Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative Report

PROGRAM YEAR 2025-2026

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Executive Summary

The Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative ("Initiative") supports income-eligible homeowners participating in the Illinois Solar for All ("ILSFA") Residential Solar (Small) sub-program by providing additional incentives to Approved Vendors for completing roof and electrical repairs necessary for solar installations. Since its launch in 2023, the Initiative has expanded access to solar energy for income-eligible homeowners across Illinois. The Program Administrator and the Agency have renewed their commitment to continue operating the Initiative until U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) are available for site suitability upgrades. The Initiative has now completed its third year of implementation in alignment with the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan.

Over its first three years, the Initiative has experienced significant growth. Project submission increased from 13 projects submitted in Program Year 2023-2024 ("PY23-24") to 206 projects in Program Year 2024-2025 ("PY24-25"). Growth continued into Program Year 2025-2026 ("PY25-26") with 215 submitted projects and 160 of those advancing based on available budget. For PY25-26, this resulted in approximately $1.49 million in home repair investments and more than $7.25 million in projected Renewable Energy Credit (REC) value. At the same time, participation has also expanded geographically, extending beyond the Chicago area into supporting projects in Central and Southern Illinois.

Program updates for PY25-26 further supported this growth. Improvements, including increased repair cost caps and simplified repair categories, have enhanced accessibility for homeowners and strengthened vendor participation. Electrical repairs continued to account for the majority of completed projects, while demand for roof repairs remained high. Survey feedback from both participants and Approved Vendors highlights a widespread need for solar-readiness support, though limited funding remains a key barrier to participation. While completed projects are generally well received, many participants face delays and communication challenges.

This report summarizes the Initiative's third year, including key lessons learned from the second year, updates implemented in PY25-26, and findings related to external funding, participation, submitted projects, and feedback from participant and Approved Vendor surveys.

1. Initiative Overview

The Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative supports income-eligible, owner-occupied homes in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program by addressing roof and electrical repair needs. Since its start in 2023, the Initiative has been offering Renewable Energy Credit ("REC") adders to ILSFA Approved Vendors to cover these home repairs and upgrades. Additionally, the Initiative connects homeowners with existing home repair programs in Illinois and coordinates with the entities that operate these home repair programs to better understand the availability of outside funding in the state.

The Program Administrator released the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative 2023-2024 Program Year Report in July 2024[1] and released the 2024-2025 Program Year Report in August 2025.[2] The third year of the Initiative officially launched for the 2025-2026 Program Year in June 2025.

GOALS

The Initiative has two main goals: to increase participation in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program and to collect data on the frequency and extent of home repair needs for solar readiness from Approved Vendors and homeowners. To meet this need, the Program Administrator aimed to support 150-200 projects with the Initiative in PY25-26.

2. Findings from the Previous Program Year

The Initiative experienced substantial growth during the 2024-2025 Program Year, demonstrating a strong and ongoing need for solar-readiness repairs among income-eligible homeowners in Illinois. The Initiative saw increased project submissions from 13 projects in PY23–24 to 206 projects in PY24–25, surpassing the Pilot's second-year goal to support 50–75 projects. Participation also expanded geographically, beyond the Chicago metropolitan area into Central and Southern Illinois, as more Approved Vendors became active in both the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program and the Initiative.

Several program design updates between the first and second years of the Initiative contributed significantly to this increased participation. Based on stakeholder feedback and lessons learned from the Initiative's first year, the Program Administrator increased the electrical repair cap from $4,000 to $6,550, increased the roofing and structural repair cap from $10,000 to $14,000, and added a $450 administrative fee per project for the Initiative's second year. In addition, eliminating the requirement for homeowners to provide written proof that they attempted to

[1] See: https://www.illinoissfa.com/announcements/2024/07/illinois-solar-for-all-releases-home-repairs-and-upgrades-initiative-report-and-request-for-stakeholder-feedback/.
[2] See: https://www.illinoissfa.com/announcements/2025/08/the-2024-2025-home-repairs-and-upgrades-report-is-available/

secure external funding for repairs due to limited availability in external funding sources, reduced administrative burdens for the participant. Approved Vendors reported that these changes made projects more financially feasible and encouraged broader participation, particularly for roofing work, which had been underrepresented during the Initiative's first year.

Among homeowners who contacted the Program Administrator independent of an Approved Vendor, **Figure 1: Needed Home Repairs for Prospective Participants,** shows the types of home repairs prospective participants[3] self-reported in Program Year 24-25. [4] The majority self-reported needing roof repairs, followed by electrical repairs, and then a combination of roof and electrical repairs.

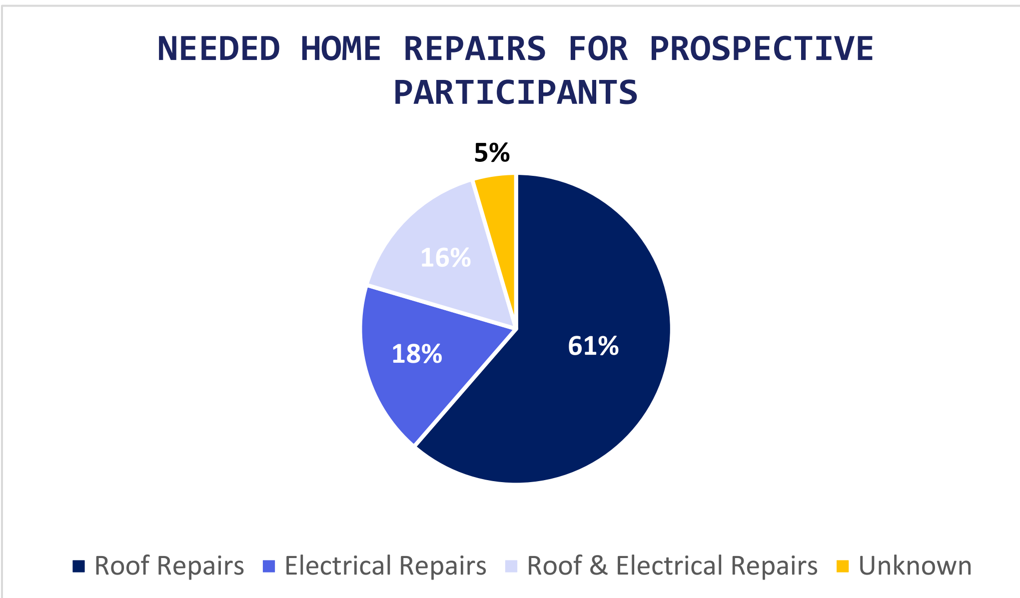

Figure 1. Home repairs prospective participants self-reported for PY24-25.

Additionally, 92% of surveyed Approved Vendors in PY24-25 stated they regularly encounter homes requiring roof and/or electrical repairs to become solar-ready, with most vendors reporting these needs in 25–75% of the homes they assess. Despite homeowners more frequently identifying roof issues, the majority of projects submitted in PY24-25 through the Initiative involved electrical repairs. See **Figure 2: PY24-25 Types of Projects with the Initiative** below.

[3] Prospective participants are defined as homeowners who come to the Program Administrator independent of an Approved Vendor.
[4] Needed home repairs for 5% of prospective participants in PY24-25 were unknown. Prospective participants contacted the Program Administrator through the Home Repairs and Upgrades Form: https://www.illinoissfa.com/program/home-repairs-and-upgrades/, via phone or via email.

