



# Illinois Finance Authority/Climate Bank

## NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### Illinois Solar for All Expansion: Residential Solar Outreach Grant

**CSFA #** 560-01-3636

**Issued:** April 18, 2025

**Pre-Applications Due by:** May 19, 2025 by 5 PM CDT

Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (CB), issues this **NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)** to announce the opening of the first round of competition for grants under the Illinois Solar for All award for Residential Solar Outreach.

This NOFO will **not** commit the State of Illinois or IFA/CB to any contracts for any supplies or services or any grant or funding awards. All costs associated with responding to this NOFO are at the applicant's expense.

**This NOFO constitutes a Request for Proposals.** Please submit your applications via the AmpliFund system. The Project Narrative, described below, shall not exceed ten (10) total pages in length in Microsoft Word (.docx) or readable PDF format, and should be uploaded to the AmpliFund system. Submission via AmpliFund is the only acceptable method of delivery. Fax, mail, and courier delivery shall not be accepted, unless special accommodation is granted by the IFA/CB. Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted or not legible files, may not be reviewed.

**Proprietary information:** Any information obtained in response to this NOFO may be used by the IFA/CB and the State of Illinois for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if reasonable, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Any material within a response to this NOFO identified as confidential must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. IFA may publicly post a summary of the responses received.

**Contact for inquiries:**

Claire Brinley, IFA/ICB Policy Analyst



phone: 312-651-1319

email: [ClimateBank@il-fa.com](mailto:ClimateBank@il-fa.com)

**UNIFORM NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)**

**Summary Information**

	Data Field	
1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (CB)
2.	Agency Contact:	Claire Brinley, <a href="mailto:ClimateBank@il-fa.com">ClimateBank@il-fa.com</a> , 312/651-1319
3.	Announcement Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	IFA-SFA-02
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	Illinois Solar for All Expansion: Residential Solar Outreach Grant
7.	CSFA Number:	560-01-3636
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	Residential Solar Outreach Grants
9.	Assistance Listing (formerly CFDA Number):	66.959
10.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	5-26
11.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$2,600,000 in Year 1 of the Solar for All grant, \$3,000,000 in each subsequent year 2-5.
12.	Award Range	\$100,000 - \$500,000
13.	Source of Funding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through, US EPA Grant Number (FAIN) 84090501, SAM.gov Assistance Number 66.959. <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding
14.	Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
15.	Indirect Costs Allowed Restrictions on Indirect Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction: US EPA General Terms and Conditions, Sec. 18; Assistance Amendment between IL Finance Authority and US EPA (limiting budget to 10% de minimus rate).
16.	Posted Date:	4/18/2025
17.	Application Range:	4/18/2025 - 5/19/2025



18.	Technical Assistance Session:	Session Offered: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Session Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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# Notice of Funding Opportunity

## A. Program Objectives

**NOFO Purpose:** Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (IFA/CB), invites project proposals under Illinois' award for the Illinois Solar for All Expansion: Residential Solar Outreach Grant Program (Program). With this NOFO, IFA/CB invites eligible entities interested in applying for funding under this program to file their application proposals in compliance with the terms of this NOFO.

IFA/CB reserves the right to revise any part of this NOFO by issuing addendum(s) at any time. Issuance of this NOFO, or subsequent addendum(s), if any, does not constitute a commitment by IFA/CB or the State of Illinois to fund any project. In addition, IFA/CB may cancel this NOFO at any time, without incurring any liability from responders or potential responders.

**Illinois Solar for All Overall Objectives:** In April 2024, Illinois was announced as one of the recipients of an award under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [Solar for All](#) program, created by the [Inflation Reduction Act](#). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) awarded \$156,120,000 to the State of Illinois to implement a variety of programs over the five-year Solar for All grant period (2024-2029). The Residential Solar Outreach Grant program is one of the programs approved by US EPA.

