – due to IPA by February 5, 2025

Qualification Responses Due – February 14, 2025

Announce Qualified Responses – late February 2025

## **Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Publish RFP – early March 2025

Proposal Responses Due – early April 2025

Evaluator Selection Announced – late April 2025

# Origin in IPA Act

- **Section 1-56(b)(6) of Illinois Power Agency Act in part:**
  - *“At least every 2 years, the Agency shall select an independent evaluator to review and report on the Illinois Solar for All Program and the performance of the third-party program administrator of the Illinois Solar for All Program. The evaluation shall be based on objective criteria developed through a stakeholder process. The process shall include feedback and participation from Illinois Solar for All Program stakeholders, including participants and organizations in environmental justice and historically underserved communities. The report shall include a summary of the evaluation of the Illinois Solar for All Program based on the stakeholder developed objective criteria.”*

# Background & Purpose

- **Agency has completed two previous ISFA Evaluator RFP cycles**
  - **First cycle reported on first three program years (18-19, 19-20, 20-21)**
  - **Second cycle (currently ongoing) will report on Program Years 21-22, 22-23 and 23-24**
- **The next cycle will focus on Program Years 24-25 and 25-26**
- **The selected evaluator will also evaluate additional specific topics through mid-year reports**
  - **For example, one previous mid-year report focused on barriers in the ILSFA Residential Solar program**
  - **Topics for the consideration by the selected Evaluator through this process is TBD**

***Qualified Offerors, based upon the responses to this RFQ, will be invited by the Agency to submit proposals in response to a more detailed RFP.***

# RFQ Elements

- The **RFQ** is comprised of three sections:
  - ILSFA Evaluator Background and Description of the RFQ
  - Section 1: Submittal of Qualifications Checklist and Signature Page
  - Section 2: Technical Proposal
- Prospective Offerors are instructed to review the entire Solicitation package and submit a “Submittal of Qualifications” as instructed in the RFQ.
  - Please make note of the Business Enterprise Program goal of 30% in Section I.15

# Summary of Qualifications

- (A) Direct previous experience evaluating low-income energy programs**
- (B) Experience in the evaluation of one or more of the following**
  - i. Solar energy development programs**
  - ii. Energy programs in Illinois**
- (C) Experience working with stakeholders in public and community engagement processes**
- (D) Experience with quantitative data collection strategies for targeted populations, and cultural sensitivity around interaction with local community-based organizations and low-income individuals**
- (E) Experience modeling job impacts**
- (F) Experience in the evaluation of economic and social benefits of energy programs**
- (G) Previous experience evaluating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in energy program initiatives, including, but not limited to, grassroots education, environmental justice communities, and trade industry outreach**
- (H) Adequate resources to perform and fulfill the required functions and responsibilities; and**
- (I) The absence of a conflict of interest and inappropriate bias for or against potential program participants, the State of Illinois, or the affected electric utilities.**



# Offeror Next Steps

## Offeror Questions:

- Written questions must be submitted to the Agency by 5pm CPT on February 5
- Questions will be reviewed and responses posted on the IPA website

## Offeror RFQ responses:

- RFQ responses are due to the Agency by 5pm CPT on February 14

## Refer to the RFQ Sections 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5 for details on submitting questions and responses.

- Email questions and RFQ responses to [James.Rouland@illinois.gov](mailto:James.Rouland@illinois.gov)
- The Email subject should state: “[Responder’s Name] – ILSFA Evaluation Offeror [Question/RFQ Response].”

***All questions and their responses will be published on IPA website.***



## RFP/RFQ materials

- Posted documents can be found on the IPA website under the *Stakeholder Engagements* section with the title: **Illinois Solar for All Program Evaluation Process (December 2024)** (link: Stakeholder Engagement)
- The RFQ itself can be found here: [20250124-ilsfa-evaluator-rfq-jan-2025-v2.pdf](#)

**Previously released Evaluation Reports and Annual Program Summaries can be found on the Illinois Solar for All website** ([Evaluation and Reports - Illinois Solar for All](#))

# Offer Questions & Answers

**For Questions:**  
**Contact the IPA's ILSFA Team at**  
**Email: [IPA.ILSFA@illinois.gov](mailto:IPA.ILSFA@illinois.gov)**

# Appendix

*Evaluation Report Structure, Covering PY7 & PY8,  
Mid-year Report Topics, and Evaluation Element  
Focus*

## Purpose of Evaluation Reports

- Provide metrics, experiences, and program recommendations (e.g., households served, MW installed, participant feedback)
- Comprehensive snapshot and analysis of program in context of goals

## Structure

- Two annual reports
  - (1) covering PY25, and (2) covering PY26
  - Includes program metrics, analysis, experience reporting from surveys or interviews, improvement recommendations
  - Includes summary report
- Topical mid-year reports
  - One or two per year
  - Provides targeted analysis

# Proposed Evaluation Elements

## Covering Program Years PY7 and PY8

**The evaluation must evaluate the following** (per Section 1-56(b)(6) of the IPA Act):

- Number of projects installed
- Total installed capacity in kilowatts
- Average cost per kilowatt of installed capacity
- Number of jobs or job opportunities created
- Economic, social, and environmental benefits created
- Total administrative costs

**The IPA proposes to further analyze the metrics above by the following factors:**

- By sub-program (residential distributed generation, Non-profit/Public Facilities, Community Solar)
- For DG and Community Solar, by owners and renters
- By business model (e.g., purchase, lease, power purchase agreement)
- By geographic regions including, but not limited to Environmental Justice communities, Low-income communities, rural, suburban, and urban areas
- Other socioeconomic or demographic characteristics proposed by the Evaluator and/or stakeholders

# Mid-Year Report Evaluation Elements



## Additional topics the Agency intends to consider for mid-year reports:

- 1-4 unit distributed generation participation (including barriers for Approved Vendors and participants)
- Analysis of the Program's incorporation of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)
- Income distribution of ILSFA participations within the 80% Area Median Income (AMI) standard
- Actual participant savings achieved compared to expected participant savings
- Income verification method used
- Impact of ILSFA job training requirements
- Analysis of new energy sovereignty incentives



# Evaluation Elements Focus on

- **Economic, social, and environmental benefits** (e.g. impacts on solar installation, % domestically produced panels, CO2 reductions)
- **Job and job opportunities created** (e.g. construction or installation jobs created, % permanent vs. Temporary, average wages or salaries)
- In addition to the statutorily required metrics, the evaluation should also consider **Program performance metrics** (e.g. incentive dollars awarded, all-in costs per kWh of expected production) and the evaluation of **Program Administrator's performance** (e.g. success of outreach undertaken by Program Administrator, survey responses from Approved Vendors on experience working with Program Administrator)

*\*See Appendix for detailed overview of Evaluation Elements and Metrics\**