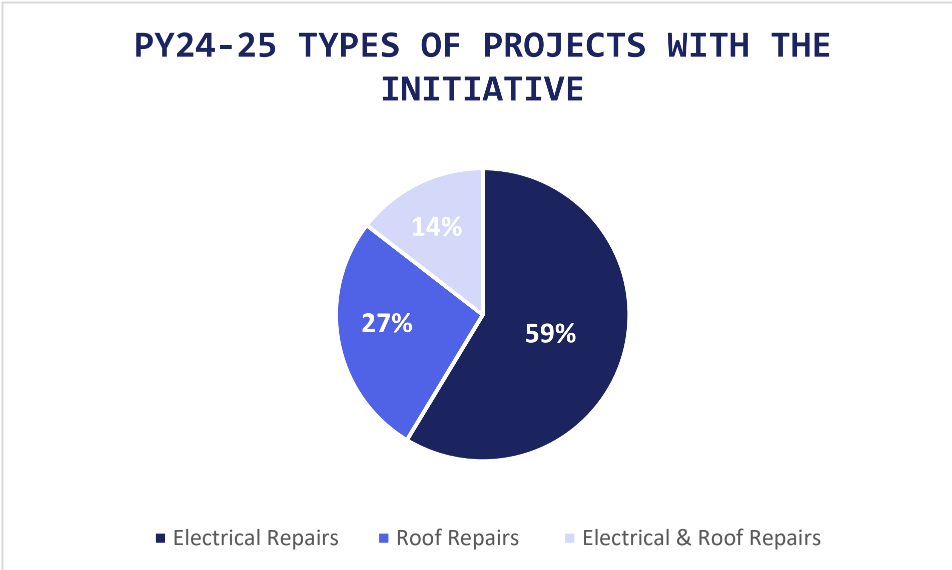

Figure 2. Types of projects with the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative in PY24-25.

Electrical projects are generally less expensive, faster to complete, and easier for Approved Vendors to manage than roofing projects. Additionally, roof repairs, in general, may be more visible to participants than electrical repairs. These points may help explain the discrepancy between homeowner-reported needs and Approved Vendor-submitted projects in PY24-25.

Although the Program Administrator maintained and updated the statewide External Funding List, access to outside repair funding remained limited due to long waitlists, geographic restrictions, burdensome application processes, and limited funding availability. In May 2025, the number of available external repair programs listed on the External Funding List was 36, down from 47 programs reported and available in November 2024. Of the 36 programs reported in May 2025, 69% had verified waitlists, many of which exceeded one to two years. Despite the resources maintained for external programs, only two homeowners from PY23-24 and PY24-25 have secured outside funding for needed repairs.

3. Updates from the 2024-2025 to 2025-2026 Program Year

The Program Administrator proposed the following updates for PY25-26 in the May 2025 Request for Stakeholder Feedback based on findings from PY24-25:

- Add a column to the Reference List enabling Approved Vendors to provide detailed explanations for each proposed repair or upgrade.
- Eliminate “Required Permit Fees” and “Main Service Panel Grounding” from the list of available eligible repairs and upgrades.
- Increase cost cap for “Meter and Riser Replacement or Upgrade” from $1,700 to $1,850.
- Increase the cost cap for “Main Service Panel Replacement or Upgrade” from $3,000 to $3,300.
- Increase the cost cap for “Solar-Related Roof Work” from $3,000 to $3,500.

All proposed updates were included in the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative Design for PY25-26. Following receipt of stakeholder feedback, the Program also agreed to implement the following changes:

- Include "Decking" as a new eligible home repair item under the existing line item "Sister Rafters or Decking."
- Increase the "Sister Rafters and Decking" cost cap from $2,000 to $3,000.

4. Initiative Implementation

4.1 EXTERNAL FUNDING

The first step of the Initiative is to try to connect homeowners with external funding opportunities for their home repairs. All available external funding opportunities are included in the External Funding List, updated periodically by the Program Administrator. Details on eligibility requirements, contact information, website links, and waitlist information are included for each home repair program. The Program Administrator updated the External Funding List twice in June and March of the 2025-2026 Program Year. As of Summer 2026, 34 different programs exist, comprising various federal, state, and local programs, including those offered by Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and nonprofit organizations. Since the Initiative began, the Program Administrator has engaged in ongoing outreach to the various home repair programs listed on the External Funding List, gaining insight into statewide repair program availability and strengthening coordination between ILSFA and these partners. This expanded understanding of Illinois home repair resources has improved the Program's ability to support homeowners seeking assistance.

4.2 COST CAPS

The adjusted cost caps in PY25-26 were as follows: up to $6,550 for electrical repairs and up to $15,000 for roofing and structural repairs with a maximum cost of $22,000 for eligible repairs and/or upgrades.[5] See **Table 1: PY25-26 Electrical Repairs** and **Table 2: PY25-26 Roofing and Structural Repairs** below.

Table 1. PY25-26 Electrical Repairs

Item or Fee	Maximum Cost
Main Service Panel Replacement or Upgrade	Up to $3,300
Meter and Riser Replacement or Upgrade	Up to $1,850
Water Grounding (100/200 amps)	Up to $700/$1,400

[5] This includes the $450 administrative fee that every Home Repairs and Upgrades project receives.

Table 2. PY25-26 Roofing and Structural Repairs

Item or Fee	Maximum Cost per Unit	Maximum Cost
Solar-related Roof Work	Up to $200 per sq. ft.	Up to $3,500
Full Roof Replacement	--	Up to $12,000
Sister Rafters	Up to $100 per rafter or up to $5 per sq. ft. for decking	Up to $3,000

5. Key Findings

5.1 EXTERNAL FUNDING

External Funding continues to be difficult for Home Repairs and Upgrades participants for a variety of reasons. As shown in **Figure 3: Does the External Funding Program Maintain a Waitlist?**, external funding remains limited, with 26 of the 34 available programs on the External Funding List maintaining a waitlist.

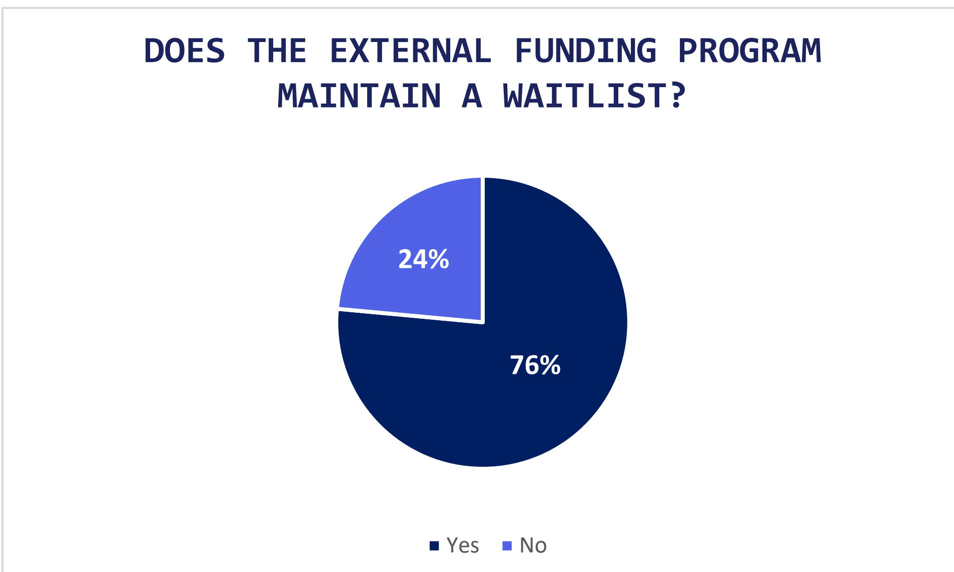

Figure 3. Percent of external programs on the External Funding List with a waitlist.

This is consistent with data gathered in the first and second years of the Initiative, where similarly, a majority of the programs on the External Funding List maintained a waitlist. In the first three years of the Initiative, the Program Administrator notes two homeowners unable to get their home repairs funded via external funding; one through the City of Chicago Home Repair Program and one through the City of Springfield Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Program. No participants were able to secure funding during PY25-26.

5.2 HOME REPAIRS AND UPGRADES PARTICIPANTS

PY25-26 saw high demand for the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative. In total, the Program Administrator became aware of 233 participants in need of home repairs this program year. Of these, 215 participants were identified through submitted Home Repairs and Upgrades projects and 18 contacted the Program Administrator independent of an Approved Vendor. In comparison, the Program Administrator became aware of 44 participants in PY24-25 and 34 participants in PY23-24 independent of an Approved Vendor. Although the Program Administrator has not identified a definitive cause for this decrease in PY25-26, it may be partially attributed to participants engaging directly with Approved Vendors rather than initiating the process through the Program Administrator. Additionally, it may signal that the Initiative has been meeting external demand. See **Table 3: Participants Identified in PY23-24, PY24-25, and PY25-26** for a full comparison of participants across the Initiative's first three years.