Collectively, Solar for All programs will deliver on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's objectives by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution, delivering cost savings on electric bills for overburdened households, and unlocking new markets for distributed solar energy. State awards were competitive, and Illinois' Solar for All Expansion proposal was designed to bring the benefits of solar energy to low-income and disadvantaged communities across the state. It will expand the existing Illinois SFA (ILSFA) program and provide supporting financial products to ILSFA and Adjustable Block Program/Illinois Shines Program (Illinois Shines) (including grants and loans) to support health and safety and enabling upgrades, incorporate energy storage, expand residential solar, support energy sovereignty and community-driven projects, and provide critical capital to disadvantaged solar vendors to grow their businesses and capabilities. The technical assistance portion of this effort, which includes Residential Solar Outreach Grants, will improve and extend direct community engagement efforts to expand residential solar adoption, will create tools for contractors to braid multiple funding streams, and support local governments to streamline the application and permitting process. Illinois' Solar for All Expansion programs will also leverage and build on Illinois' soon-to-be-implemented clean energy workforce development programs to grow an equitable workforce.

IFA/CB's investment decisions in selecting projects under this program are guided by the "Climate and Equitable Jobs Act" (CEJA) and the stakeholder input received before submitting its Solar for All proposal and during the post-award Illinois Solar for All Expansion working groups convened in December 2024 and January 2025. CEJA establishes and addresses several Illinois energy policy goals and prioritizes investments for communities that experience low incomes and historic disinvestment.

To determine the scope of activities of this Program, the IFA/CB gathered stakeholder feedback at a meeting on December 12, 2024. The meeting had 43 attendees, including solar developers, labor representatives, consumer advocates, government agency officials, environmental advocates, and utilities. There, the IFA/CB and stakeholders discussed outreach and engagement strategies to increase participation in the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program and other related issues that have been incorporated into this NOFO.

**Subaward Objectives:** Under the administration of the IFA/CB, Illinois will hold a competitive selection process to identify projects for up to \$2,600,000 of this federal funding in the first year of the grant and up to \$3,000,000 per year in the second through fifth years of the grant, to be deployed in up to 30 grants of between \$100,000 and \$500,000, to assist non-profit organizations and units of government in improving the participation by income-qualified customers in [Illinois Solar for All's \(ILSFA\) Residential Solar \(Small\) program](#). Details of how the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program delivers benefits to customers is described in detail in the Illinois Power Agency's [Approved Vendor Manual](#). Grants may be used for costs associated with Eligible Activities listed below.

The program will offer grants for **two types of services**. First, grants will be available for **intensive customer outreach and support services** to increase participation in the ILSFA Residential (Small) program. These services will reach beyond mere awareness and will provide personalized assistance to interested and participating residents at every step of the program's process. Second, the program will offer funding for **shared services** to support organizations providing intensive customer outreach and support services, including such organizations funded by programs other than this one (such as the IPA-funded ILSFA Grassroots Educators). **Applicants applying for both types of funding should submit two applications – one for each type of funding.**

IFA/CB will select projects that support two core objectives: **Comprehensive Outreach and Support Services**, and **Increased Capacity for Implementation and Long-Term Impact**. The metrics and strategies described below will be used to track whether investments achieve these goals.

## 1. Comprehensive Outreach and Support Services

**Objective:** Provide residents a comprehensive suite of personalized services and assistance to increase their participation in the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program and increase solar system installations on residents' homes.

**Intended Outcomes:** Increase the number of residents who complete the income qualification process, address barriers to installing solar systems, and work with an Approved Vendor to apply for ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program incentives and complete the program, resulting in a solar system installation.

- Grantees providing customer outreach and support services will engage in intense coordination with other available programs, such as energy efficiency and home repair programs, to reduce barriers to solar installation. Grantees providing customer outreach and support services will provide a comprehensive suite of services to address barriers to installing solar such as needed repairs, communication and scheduling difficulties, and time needed to manage program participation.
- Grantees providing shared services will establish methods to gather feedback from other customer outreach and support services grantees, ILSFA Grassroots Educators, and other relevant parties to determine what shared services are needed.

**Metrics:**

- **Grantees providing customer outreach and support services** will track the number of residents they assist who become qualified for the program, work with an Approved Vendor to apply for ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program incentives, and complete the program, resulting in a solar system installation. Participation will be tracked, wherever possible, by census tract.
- **Grantees providing shared services** will be evaluated on the comprehensiveness and quality of the shared services provided and the extent to which they meet the needs expressed by customer outreach and support services grantees, ILSFA Grassroots Educators, and other relevant parties.

## 2. Increased Capacity for Implementation and Long-Term Impact

**Objective:** Improve coordination between available programs to address residents' energy use and housing quality, such as utility energy efficiency programs and any available home repair programs, leading to long-term improvements in processes that support participation in the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program.

