

**ILLINOIS
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**ILLINOIS
CLIMATE
BANK**

**Illinois Solar for All Expansion
IPA Logistics Working Group
December 12, 2024**

USEPA GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND: SOLAR FOR ALL COMPETITION WINNING APPLICATION DESIGNED FROM STAKEHOLDER INPUT



\$156,000,000
federal funding



aligned
with CEJA and IL policy

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION:

IFA, ICC, DCEO, IL EPA, IPA, IHDA, IDOT, DNR

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

More than 150 different entities between Nov 2022 and Application

SOLAR FOR ALL EXPANSION PURPOSE

100% of Solar for All Expansion program funding must be used to enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy or benefit from zero-emission technologies, such as solar energy.

Purpose

Each program seeks to fill a gap identified by stakeholder engagement beginning with CEJA and continuing until Illinois made the proposal in late 2023.

Each program is intended to enable low income and disadvantaged communities to deploy or benefit from zero-emission technologies, such as solar energy.

The entire purpose of the US EPA Solar for All program is to improve equitable access to zero-emission technologies and the clean energy economy.

Equity should be woven throughout these program designs. If you don't see it, or see provisions that are inequitable, Please Say Something!

WORKING GROUPS

Illinois Climate Bank will convene working groups to assist in designing the Illinois Solar for All Expansion Programs.

IPA Logistics Working Group - Scope

We Will Cover:

Logistics of expanding the existing Illinois Solar for All Low-Income Community Solar and Residential Solar programs with federal funds, and a residential outreach pilot.

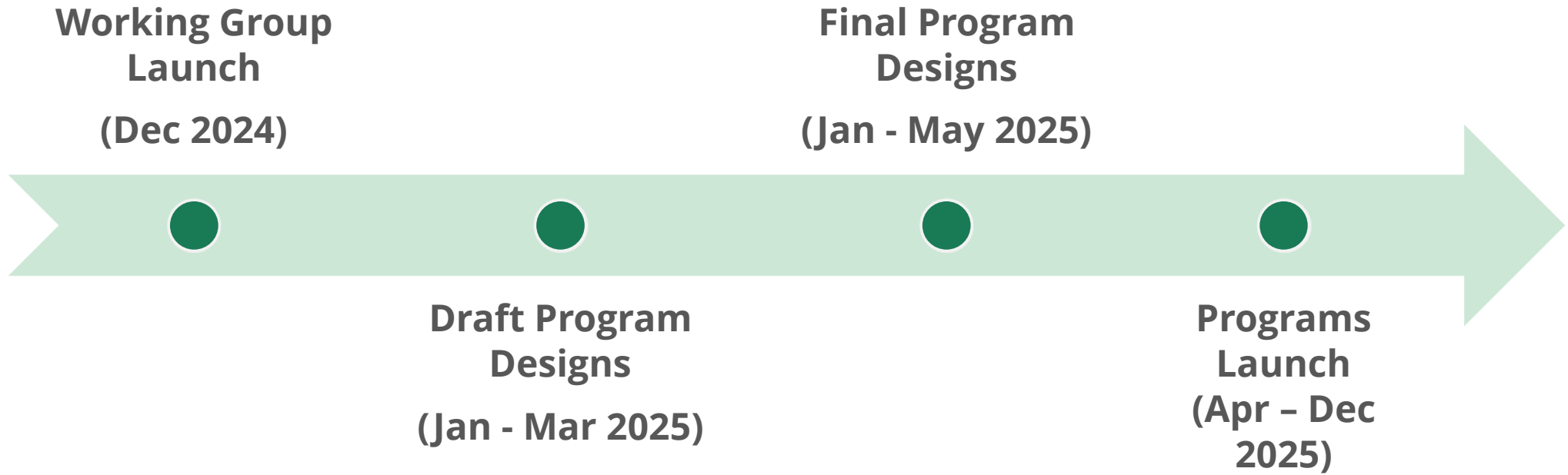
We Will Not Cover:

Changes to the existing Illinois Solar for All Low-Income Community Solar and Residential Solar programs, or the existing Grassroots Educators program or Bright Neighborhoods program.

TIMELINE

Illinois Climate Bank will convene working groups to assist in designing the Illinois Solar for All Expansion Programs.