Table 3. Participants identified in PY23-24, PY24-25, and PY25-26

How Participants Came to the Initiative	PY23-24	PY24-25	PY25-26
Independent of an Approved Vendor	34	44	18
Through submitted projects	13	206	215
Total participants	**47**	**250**	**233**

Figure 4: Types of Home Repairs Needed by Participants in PY25-26 shows the types of home repairs needed for the 233 participants in PY25-26. The most-demanded repair category was electrical repairs, followed by a combination of electrical and roof repairs, then roof repairs. Due to participant non-response, the types of home repairs needed by 4% of participants is unknown.

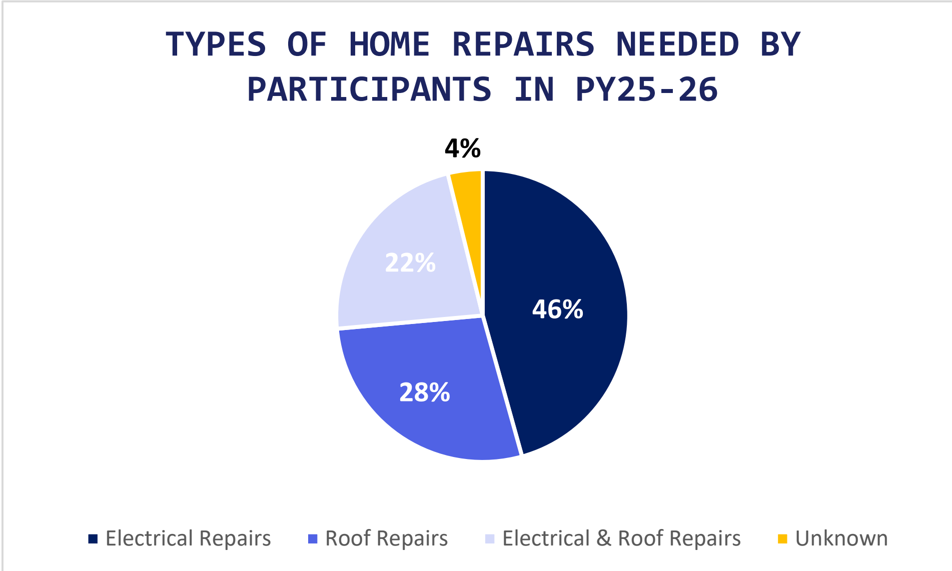

Figure 4. Types of home repairs needed by participants in PY25-26.

Demand for the Initiative was demonstrated during the PY25-26 Residential Solar (Small) project submission window from its June 16, 2025 opening, to closing on July 1, 2025. During this time, eight Approved Vendors applied to participate in the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative with 186 projects submitted, representing 56% of total projects submitted for the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program during that time.[6] The combined REC value of the projects exceeded the Initiative's available budget, prompting the Program Administrator to establish a waitlist of 18 projects and notify Approved Vendors that no additional applications would be accepted. The Program Administrator believes that this announcement, combined with the early closure of the Residential Solar (Small) rolling submission window, discouraged additional Initiative submissions for which demand might have otherwise existed. Approved Vendors dropped 26 of the 186 submitted projects before receiving Part I approval, leaving 160 projects to receive Renewable Energy Credit contracts.[7]

Additionally, after the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program rolling window opened on July 9, 2025, two Approved Vendors submitted 29 more projects for the Initiative. None of these projects were considered for participation, however, because the Initiative budget had already been fully allocated and the waitlist had closed.

[6] From June 16, 2025, to July 1, 2025 333 projects were submitted for the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program.

[7] Of the 26 projects dropped: 13 were dropped from the Initiative, but were considered for the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program; 13 were dropped from both the Initiative and the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program.

Of the 160 projects given the option to be funded, 47 (30%) requested roof repairs, 82 (51%) requested electrical repairs, and 31 (19%) requested both roof and electrical repairs, see **Figure 5: PY25-26 Types of Projects with the Initiative**.

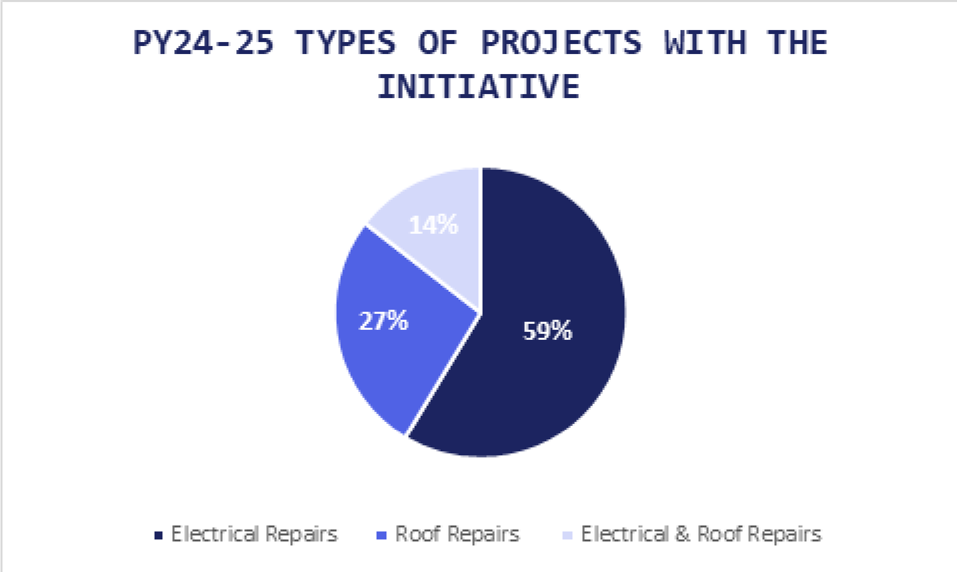

Figure 5. Proportion of repair types with the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative in Program Year 25-26.

As in the Initiative's first two years, most projects submitted through the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative in PY25-26 required electrical repairs. Electrical repairs typically cost less and take less time to complete than roof repairs. And as they have shared with the Program Administrator, Approved Vendors are more likely to have electricians on staff than roofers. For these reasons, securing qualified roofers may extend project timelines and add costs that Approved Vendors may be hesitant to take on, even if incentive support was available.

The graph in **Figure 6: Density of PY25-26 Part I Submitted Projects by Zip code** shows the location of households with Home Repairs and Upgrades project submissions in PY25-26. Similar to the last program year, households with the Initiative are highly concentrated in the Chicagoland area[8] with 87 projects representing 54% of Initiative projects. Project clusters around Rockford, St. Louis, Decatur, and Peoria demonstrate growing reach in Southern and Central Illinois.

[8] The Chicagoland area is defined as Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties.

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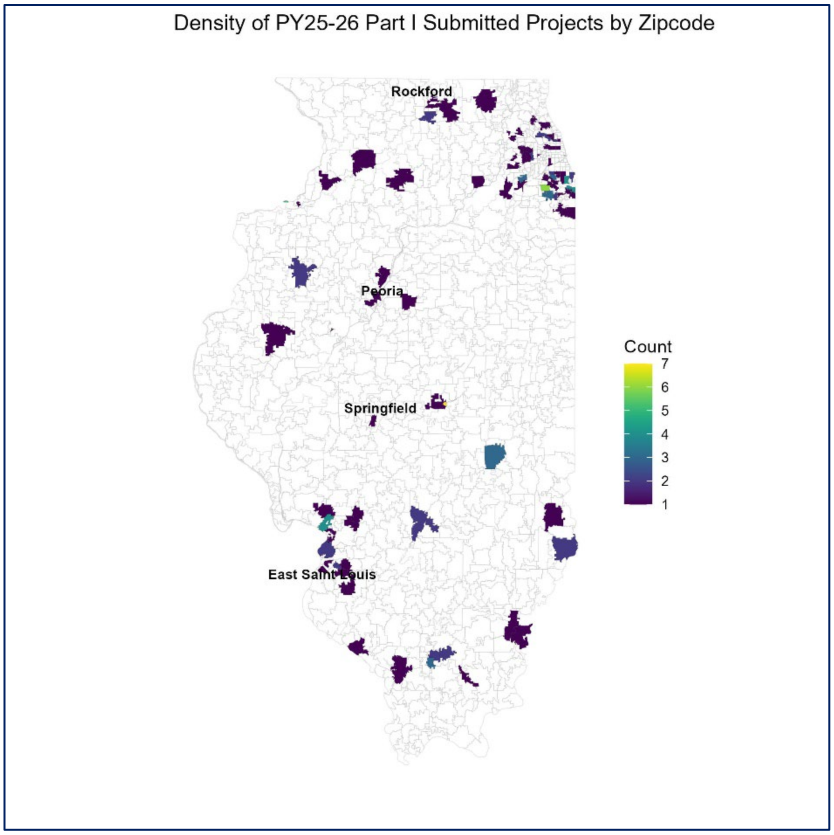

Figure 6. Density of PY25-26 Part I Submitted Projects by Zipcode.