**Intended Outcomes:** Customer outreach grantees and shared service grantees will coordinate between their own activities and complementary activities provided by other grantees from this program, the ILSFA program administrator, Grassroots Educators, and others.

**Metrics:** Customer outreach grantees and shared service grantees will track efforts to formalize coordination between available programs and providers that can assist residents in removing barriers to successful participation in the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program.

## B. Funding Information

This award is utilizing federal funds. Subawards selected by IFA/CB are subject to preliminary approval by the US EPA before any funding is awarded to the applicant. IFA/CB will choose candidates based on the selection criteria discussed in Section E below. Following this selection process, IFA/CB will work with those candidates to provide US EPA documentation that:

- Describes the activities to be supported by the subaward;
- Specifies the range of funding to be provided through the subaward;
- Identifies which types of entities (i.e., governmental, non-profit, for-profit) will receive the subaward; and
- Specifies how the subrecipients are eligible subrecipients in accordance with [EPA's subaward policy](#) and, specifically, how the subrecipients will comply with the requirement that the subrecipient must only receive reimbursement for their actual direct or approved indirect costs such that they do not "profit" from the transaction.

Candidates will only be granted funding under this grant program after US EPA provides written confirmation of the adequacy of this documentation.

The total target funding distribution for the first year of the program is \$2,600,000. The ultimate allocation may differ from this target allocation based on the finalized amounts of awarded projects.

- Expected amounts of individual awards: between \$100,000 and \$500,000 per project.
- Anticipated start dates and periods of performance for new awards: Summer 2025, 2 years
- Type of assistance instrument that may be awarded to successful applications: Grant.
- Cost match requirement: None.
- Indirect costs allowed? Yes, see Section C.4., below.

Should the initial project solicitation process fail to result in awards of all funds from the small provider portion, Illinois may conduct one or more subsequent competitive project solicitation cycles with the aim of funding projects on a timeline that meets grant requirements and community needs.

## C. Eligibility Information

Proposed projects must be located in Illinois and meet the grant requirements described below.

### 1. Eligible Entities

Illinois units of government and nonprofits may apply for funding. Applicants included in the SAM.gov Exclusion List and status on the Illinois Stop Payment List will not be eligible for an award. Nonprofits and units of government that are ILSFA Approved Vendors, affiliated with Approved Vendors, or who receive payments from Approved Vendors in exchange for referrals or other services are not eligible to

apply.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Project Location

Only applicants and projects located in Illinois are eligible for this funding. Priority will be given to applications addressing residents of census tracts identified by the [Illinois Solar for All program's Income-Eligible Census Map](#), as well as geographically distributed residents experiencing low incomes.

## 3. Eligible Activities

Subawards to eligible entities must be used for activities to increase participation in the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program. For grantees providing customer outreach and support services, these activities may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Customer education, outreach, and assistance with ILSFA program activities;
- b. Coordinating with the ILSFA program administrator, Grassroots Educators, other grantees, Approved Vendors actively working in the community, and other housing-related assistance programs; and
- c. Assisting residents with related services necessary to proceed with their ILSFA application, such as funding and managing minor repairs needed before a solar system can be installed.

For grantees providing shared services, these activities may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Coordination with customer outreach grantees and Grassroots Educators to determine the types of materials and services needed;
- b. Providing training to customer outreach grantees and Grassroots Educators;
- c. Create materials to facilitate customer education, outreach, and assistance such as communications materials, a reasonable amount of branded items such as polos, tablecloths, posters, and low-cost handouts (such as stickers and pens); and
- d. Social media or other targeted promotional campaigns, including a limited amount of paid advertising costs.

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<sup>1</sup> Affiliate is defined at [2 CFR 180.905](#).

**Non-eligible activities:** A subaward to an eligible entity under this grant Program **may not** be used for:

- a. Activities that do not support participation in the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) subprogram;
- b. Equipment purchases or rental. Equipment is defined by 2 CFR 200.1 as “tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the recipient or subrecipient for financial statement purposes, or \$10,000.”
- c. Software;
- d. Costs of acquiring “intangible property,” as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#), or
- e. Lobbying activities, union organizing, or other activities prohibited under the terms of the federal Solar for All program.

