



Illinois Power Agency Stakeholder Feedback Webinar

Illinois Solar for All Evaluation

Agenda

- **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 Feedback – Released July 1, 2022

Stakeholder Feedback Webinar – July 8, 2022

Feedback Responses Due – July 22, 2022

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Publish RFQ – late August 2022

Qualification Responses Due – early September 2022

Announce Qualified Responses – late September/early October 2022

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Publish RFP – late September/early October

Proposal Responses Due – November 2022

Evaluator Selection Announced – December 2022

- **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.”*

ILSFA Evaluation To-Date

Phase I Evaluation Report – October 2019

- Focused on development of ILSFA prior to program opening
 - Initial implementation
 - Design & feedback Stakeholder Outreach
 - Design & feedback Grassroots Education
 - Findings and recommendations

Phase II 1st Interim Report – April 2020

- ILSFA Design & Implementation
- Eligibility Assessments
- Approved Vendor Feedback
- Stakeholder Outreach Design & Feedback
- Program Administrator Assessment
- Findings and recommendations

ILSFA Evaluation To-Date (cont.)

Phase II 2nd Interim Report – August 2020

- ILSFA Implementation Statistics
- Approved Vendor Feedback
- Stakeholder Outreach Design & Feedback
- Grassroots Education Participant Feedback
- Program Administrator Assessment
- Best Practices Review
- Findings and Recommendations

Phase II 3rd Interim Report – April 2021

- ILSFA Implementation Statistics
- ILSFA Impacts
- Approved Vendor Survey
- Grassroots Educator Feedback
- Grassroots Education Participant Feedback
- Program Administrator Assessment
- Findings and Recommendations

ILSFA Evaluation To-Date (cont.)

Phase II Final Evaluation Report – October 2021

- Executive Summary
- ILSFA Implementation Statistics
- ILSFA Impacts
- Approved Vendor Feedback
- Job Trainee Feedback
- Stakeholder Feedback
- State Distributed Generation Program Manager Interviews
- Green Bank Administrator Interviews
- Program Administrator Assessment
- Findings and Recommendations

Phase II Evaluation Summary Report – October 2021

- ILSFA Overview of Key Components
- Description of Evaluation Activities
- Key Metrics
- Recommendations

Purpose of Evaluation Reports

- Metrics and experience reporting (e.g., households served, MW installed, participant feedback)
- Comprehensive snapshot of program in context of goals

Structure

- Two annual reports
 - One covering PY22, one covering PY23
 - Include 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

Per Section 1-56(b)(6) of the IPA Act, the evaluation must evaluate the following:

- 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

In addition, 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

Proposed Evaluation Elements

Economic, social, and environmental benefits should be considered by evaluating:

- Impact of the solar installation or community solar subscription on the energy costs of participants
- Impact of factors outside of Illinois on the program (e.g., supply chain disruptions, tariffs, reduction of federal tax credits)
- Correlation between locations of installations and where job trainees live
- Percent of domestically produced panels
- Non-energy benefits including impact on community awareness or other measures for well-being
- Impact on reliability of the electric distribution system
- CO₂ reductions
- Energy and emissions equivalencies (e.g., homes powered, fossil fuel displacement equivalencies)
- Other environmental benefits proposed by the evaluator and/or stakeholders

Job and job opportunities created should be further evaluated by:

- Construction/installation jobs created
- Jobs created in other parts of the solar workforce (e.g., sales, system design, general construction/trades)
- Permanent versus temporary jobs created
- Percent of installation hours by qualified job trainees
- Supply chain jobs created
- Induced jobs created
- Average wages/salaries
- Effectiveness of coordination of job training providers and Approved Vendors/installers

Proposed Evaluation Elements

In addition to the statutorily required metrics, the evaluation should also consider the following:

- Performance Metrics
 - Incentive dollars awarded
 - All-in average cost per kilowatt-hour of expected production
 - Housing stock issues that prevented participation in the Distributed Generation Program
 - Rate of projects that are not completed (and contributing factors)
 - Complaints/participant satisfaction with Approved Vendors
 - Average savings by business model types
- Evaluation of Program Administrator's performance
 - Overall assessment of how the Program Administrator is managing of day-to-day program processes
 - Analysis of how the Program Administrator has
 - The success of outreach undertaken by the Program Administrator, including engagement with community groups and stakeholders through both stakeholder sessions and comments received
 - Program Administrator's work with Approved Vendors to educate them on criteria and measurements of success as well as how the Program Administrator worked with struggling or non-compliant Approve Vendors to inform and support their path back to compliance
 - Surveys of Approved Vendors regarding their experience with the Program Administrator
 - Effectiveness of grassroots education campaigns and impact on increased uptake of solar projects
 - Coordination efforts undertaken by the Program Administrator to connect people with both job training and solar opportunities

Proposed Evaluation Elements

Other topics the Agency intends to include in the evaluation plan:

- 1-4 unit distributed generation participation (including barriers for Approved Vendors and participants)
- Analysis of program incorporation of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Income distribution of ILSFA participations within the 80% AMI standard.
- Actual savings achieved compared to expected savings.
- Income verification method use
- Impact of ILSFA job training requirements
- Grassroots education outcomes
- Analysis of new energy sovereignty incentive implementation
- Analysis of ILSFA in the context of other state income-eligible solar programs for best practices and program improvements

Questions for Feedback

1. Does the proposed evaluation plan of developing one or two brief mid-year reports, with a comprehensive year-end report and summary sufficiently balance the need to fully evaluate the program and the need to provide time in between evaluations to implement recommendations and assess results?
 - a. Considering the mid-year reports would be limited to four maximum topics in 1-2 reports per year, what topics would stakeholders like to see addressed in the focused mid-year report(s)?
2. What metrics and indicators should be evaluated to assess the Program's incorporation of diversity, equity, and inclusion?
3. What audiences will use these evaluation reports? What particular information would be useful and in what format(s)?
4. Given that data for Adjustable Block Program (ABP) projects would not include demographic information of project hosts, is there analysis of ILSFA system metrics against ABP system metrics that would be useful for stakeholders?
5. What additional objective criteria should be evaluated?

Questions for Feedback



Responses due to IPA.Solar@illinois.gov by July 22, 2022

Email subject:

“[Responder’s Name] – Response to Illinois Solar for All Evaluation Feedback Request.”

Responses will be published on ILSFA and IPA websites. Commenters wishing to designate portions as confidential or proprietary should also submit redacted versions for publishing.

Questions & Answers

For Questions:
Contact the ILSFA Program Manager at
Email: IPA.Solar@illinois.gov