The 160 projects selected to move forward represented $1,485,651.05 in total home repair value and $7,257,273.67 in Total Projected REC Value.[9] The average home repair value in PY25-26 was $8,885 per project, compared to $8,613 per project in PY24-25. This slight increase can be attributed to increased labor and material costs. Considering the value of repairs only, the average electrical repair in PY25-26 was $2,100.24 and the average roofing/structural repair in PY25-26 was $8,203.30. See **Table 4: The average home repair value, average solar incentive value, and average total project cost compared with the total cost cap and type of home repair** below for a full summary.

Table 4. The average home repair value, average solar incentive value, and average total project cost compared with the total cost cap and type of home repair.[10]

[9] The Total Projected REC Value includes the base REC price and the home repair value.
[10] The average home repair incentive values in this table include the $450 administrative fee.

Type of Home Repair	Home Repair Cost Cap	Average Home Repair Incentive Value		Average Solar Incentive Value	Total Project Value		Percent Home Repair Incentive
Roof Repairs	$15,000	$12,754	+	$35,283	=	$48,037	26.6%
Electrical Repairs	$6,550	$3,851	+	$38,266	=	$42,117	09.1%
Roof and Electrical Repairs	$21,550	$19,553	+	$34,414	=	$53,967	36.2%

Figure 7: Types of Projects in PY23-24, PY24-25, and PY25-26 shows the significant increase in Home Repairs and Upgrades projects from PY23-24 to PY24-25, followed by consistent project activity maintained in PY25-26. PY25-26 had slightly fewer electrical repairs than PY24-25, but slightly more electrical and roof repairs than in PY24-25.

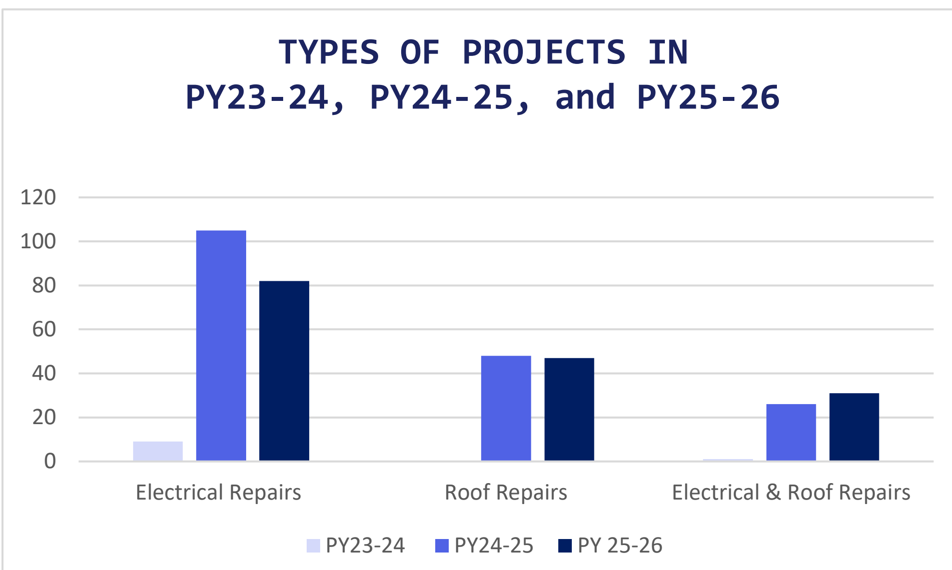

Figure 7. Types of projects in PY23-24, PY24-25, and PY25-26.

Table 5: Home Repair Projects as a Percentage of Total Project Submissions in the Residential Solar (Small) Sub-Program shows the proportion of Home Repairs and Upgrades projects relative to all Residential Solar (Small) project submissions. Note that some otherwise eligible projects may have moved forward without the Home Repairs and Upgrades adder because of budget limitations.

Table 5. Home Repair Projects as a Percentage of Total Project Submissions in the Residential Solar (Small) Sub-Program.

Program Year	Residential Solar (Small) Project Submissions	Home Repairs and Upgrades Project Submissions	Home Repairs Projects as a Percentage of Total Residential Solar (Small) Submissions
PY23-24	1418	13	0.92%
PY24-25	649	206	31.74%
PY25-26	1843	215	11.67%

Table 6: Roofing and Structural Repairs Submitted by Program Year shows how many projects that secured funding requested each type of roofing and structural repairs. PY23-24 included only one 'full roof replacement', but significant category increases occurred in the next two years. Approved Vendors also submitted more projects requiring 'sister rafters or decking' than in previous years. This can be explained by two program changes: the Program Administrator expanded the sister rafters category to include decking, and raised the cost cap for this category from $2,000 to $3,000.

Table 6. Roofing and Structural Repairs Submitted by Program Year.

Roofing and Structural Repair Types Submitted[11]	PY23-24 Projects	PY24-25 Projects	PY25-26 Projects
Full Roof Replacement	1	74	79
Sister Rafters or Decking	0	35[12]	48

Table 7: Electrical Repairs Submitted by Program Year below shows how many projects that secured funding requested each type of electrical repair for the three years of the Initiative. Electrical repairs increased significantly from PY23-24 to PY24-25 with comparable maintained counts in PY25-26. The most popular electrical repair type in both PY24-25 and PY25-26 was the

[11] This chart includes all projects that secured funding.
[12] 'Decking" was added to this category in PY25-26. The category included only "Sister Rafters" in PY23-24 and PY24-25.

'Meter and Rise Replacement or Upgrade' line item, followed closely by 'Water Grounding' in PY24-25 and 'Main Service Pane Replacement or Upgrade' in PY25-26.

Overall, project volumes were lower this year than in PY24-25 due to budgetary limitations and reduced rollover funds from demand in the previous year.

Table 7. Electrical Repairs Submitted by Program Year.

Electrical Repair Types Submitted[13]	PY23-24 Projects	PY24-25 Projects	PY25-26 Projects
Main Service Panel Replacement or Upgrade	2	74	73
Meter and Riser Replacement or Upgrade	2	85	74
Water Grounding (100/200 amps)	1	82	63
Main Service Panel Grounding	10	79	0

5.3 APPROVED VENDOR SURVEY

As in the Initiative's first two years, the Program Administrator sent a survey to this year's participating Approved Vendors to gather feedback on the Initiative. Five out of the eight Approved Vendors participating in PY25-26 filled out the survey.

As shown in **Figure 8: How Many ILSFA Home Repairs and Upgrades Projects Have You Submitted in PY25-26?**, three Approved Vendors reported 0-25 project submissions and two submitted 51-75 projects. The average submitted by all eight Approved Vendors participating in PY25-26 was 25 projects.

[13] This chart includes all projects that secured funding.