#### 4. Indirect Cost Rate

To charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs:

**Federally Negotiated Rate.** Organizations that receive direct federal funding may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The organization must provide a copy of the federally negotiated NICRA.

**State Negotiated Rate.** The organization may negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have a Federally Negotiated Rate. If an organization has not previously established an indirect cost rate, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted through the State of Illinois’ centralized indirect cost rate system no later than three months after receipt of a Notice of State Award (NOSA). If an organization previously established an indirect cost rate, the organization must annually submit a new indirect cost proposal through the Crowe Activity Review System (CARS) within six months after the close of the grantee’s fiscal year.

**De Minimis Rate.** An organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with the Federal Government or the State of Illinois is eligible to elect a de minimis rate of 10% of the modified total direct cost (MTDC).<sup>2</sup> Once established, the De Minimis Rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the De Minimis Rate.

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<sup>2</sup> MTDC is defined at [2 CFR 200.1](#).

All grantees must complete an indirect cost rate negotiation or elect the de minimis rate to claim indirect costs. Indirect costs claimed without a negotiated rate or a de minimis rate election on record in the State of Illinois centralized indirect cost rate system may be subject to disallowance.

## D. Application Submission Information

### 1. Contact to Request Application Package and Accommodations.

The full application is available through the [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal). If any assistance is needed in accessing application materials or submitting application due to limited Internet access or other limitations, the potential applicant should email [climatebank@il-fa.com](mailto:climatebank@il-fa.com).

### 2. Submission Approach

This NOFO is a competitive process to solicit project applications from interested entities to meet the funding objectives of this program. This process has been designed to reduce the burden on entities seeking to apply for funding and ensure alignment on funding objectives with respondents. The competitive process will be divided into stages:

- a. **Initial application window.** The initial application process will provide respondents with an accessible, easy-to-navigate method for outlining their proposed project to IFA for selection. The application process will provide the opportunity for entities with limited bandwidth to describe their project, demonstrate the ability of their project to meet program objectives, and receive rapid feedback on their project.
- b. **Candidate selection.** IFA will evaluate projects submitted through the initial application process based on their ability to meet program objectives, as described further in Section E below. Following evaluation, projects will be identified for funding and IFA will work with selected candidates to seek approval for funding from US EPA, as required by IFA's federal grant agreement.
- c. **Competitive, rolling application windows.** After the initial application deadline, the IFA reserves the option to open a competitive, rolling application window for project selection. IFA anticipates, based on the availability of program funds, applications submitted under a rolling application process will be accepted on a quarterly basis and evaluated competitively as a batch based on the ability of a project to meet program objectives. IFA also reserves the option to close the rolling application window and revert to a single annual application window at any time.

### 3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), SAM.gov & GATA registration

To submit an application, the applicant must register and pre-qualify through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal). Registration and pre-qualification are required annually. Selected applicants must also register with the federal SAM.gov and must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) assigned in the SAM.gov. Applicants included in the SAM.gov Exclusion List and status on the Illinois Stop Payment List will not be eligible for an award. The Grantee Portal alerts the entity of “qualified” status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., missing UEI Unique Entity Identifier assigned in SAM.gov, not in good standing with the Secretary of State). Inclusion on the SAM.gov Exclusion List cannot be remediated.

## E. Application Content and Format

**NOTE:** Applicants selected for funding under this Program will be subject to the terms and conditions of the IFA’s Assistance Amendment to its Illinois Solar for All Expansion grant (FAIN 84090501) and US EPA’s [General Terms and Conditions](#), as they apply to subgrantees.

### 1. Mandatory Forms

**Applicants applying for funding for both customer outreach and assistance work and shared services work must submit two applications – one for each type of funding.**

All project submissions must include the following mandatory forms:

- a. Uniform State Grant Application (available in AmpliFund);
- b. Project Narrative (as described below);
- c. Budget using the Uniform Budget Template (available in AmpliFund); and
- d. Timeline and Deliverables (available in AmpliFund).

Please complete the Application, Budget, and Timeline and Deliverables forms that are available in AmpliFund and upload a Project Narrative, as described below, to the AmpliFund system.