All SFA Expansion Programs will be launched by EOY 2025.





SUMMARY

The Illinois Climate Bank will work with the Illinois Power Agency to expand Illinois' Solar for All low-income Community Solar Program to meet unmet demand for community solar projects serving low-income and disadvantaged communities.

The expansion of the budget of the Community Solar subprogram will need to be designed to ensure additional funding can be allocated to one subprogram without needing to allocate funds to other subprograms that are already not meeting their deployment goals at existing levels.

The Illinois Solar for All Community Solar Program provides REC contracts for projects that provide 50% savings to low-income subscribers, which already exceeds the benefit required in the USEPA Solar for All program.

OPEN QUESTIONS

- Interaction with existing ILSFA program
- Compatibility with federal Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities definition

REC PROGRAM

\$70 / REC average

for the Low-income Community Solar Sub-program

key elements

- Projects must provide 50% savings to subscribers
- Expands on IL Solar for All incentives for low-income community solar sub-program



SUMMARY

The Illinois Climate Bank will work with the Illinois Power Agency to expand Illinois' Solar for All Low-income Residential subprograms.

The expansion of the budget of the Low-Income Residential subprogram will need to be designed in conjunction with outreach and other program efforts to increase enrollment in the program.

OPEN QUESTIONS

- Interaction with existing ILSFA program
- Compatibility with federal Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities definition

REC PROGRAM

\$120 - \$180 / REC

for the Low-income Residential Solar sub-program

key elements

- Projects must provide 50% savings to subscribers
- Expands on IL Solar for All incentives for low-income residential solar sub-program

OPEN QUESTION

Interaction with existing ILSFA programs

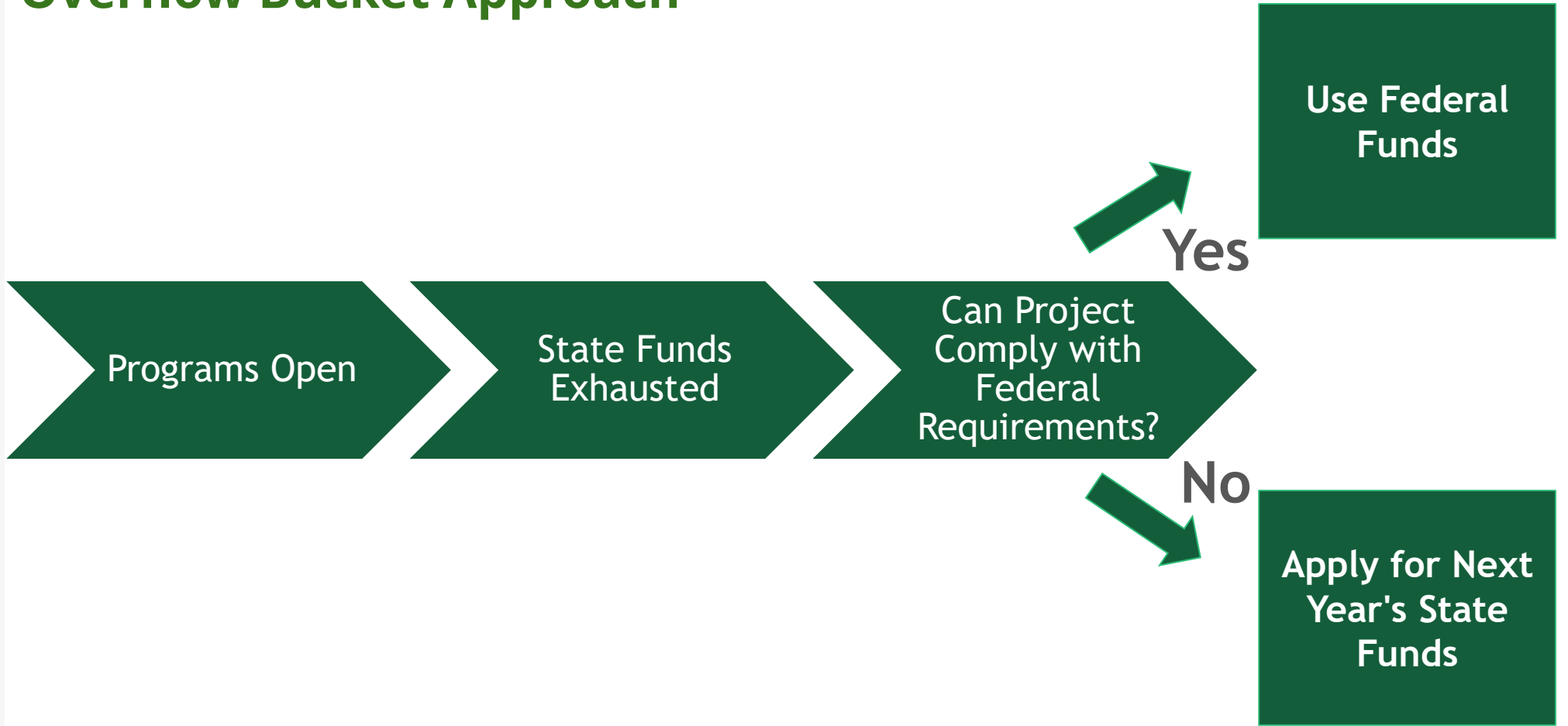
All projects using federal funding must comply with:

- US EPA's definition of Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities (differs from ILSFA for multifamily residential)
- Davis Bacon Act requirements
- Build America Buy America requirements
- Federal reporting requirements

OPEN QUESTION

Overflow Bucket Approach

Interaction with existing ILSFA programs



**OPEN
QUESTION**

Interaction
with existing
ILSFA
programs

Overflow Bucket Approach

- Clarifying questions?

OPEN QUESTION

Interaction
with existing
ILSFA
programs

Overflow Bucket Approach

- Clarifying questions?
- How much notice would Approved Vendors in each program need to evaluate whether they prefer using the federal funds or reapplying in the next year for the state funds?
- As the IPA studies whether REC prices need to be changed in future plans to cover the additional administrative burden of using federal funds, what data should the IPA review?
- Best practices and tools for DBA and BABA compliance and enforcement?

Residential Solar Outreach Pilot



SUMMARY

The Illinois Climate Bank will work with the Illinois Power Agency on a Residential Solar Outreach Pilot to increase participation in the Illinois Solar for All: Residential Solar (Small) sub-program.

Low-income and disadvantaged community households and companies have reported several barriers to participation in this sub-program, including unfamiliarity with solar power, distrust in marketers, language barriers, and a complex administrative process. The Residential Solar Pilot will be designed to reduce these barriers and to test a more vertically-integrated model for facilitating uptake of Residential Solar in 1-4 unit residential buildings.

OPEN QUESTIONS

- Interaction with other residential outreach efforts
- Lessons learned from other residential outreach efforts

GRANT PROGRAM

up to \$500,000/yr

grants per target community for engagement and coordination efforts

key elements

- Engaging local, trusted, entities to coordinate solar outreach activities for a targeted geographical area
- Marketing, outreach, income verification, and site suitability assessments
- Build long-term trust

OPEN QUESTIONS

Interaction
with existing
ILSFA
programs
and lessons
learned
from those
programs

Residential Outreach Program:

- Clarifying questions?

OPEN QUESTIONS

Interaction
with existing
ILSFA
programs
and lessons
learned
from those
programs

Residential Outreach Program:

- Clarifying questions?
- How should we identify the communities that the program would target? What data should we use?
- Is there a way to structure the program to draw contractor interest to areas of state with few Approved Vendors?
- What criteria should be used to award grants if there are multiple applications from a geographic area?
- What kind of training and staffing would a Residential Outreach Program implementers need?

OPEN QUESTIONS

Interaction with existing ILSFA programs and lessons learned from those programs

Residential Outreach Program:

- How should this program coordinate with Grassroots Educators and the Bright Neighborhoods program?
- What would a standardized process for handing potential customers off to Approved Vendors look like? How could the program avoid conflicts of interest and ensure fairness to all vendors?
- What are the best metrics to use for program evaluation? Installations? What are good interim metrics to measure progress between the initial customer conversation and project completion?

NEXT STEPS

- Completing similar sessions with all 5 working groups.
- Draft program designs released for comment in early spring.

NEXT STEPS

Contact Information:

For more information or further questions, please contact the Illinois Climate Bank at:

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Or, contact me directly at
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