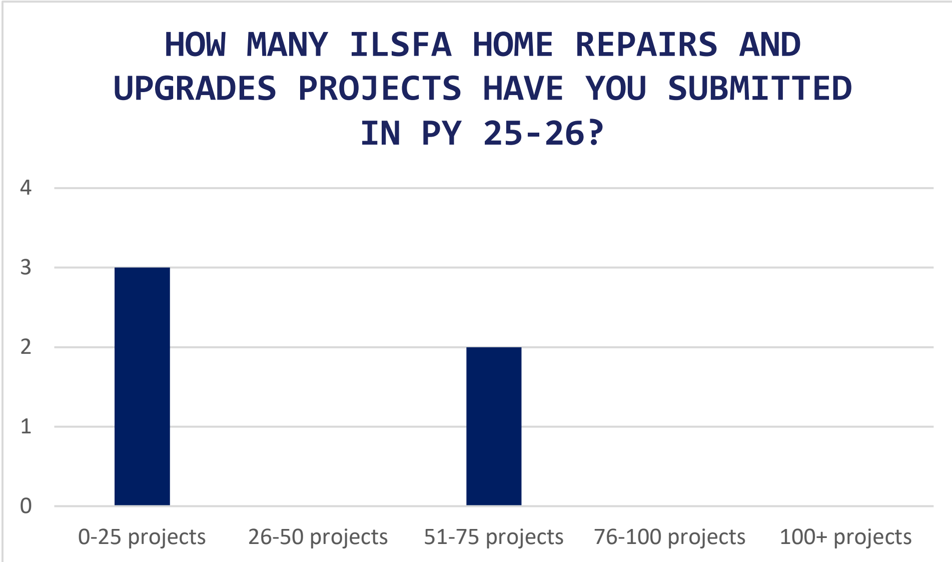

Figure 8. Responses to "How many ILSFA Home Repairs and Upgrades Projects Have You Submitted in PY 25-26?"

Three of the five Approved Vendors indicated that they see the need for electrical and/or roof repairs in 25-50% of income-eligible homes and two see the need in 50-75% of income-eligible homes. See **Figure 9: How Often Did You See the Need for Electrical and/or Roof Repairs in Income-Eligible Homes?** This response is consistent with responses in the Initiative's first two surveys where most Approved Vendors stated they see the need for electrical and/or roof repairs in 25-75% of income-eligible homes. This indicates that Approved Vendors participating in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program regularly see a need for electrical and/or roof repairs in many, but not all, income-eligible homes.

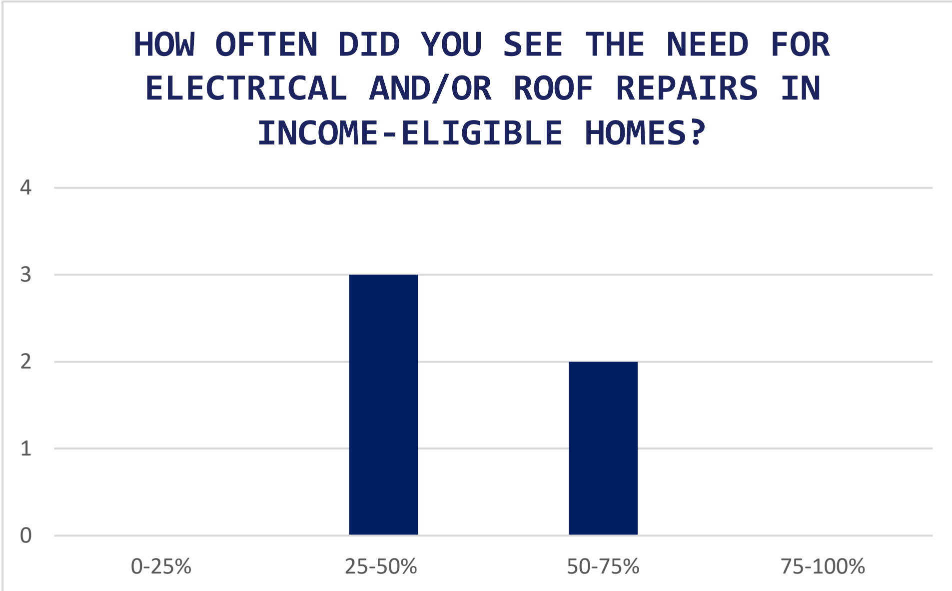

Figure 9. Responses to "How Often Did You See the Need for Electrical and/or Roof Repairs in Income-Eligible Homes?"

On the PY25-26 survey, two Approved Vendors indicated they passed on 0-15 projects with ILSFA because of needed home repairs; one passed on 15-30 projects, and two passed on 45-60 project. See **Figure 10: Roughly How Many Projects Have you Passed on Since Becoming an Approved Vendor with ILSFA Because of Needed Roof and/or Electrical Repairs?**. This demonstrates that many prospective ILSFA participants have missed the opportunity to participate in the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative due to either Approved Vendor capacity or budgetary limitations in the Initiative, and in turn, were unable to receive solar panels through ILSFA.

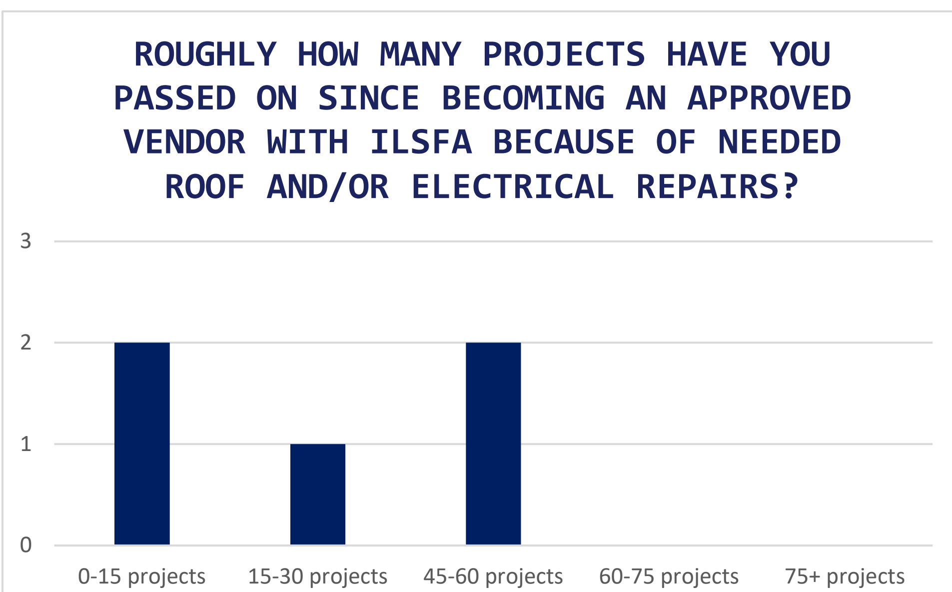

Figure 10. Responses to "Roughly How Many Projects Have You Passed On Since Becoming an Approved Vendor with ILSFA Because of Needed Roof and/or Electrical Repairs?"

Additional open-ended questions included in the Approved Vendor survey allowed for more detailed feedback; see the Appendix for responses. In summary, Approved Vendors indicated that limited funding is the primary barrier to participation in the Initiative. Many Approved Vendors reported that insufficient or unavailable funds prevented them from participating, with some choosing not to submit projects at all due to low likelihood of receiving financial support. Increased competition in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program for resources has further compounded this issue, and while funding for electrical repairs was viewed as adequate, roofing assistance was often considered too low or risky to cover actual costs.

Approved Vendors further highlighted additional barriers to solar readiness, including the need for tree trimming or removal. Because the Initiative is only permitted to support repairs and upgrades required for solar installation, the Program Administrator has previously determined that tree alteration is outside the scope of the Initiative.

Overall feedback from Approved Vendors emphasized appreciation for the Initiative's impact, alongside a strong recommendation to expand funding and program capacity to better meet demand and support more projects.

5.4 PARTICIPANT SURVEY

The Program Administrator also sent a survey to Home Repairs and Upgrades participants to gather feedback from income-eligible homeowners. 17 responses are detailed below. For the full responses, please see the Appendix.

Of the 17 respondents, 14 indicated they are already working with a solar company; three had not yet connected with an Approved Vendor. Regarding contract status, 11 participants reported that they had signed a contract or Disclosure Form, three were unsure of status, and three did not provide a response.

For insight into project status, the Program Administrator asked where the 17 respondents' projects currently stand. **Figure 11: What is the Status of Your Illinois Solar for All Project?** shows that the most popular answer, that home repairs and solar installation are complete, was reported by five respondents. Next most common answer was that projects are in either pre-construction or actively in construction. Two respondents were unsure of their project status, and four responses were categorized as "other." Of the four "other" responses, three participants did not provide an answer, and one was in the process of "signing papers again."