### 2. Project Narrative

The applicant must submit an application Project Narrative, in Microsoft Word or a readable PDF format, of up to 10 pages, in 11 or 12-point font. The Project Narrative must describe the proposed project in sufficient detail, providing the following information:

**Applicant’s information and qualifications** (up to 1 page):

- a. Lead applicant’s name, type of entity, and contact person (name, title, phone, email and address).

- b. A description of the applicant's background and relevant experience, including with the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program, project management, and working with other federal and state awards.
- c. Indicate if the applicant has been debarred or is a suspended entity, as described in E.2(I)(xii), below.
- d. If more than one entity is involved in the proposed project, describe each entity involved and provide name and contact information for each entity's project lead.

**Project Description** (up to 9 pages):

- e. **Project Location:**
  - i. For applicants seeking to provide customer outreach and assistance services:
    - i. If the applicant is a unit of government, please indicate whether at least one Census tract within the unit of government's jurisdiction is marked as Income-Eligible on the [Illinois Solar for All program's Income-Eligible Census Map](#).
    - ii. If the applicant is a nonprofit, please describe the geographic area you propose to serve and indicate whether at least one Census tract within that area is marked as Income-Eligible on the [Illinois Solar for All program's Income-Eligible Census Map](#).
    - iii. For all applicants seeking to provide customer outreach and assistance services, describe your understanding of the availability of Approved Vendor (AV) services in your chosen geographic area and the source of that understanding (IPA website, relationships with AVs, etc.).
  - ii. For applicants seeking to provide shared services, state whether you can provide those services on a statewide basis and, if not, describe the geographic area you propose to serve.
- f. **Project Description.** Describe the activities included in the project in as much detail as possible. Refer to the list of eligible activities in Section C.3, and also describe any other activities the applicant will undertake to increase participation in ILSFA's Residential Solar (Small) program. Do not include activities and expenses listed as ineligible for funding in Section C.3 or E.2(I)(ix).
  - i. For applicants seeking to provide customer outreach and assistance services:
    - i. Describe how the activities included in this project are expected to interest residents in the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program and bring about the conversion of that interest into active participation that culminates in a completed solar installation.
    - ii. Give an assessment of the barriers to resident participation and success in the program and how you intend to help residents overcome those barriers.
    - iii. Discuss, in detail, how you intend to coordinate with other programs that touch residents' homes, such as energy efficiency or home repair programs, to reduce the barriers for resident participation and success in the program.

- ii. For applicants seeking to provide shared services:
  - i. Describe the process you intend to undertake to determine the best services to provide to customer outreach and assistance grantees and Grassroots Educators.
  - ii. Describe your experience working with residential solar energy programs and customers.
  - iii. Provide any other information regarding organizational experience that you feel would be helpful in evaluating your application.
- g. **Anticipated Community Benefits.**
  - i. For applicants seeking to provide customer outreach and assistance services:
    - i. Describe how you intend to reach residents who are eligible for the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) Program. Describe plans to reach residents located in Income Eligible areas identified above. Describe plans to reach residents who do not live in Income Eligible areas but may nonetheless be eligible for the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) Program.
    - ii. Provide any available data or information that would be helpful in evaluating the communities you intend to serve and whether community residents are likely to participate in the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) Program and succeed in installing a solar system.
  - ii. For applicants seeking to provide shared services, describe your experience providing shared services to units of government or nonprofits working with communities and residents experiencing low incomes.
- h. **Funding Objectives:** Describe how the proposed project addresses the Program Objectives outlined in Sections A.1 and A.2 above, and the applicant’s ability to demonstrate compliance with the highlighted metrics.
- i. **Project timeline:** Applicants must provide a high-level project timeline outlining major tasks, milestones, and expected completion dates using the timeline form provided in AmpliFund. Tasks and associated metrics must align with the proposed budget and the total grant amount requested.
- j. **Project costs breakdown.** Respondents should fill out the budget template using the form in AmpliFund. All expenditures must be allowable, allocatable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles. For more information, see [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](#) - Cost Principles as well as applicable provisions of [2 CFR Part 1500](#).

- k. **Performance measurement.** Grantees will be responsible for ensuring all reporting requirements associated with the federal funding are met. This includes providing timely and accurate reporting to the Climate Bank in compliance with all federal and programmatic obligations. The Climate Bank will ensure that reporting processes are adjusted as necessary to meet updated or additional requirements issued by U.S. EPA. Reporting will include, but is not limited to, project financial and activity report, and assistance in developing sample project case studies.

