

STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE (SSBCI) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is SSBCI a grant program?
 - No, it is a participation loan program with highly attractive rates.
2. How can I receive a participation loan?
 - Our process is simple! Contact your preferred Lender and verify that they are an Approved Lender of the Illinois Finance Authority's Climate Bank Program. If they are not signed up but are interested in applying, please email jmartinez-avina@il-fa.com and mcolangelo@il-fa.com to schedule a call.
3. What if I don't have a lender?
 - We have a list of Approved Lender's on our website.
4. Do I need a business plan?
 - A business plan is not necessary for our program. Please discuss the need for a business plan with your Lender as they may have different requirements.
5. What types of projects does the program support?
 - Clean air/clean water projects and wastewater treatment
 - Product/installation/servicing of wind/hydro/solar power equipment
 - Production/installation/servicing of electric vehicles and EV charging stations
 - Clean energy generation, alternative fuels, and new battery technologies
 - Energy conservation
 - Biomaterial production and sustainable agricultural practices
 - Broadband expansion for rural and other underserved communities
 - Other efforts providing environmental benefit/counteracting the impacts of climate change
6. What are non-eligible projects?
 - Our program may support most companies, but some restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, Cannabis, Investment Real Estate, Tobacco, or Adult Entertainment/Gambling. Our program also doesn't support transactions of Goodwill related to change in ownership or any project without a green/clean element.
7. What documentation is required to get started?
 - Reach out to an Approved Lender for our application forms. If your preferred Lender is not approved, they may do so by completing the [Request to Become a](#)



[Lender form](#) and emailing it to jmartinez-avina@il-fa.com and mcolangelo@il-fa.com. Please be sure to include a completed and signed Form W-9 and IRS 147-C Letter.

8. Do you work with non-profit organizations?
 - Yes. Hospitals, educational institutions, churches, and other non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for the program.

9. What if my project doesn't qualify for the program?
 - If your project does not fall within our program scope, we encourage you to reach out to Department of Commerce and Economic Development and ask about their Advantage Illinois Program.