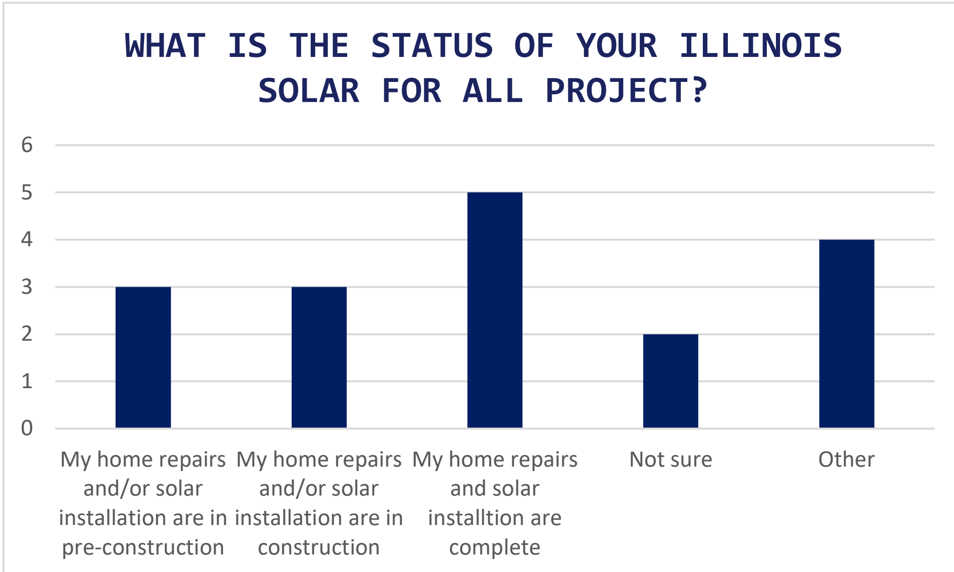

Figure 11. Responses to the question "What is the Status of Your Illinois Solar for All Project?"

Regarding home repairs being completed through the Initiative, the most common reported was roof repairs, followed by roof and electrical repairs, then electrical repairs. See below **Figure 12: What Home Repairs Are You Getting Done or Needing Through the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?** This is consistent with other data we have collected, indicating that participants generally need roof repairs more than electrical repairs.

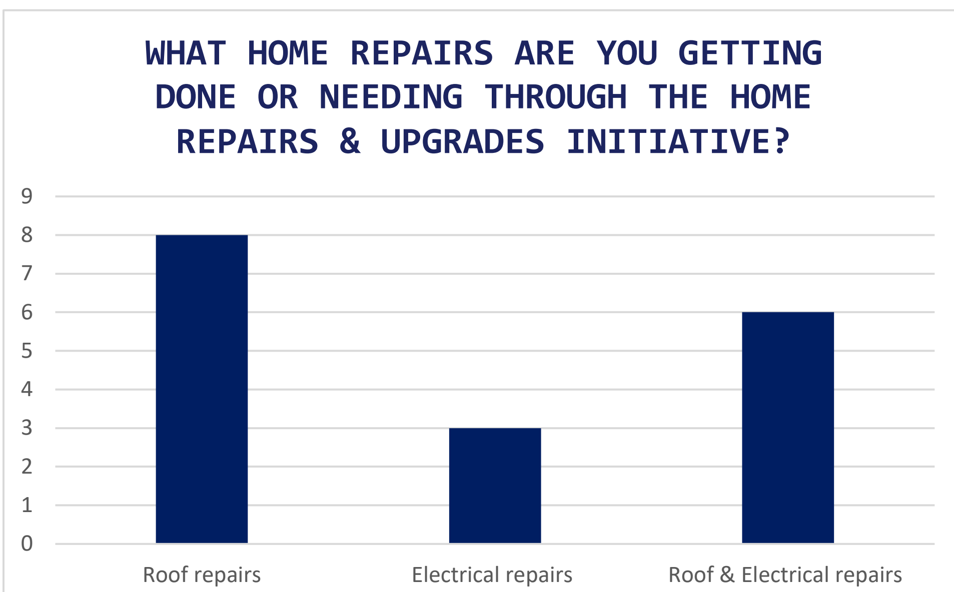

Figure 12. Responses to the question "What Home Repairs Are You Getting Done or Needing Through the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?"

As seen in **Figure 13: How Did you Hear About the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?,** eight participants heard about the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative through a solar company, another eight heard about it through the ILSFA website, and one heard about it through an "Illinois Solar for All representative."

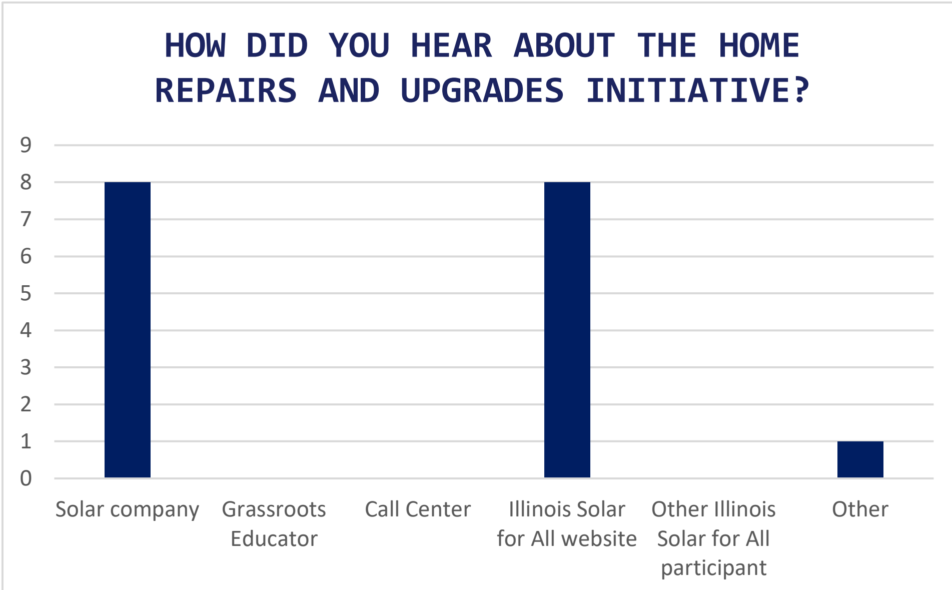

Figure 13. Responses to the question "How Did You Hear About the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?"

As indicated in **Figure 14: Did you Seek Funding for Your Home Repairs Elsewhere Before Participating in the Initiative?,** nine participants did not seek funding for their home repairs first before participating.

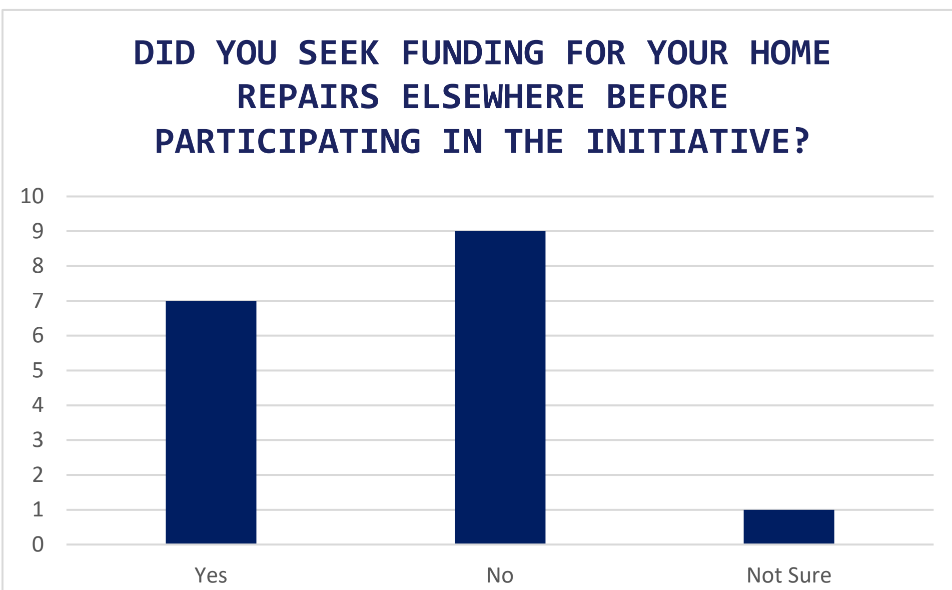

Figure 14. Responses to the question "Did You Seek Funding For Your Home Repairs Elsewhere Before Participating in the Initiative?"