Reporting will include semi-annual reports to assist the Illinois Climate Bank in showing progress on achieving this program's purpose. These semi-annual progress reports will be due to US EPA within 30 calendar days of the end of the semi-annual reporting period. Consequently, to allow time to compile reports from multiple grantees, reports may be due to the Climate Bank within as few as 10 days of the end of the semi-annual reporting period, which run from July 1 to December 1 and from January 1 to June 30 of each year.

- l. **Funding Compliance Requirements.** In responding to this NOFO, applicants must acknowledge compliance with the requirements related to this US EPA subaward:
- i. **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and other Federal statutes and regulations** prohibiting discrimination in Federal financial assistance programs apply, including provisions protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, and the environment per [200 CFR 200.300\(a\)](#), as well as regulations, including [2 CFR 200.300\(b\)](#) prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
  - ii. **Consultant Cap.** Grant funds available for salary paid to individual consultants is limited to the maximum daily rate for Level IV of the Executive Schedule.<sup>3</sup>
  - iii. **Management Fees.** Management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and approved indirect rates are not allowable.<sup>4</sup>
  - iv. **Real Property and Equipment.** Real property and equipment are not allowable expenditures under this grant.
  - v. **Foreign Work and Materials.** IFA/CB must obtain written consent from US EPA prior to awarding a subaward that will be performed in a foreign country. Alert the IFA/CB in the proposal if any portion of the project will be performed in a foreign country.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> For more information, see [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Section 8.7.

<sup>4</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 9.

<sup>5</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Section 8.11.

- vi. **Reporting Executive Compensation.** Certain subrecipients receiving federal funding may be required to report executive compensation. For more information, refer to [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), section 15.3 and 15.4.<sup>6</sup>
- vii. **Conflicts of Interest.** Applicants must have systems in place to address, resolve, and disclose conflicts of interest and must disclose conflicts of interest to IFA, as described in [US EPA's Conflicts of Interest policy](#).<sup>7</sup>
- viii. **Utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.** US EPA requires that subrecipients make good faith efforts to utilize Disadvantaged Business Enterprises when procuring services and supplies, and retain documentation of doing so. The specific six good faith efforts can be found at [40 CFR Section 33.301\(a\)-\(f\)](#).
- ix. **Other Ineligible Activities.** Certify that the requested funding will not be used to encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned, or pending legislation or directly or indirectly support or oppose union organizing.<sup>8</sup>
- x. **Refreshments.** IFA/CB has not received advance permission from US EPA to fund light refreshments or meals served at meetings, training workshops, or outreach events. Thus, applicants may not use funds from this grant for these purposes.<sup>9</sup>
- xi. **Procurement Standards.** The procurement standards in [2 CFR Part 200](#), including those requiring competition when the subrecipient acquires goods and services from contractors (including consultants), and Domestic preferences for procurements at [2 CFR 200.322](#) will apply to grant awardees.
- xii. **Suspensions and Debarment.** The applicant must certify that it is not suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal funds as specified in [2 CFR 200.332](#) and [2 CFR 180.300](#) and is not suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal funds in *SAM.gov* and in *SAM.gov* Exclusions.
- xiii. **Proposed Costs.** The applicant must certify that proposed costs are reasonable, allocable, and allowable, as defined by [US EPA's Interim General Budget Guidance](#).
- xiv. **Reporting Potentially Duplicative Funding.** The applicant must certify that if it or a project team member receives any other award of federal funds for activities that potentially overlap with the activities funded under this award, it will promptly notify

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<sup>6</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 15.3, 15.4.

<sup>7</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 23.2.

<sup>8</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 13 (union organizing) and Sec. 45 (lobbying).

<sup>9</sup> See [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec 35.

the IFA/CB in writing. If there are identical cost items, the subrecipient must promptly notify the IFA/CB in writing of the potential duplication and eliminate any inappropriate duplication of funding.

## F. Review and Selection Criteria

**Minimum Requirements:** To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be located in Illinois, be submitted by an eligible entity, as described in Section C.1 above, and propose eligible activities, as described in Section C.3 above.

**Selection Criteria:** Applications will be reviewed competitively. IFA/CB will evaluate projects for selection based on the following criteria, at a minimum:

- **Feasibility and Readiness:** The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has the capacity to implement the proposed activities.
- **Quality and Clarity of Proposed Activities:** A clear, detailed, and structured plan of activities that are designed to accomplish the program’s objectives.
- **Comprehensive Outreach and Support Services:** The proposal’s potential to increase the number of qualifying residents who complete the ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program. Please note that mere awareness of the program, while necessary for a resident to reach the program’s application stage, will not be considered a successful outcome. Proposals must address barriers to ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) program participation and success, and will be evaluated on their plans to engage in intense coordination with other available programs, such as energy efficiency and home repair programs, to reduce barriers to solar installation. Grantees providing shared services will be evaluated on their plans to engage customer outreach and support services grantees, ILSFA Grassroots Educators, and other relevant parties to determine what shared services are needed and to provide a comprehensive suite of services, as needed.
- **Increased Capacity for Implementation and Long-Term Impact:** The proposal’s demonstration that customer outreach and shared service grantees will effectively coordinate between their own activities and complementary activities being provided by other grantees from this program, the ILSFA program administrator, Grassroots Educators, and others.

**Project Community Benefits assessment:** A successful project must score at least 30 points out of maximum 50 points and half of the available points in each Program Objectives Category. The selection criteria will be evaluated as follows:

Program Objectives Category	Maximum Points	Poor	Fair	Strong
Feasibility and Readiness	5	1-2 points	3 points	4-5 points
Quality and Clarity of Proposed Activities	15	1-5 points	6-10 points	11-15 points
Comprehensive Services	25	1-8 points	9-17 points	18-25 points



Increased Capacity for Implementation and Long-Term Impact	5	1-2 points	3 points	4-5 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>50</b>			

Each category will be evaluated in the Poor, Fair, or Strong bracket based on the description of the benefits in the project application and the likelihood of the applicant’s ability to achieve them and successfully measure the benefits as a consequence of the proposed project activities.

## G. Award Administration Information

### 1. Schedule

IFA/CB reserves the right to deviate from this schedule at any time and without notice.

#### Activity/Event

Public Notice of Request for Projects:	April 18, 2025
Deadline for Receipt of Applications:	May 19, 2025
Anticipated initial project selections:	Early June, 2025
Optional Rolling Application Window Opening:	July 1, 2025

### 2. Anticipated Announcement and Award Notices

Applicants will be notified of the selection decision within 30 days after the deadline for application submission.

Before IFA/CB can issue an award, each project selected by the IFA/CB must receive approval, as described above in Section B, from the US EPA program officer. Once successful applicants receive notice of selection, applicants may be required to submit additional information and forms necessary for US EPA approval.

IFA/CB anticipates sending the Notice of State Award (NOSA) to successful applicants by email within 30 days of the approval of applicant’s project by the US EPA.

**NOTE:** Neither the initial notice of selection, nor the Notice of State Award (NOSA) are authorization to begin performance of the project or incur costs. Costs incurred before entering into a subaward agreement with the IFA/CB will not be recoverable.

### 3. Reporting



The awarded projects will be required to report project metrics semiannually. IFA/CB may post these reports on the IFA's public website. In addition, the applicant will be required to submit project management reports quarterly throughout the life of the project.

#### 4. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Contacts for questions and assistance:

Claire Brinley  
Project Manager, Illinois Finance Agency  
160 N. LaSalle St., Suite S-1000  
Chicago, IL 60601  
ClimateBank@il-fa.com  
312-651-1319

#### 5. Other Information

**No Funding Commitment.** The State is not obligated to make any award as a result of this NOFO. Any award under this program is subject to preliminary approval of the US EPA. This NOFO will **not** commit the State of Illinois or IFA/CB to any contracts for any supplies or services or any grant of funding awards. All costs associated with responding to this NOFO are at the applicant's expense.

**Confidential and Proprietary Information:** Any information obtained in response to this NOFO may be used by the IFA/CB and the State of Illinois for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if reasonable, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Any material within a response to this NOFO identified as confidential must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. The State may publicly post a summary of the responses received.

**Appeals.** IFA/CB will follow the appeal process under 44 ILL. Adm. Code 7000.350. IFA/CB intends to give the applicants that were not selected in this round of solicitation sufficient opportunities to develop their application further so that they may resubmit their projects in the future rounds of project solicitations as they open.