As seen in **Figure 15: Have You Participated in Another Home Repairs Program?**, 15 respondents have not participated in another home repairs program, one was "not sure" and one answered "yes" in reference to the "ComEd Home Weatherization" program.

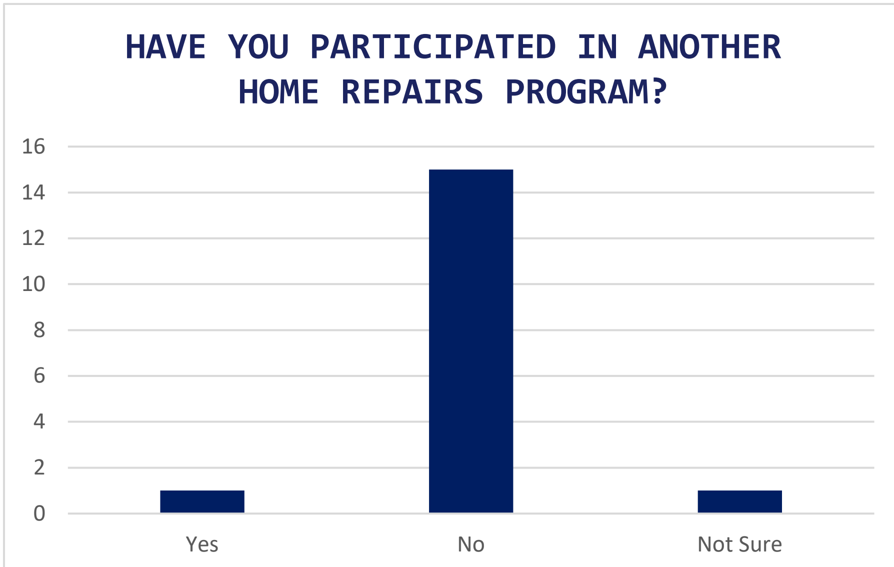

Figure 15. Responses to the question "Have You Participated in Another Home Repairs Program?"

As in the Approved Vendor survey, the Program Administrator included open-ended questions to give participants the opportunity to provide elaborative feedback. See full responses in the Appendix below. Participant feedback varied, with some respondents highlighting areas for improvement in the Initiative. Among the most common concerns were long wait times, delays, unclear timelines, and inconsistent or no communication from contractors, Approved Vendors, and program staff. Participants suggestions included making the application process more transparent and accessible, expanding the scope of eligible repairs, and increasing outreach to improve program awareness among more eligible homeowners.

Some participants praised their Approved Vendors and described the work as high-quality. A few noted positive outcomes such as reduced utility bills after solar installation, despite delays. Overall, the feedback suggests that while the Initiative delivers meaningful benefits for some participants, improvements in communication, timeliness, coordination, and consistency across vendors are critical to enhancing the overall experience.[14]

[14] The Program Administrator conducted follow-up with survey participants.

6. Recommendations

Given the program's consistent growth, coupled with increased demand in the Residential Solar (Small) program with ILSFA, the Program Administrator recommends continuing the Initiative and IPA has reaffirmed its commitment to continue the Initiative in updates to its 2026 Long-Term Plan. The program should explore strategies to reduce project bottlenecks and waitlists, such as phased funding releases, prioritization criteria for high-need households, and strategic partnerships with external funding programs. On the participant side, clearer communication, standardized timelines, and stronger coordination between program staff and vendors would significantly improve the participant experience. Finally, increasing outreach and education to both participants and vendors about program requirements, expectations, and eligible repairs can help manage demand, improve application quality, and ensure more equitable access across regions, particularly as the initiative continues to expand beyond the Chicagoland area.

While the need for support in addressing necessary repairs and upgrades continues, incentives going to the Initiative reduce the total incentives available, resulting in fewer Residential Solar (Small) projects being funded. Due to strong demand in this sub-program beyond the Home Repairs Initiative, the IPA and Program Administrator do not support adding incentives to the Initiative, but do support continuing to cap participating project incentives at 25% or less of the Residential Solar (Small) incentive budget.

7. Conclusion

In its third year, the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative has demonstrated its effectiveness and the need for expanded access to solar for income-eligible households in Illinois. Increased projects submitted and expanded geographic range have continued into this Program Year. As the Initiative moves forward, maintaining program flexibility and strengthening coordination with external funding will be essential to meeting demand and maximizing impact, so that more households can become solar-ready and successfully participate in Illinois Solar for All.

Illinois Solar for All
A STATE PROGRAM

Appendix

APPENDIX A. APPROVED VENDOR SURVEY

Q1 Please provide your name.
Q2 Please provide your email.
Q3 Please provide your company.
Q4 How many ILSFA Home Repairs and Upgrades projects have you submitted in Program Year 2025-2026?

- o 0-25
- o 26-50
- o 51-75
- o 76-100
- o 100+

Q5 In Program Year 2025-2026, how often did you see the need for electrical and/or roof repairs in income-eligible homes?

- o 0-25% of income-eligible homes
- o 25-50% of income-eligible homes
- o 50-75% of income-eligible homes
- o 75-100% of income-eligible homes

Q6 In Program Year 2025-2026, roughly how many projects have you passed on since becoming an Approved Vendor with ILSFA because of needed roof and/or electrical repairs?

- o 0-15 projects
- o 15-30 projects
- o 30-45 projects
- o 45-60 projects
- o 60-75 projects
- o 75+ projects

Q7 Do you have any ILSFA prospective participants on your waitlist that need home repairs but have not been able to participate in the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?

- o Yes
- o No

Q8 How many ILSFA prospective participants do you have on your waitlist that need home repairs but have not been able to participate in the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?

- o 0-25
- o 26-50
- o 51-75
- o 76-100
- o 100+

Q9 Why have they not been able to participate in the ILSFA Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
Q10 What is the biggest challenge with participating in the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
Q11 Beyond those on the Reference List, are there any other types of home repairs and/or upgrades that you frequently encounter on income-eligible homes that are a barrier to homes being solar-ready?
Q12 Any other feedback about the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative you'd like to share with the Program Administrator?

APPENDIX B. PARTICIPANT SURVEY

Q1 Please provide your name.
Q2 Please provide your email.
Q3 Please provide your phone number.
Q4 What town/city do you live in?
Q5 Are you working with a solar company to go through the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
- o Yes
- o Not yet

Q6 Have you signed a contract and Disclosure Form?
- o Yes
- o No
- o Not sure

Q7 What is the status of your Illinois Solar for All project?
- o My home repairs and/or solar installation are in pre-construction
- o My home repairs and/or solar installation are in construction
- o My home repairs and solar installation are complete
- o Not sure
- o Other

Q8 What home repairs are you getting done or needing through the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
- o Roof repairs
- o Electrical repairs
- o Roof and Electrical repairs

Q9 How did you hear about the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
- o Solar company
- o Grassroots Educator
- o Call Center
- o Illinois Solar for All website
- o Other Illinois Solar for All participant
- o Other

Q10 Did you seek funding for your home repairs elsewhere before participating in the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
- o Yes
- o No
- o Not sure

Q11 Have you participated in another home repairs program?
- o Yes
- o No
- o Not sure

Q12 What was the name of the other home repairs program?
Q13 How would you improve the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
Q14 How is your experience so far with the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?

APPENDIX C. ADDITIONAL APPROVED VENDOR SURVEY RESPONSES

Why have they not been able to participate in the ILSFA Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
The limited funds in the ILSFA Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative is a prohibitive barrier to participation.
There was not enough budget available for them.
No more funding.
They are waiting for funding to apply.
Since the ILSFA Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative ended, many projects requiring electrical and roof repairs have not been eligible to participate. To address these needs, we have continued to support such projects whenever the repair costs remain within an amount that we can reasonably cover.

Figure 16. Responses to the question "Why have they not been able to participate in the ILSFA Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?"

What is the biggest challenge with participating in the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
We made the decision to not even submit for the Home Repairs and Upgrades funding, as it is just too underfunded to be helpful. The roofing assistance is not sufficient to cover the costs when we have to hire a roofer to do the work, as we are not roofers. The electrical adders would be super helpful and are sufficient amounts, but given that the funding is so limited, it's not practical to have our customers even apply for these funds, as they are so limited, it is highly unlikely for them to receive funding. So we made the decision to do the project by just absorbing the costs of the electrical upgrades whenever possible, and if there's not enough funding in the project to cover the required electrical upgrades, then we just don't do that project.
No challenges.
How competitive the program was in the last year.
Electric upgrade program is great, Roof presents some risks for the AV.
As the ILSFA Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative expanded, competition for available funding increased. With limited program resources and budget constraints, it became more challenging for all of our submitted projects to be approved and participate in the initiative.

Figure 17. Responses to the question "What is the biggest challenge with participating in the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?"

Beyond those on the Reference List, are there any other types of home repairs and/or upgrades that you frequently encounter in income-eligible homes that are a barrier to homes being solar-ready?
Roofing and electrical are the most common.
Sometimes homeowners are interested in installing solar, but large trees shade their roofs and significantly reduce the system's viability. In many cases, the tree needs to be trimmed or removed before solar panels can be installed effectively. However, the cost of tree trimming or removal can be substantial, and some homeowners do not have the financial resources to cover this expense. As a result, tree-related work can become a significant barrier to solar adoption, preventing otherwise eligible households from moving forward with installation.
Trees and trenching.
Tree trimming and removal.
No. Based on experience, the repairs and upgrades included on the Reference List already cover the most common issues that prevent income-eligible homes from being solar-ready.

Figure 18. Responses to the question "Beyond those on the Reference List, are there any other types of home repairs and/or upgrades that you frequently encounter on income-eligible homes that are a barrier to homes being solar-ready?"

Any other feedback about the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative you'd like to share with the Program Administrator?
The roofing upgrades are set too low to be helpful for contractors that have to hire a roofing sub to do the work. In our experience, the roofing quotes are typically double the allotted assistance from the Home Repairs and Upgrades program. Practically, the limited funding availability makes this program very challenging, if not impractical, to actually participate in.
Everything good! We appreciate the support, cooperation, and work of the entire HRP team.

[Redacted] is wonderful. I love working with her. The only issue I find is how funds are passed down. Based on REC value? Still a bit confusing.
Overall, we appreciate the program and its positive impact on income-eligible households. Our primary recommendation would be to explore opportunities for additional funding or program capacity so that more eligible projects can be served as demand continues to grow. Thank you!

Figure 19. Responses to the question "Any other feedback about the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative you'd like to share with the Program Administrator?"

APPENDIX D. ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT SURVEY RESPONSES

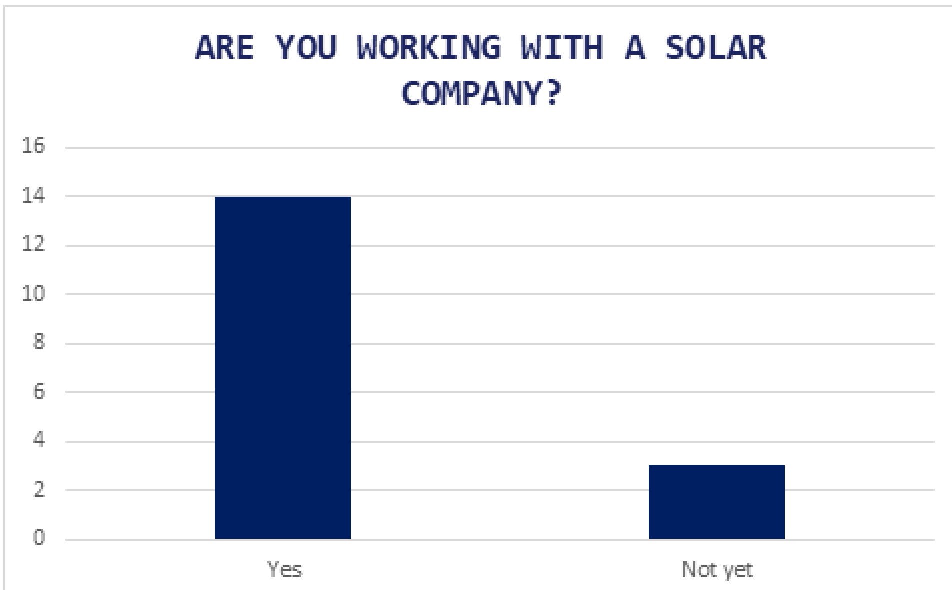

Figure 20. Responses to the question "Are you working with a solar company?"

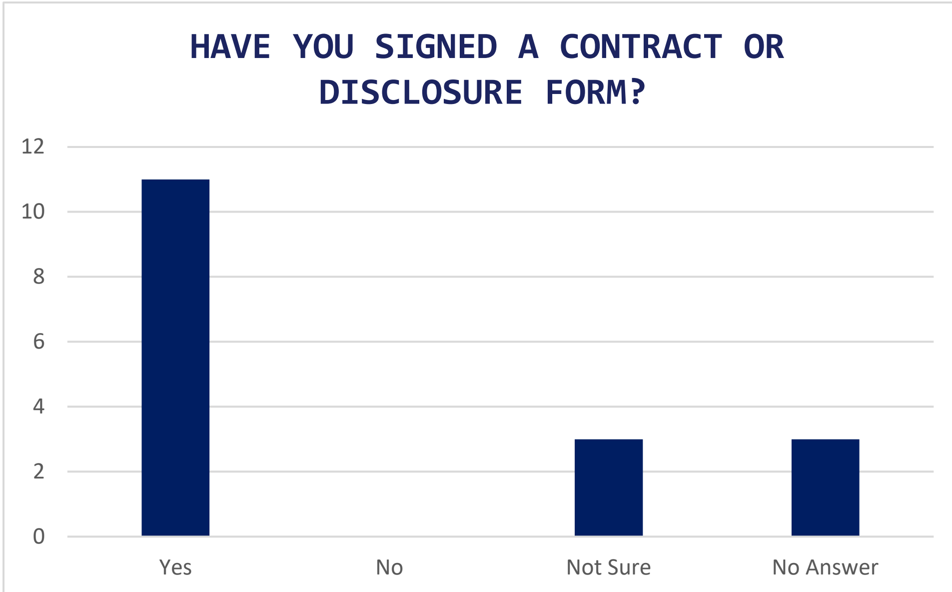

Figure 21. Responses to the question "Have you signed a contract or Disclosure Form?"

How would you improve the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
Make it easier to see who is participating and to apply. Some solar companies did not reply to my contact attempts. Only one actually replied to me.
Improved communication, I have no idea when construction will start or if it will start.
Not sure. I thought it worked well.
Could be quicker.
Provide more exposure to the program.
Getting more information out to homeowners that may qualify.
Fix crawl space and foundational issues.
Not make people wait over a year to get anything done.
Just some minor things still need repaired electrical and having some draining issues.
Not sure.
Not sure.

Need a better roofing partner, maybe better communication on the timelines of the projects.
Shorter wait time.
A little better communication and a little faster construction time.
Do not get more work that all cannot be finished on time.
Not sure what it is exactly

Figure 22. Responses to the question “How would you improve the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?"

How is your experience so far with the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?
Okay
Terrible. After collecting my information, I have not heard anything else from the company. I am not even sure if it is a legitimate company anymore.
Good.
They are filling out the papers again.
Good company I used [Redacted] is very amazing.
I haven’t received any contact outside of this survey and haven’t had any work performed but would definitely like to if/when the program becomes available again.
Ok
Nothing has been started.
What they actually did was fantastic. Finally, after a year of production has my utility bill went down still waiting on the consumption meter to be installed and a few panels aren’t quite working as they should and a tree needs to be trimmed I’d love the opportunity to speak with a representative overall I am very grateful for this program.
Ok.
Very good.
Good.
[Redacted]was great. Stood behind their work, and I hope that continues to be the case.

Still waiting on date for it to start.
Not bad, but I had to finance the roof on my own, and I received half the cost back from Unity Solar Group. It was in bad shape and it took a very long time to get any communication, and I needed to get it done. I am still waiting on the electrical they did just install the solar panels and did a very good job, but it has been almost a year.
Fine.
I haven't had one

Figure 23. Responses to the question "How is your experience so far with the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative?"