

## **2021-22 Program Year Community-Driven Community Solar Scoring Process and Results**

### **August 30, 2022**

#### ***Background***

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (Public Act 102-0662), signed into law on September 15, 2021, included significant changes to the Adjustable Block/Illinois Shines Program, with the addition of three new project categories to the Program, including the new Community-Driven Community Solar category. This document outlines the first scoring and selection process of the new Community-Driven Community Solar category.

The application window for Community-Driven Community Solar opened on December 14, 2021, and closed on June 13, 2022. Seven project applications were received during the submission window. Of the seven applications, one was not batched, leaving six applications to be reviewed by the Program Administrator. Four of those remaining six projects were ineligible for an award, as the projects did not have an executed interconnection agreement, which was a requirement for this project category during the 2021-22 program year. This left two eligible applications, which were scored using the criteria outlined below (per Section 1.F of the [December 10, 2021 Program Guidebook](#)).

#### ***Scoring Process***

##### **1. Development Density**

- a. Projects scored based on the development density of the township in which they are located. The highest density class would get 2 points, the next class 1 point, the third class 0.5 points, and the lowest density class 0 points. Development density points were assigned based upon the density map illustrated in Figure 5 of the methodology proposed by the Environmental Law and Policy Center and Vote solar in [comments](#) on the draft 2020 Revised Long Term Plan. Additionally, the [Illinois Public Land Survey System \(IPLSS\)](#) application was used to find each project's township and location based on each project's address. Both maps were then transposed for each project to determine the development density score.
- b. Both projects were located in the middle density class and therefore, both projects received 1 point for this scoring category.

##### **2. Site-Specific RFP**

- a. If a project was developed in response to a site-specific RFP issued by a municipality or community group, it would be awarded 1 point.
- b. Blue Grama Solar submitted a letter informing the AV that the project proposal was selected in response to a public RFP, so received 1 point in this scoring category.
- c. Based on the documentation provided, Galesburg Airport Community Solar was not selected from a formal bidding process. Rather, an ad hoc committee was formed to

evaluate unsolicited proposals. Galesburg Airport Community Solar received 0 points in this scoring category.

**3. Commitment to Serve Local Subscribers**

- a. Projects that are committed to serve only local subscribers in the same county as the project would be awarded 1 point.
- b. Both projects committed to serve only local subscribers, and therefore, both projects received 2 points for this scoring category.

**4. Project Size**

- a. Projects up to and including 100 kW AC will be awarded 2 points, projects greater than 100 kW AC and up to and including 500 kW AC would be awarded 1 point.
- b. Both projects exceeded the size requirement to receive points and therefore, both projects received 0 points for this scoring category.

**Results**

The application of the scoring framework resulted in a total score of 3 points for Application #82025, Blue Grama Solar and 2 points for Application #68039, Galesburg Airport Community Solar Project.

Because both projects are in Ameren territory and the CDCS Group A Block has only 3 MW of capacity, the IL ABP can only move forward with one project as accepting both would exceed the allocated capacity. Thus, the Program will move forward with one CDCS application for the 2021-22 Program year, Application #82025, Blue Grama Solar.

Application ID	Approved Vendor ID	Project Name	Inverter Size (AC kW)	Density Score	Size Score	Local Subscribers Score	Site Specific RFP Score	Total Score
82025	1100	Blue Grama Solar	3000	1	0	1	1	3
68039	4	Galesburg Airport Community Solar	2000	1	0	1	0	2

**Waitlist Process for Unselected Projects**

The Program Guidebook released in December 2021 includes the following under Section 1.C - Waitlist Procedures:

*Community-Driven Community Solar projects will be selected through the selection process described in Section 1.F below. Project applications will be evaluated and scored, then rank-ordered by score per*

*the scoring process outlined in Section 1.F. A waitlist process for this category will be contemplated through the Agency's next Long-Term Plan that will be approved in July 2022 as noted in Section 1 of this Guidebook.*

Section 7.4.5 (Community-Driven Community Solar) of the 2022 Long-Term Plan states the following with respect to waitlisted projects for this category:

*After project selection for any given delivery year is complete, projects that were not selected and that have a minimum score of at least ten points will be placed on a waitlist for the following delivery year. The increase in the minimum score requirement is to ensure the quality of projects carried over from year to year.*

The Guidebook clearly indicates that the requirements for the 2022 Long-Term Plan will govern the waitlist process for CDCS projects for program year 2022-23. While the waitlist for the first block of CDCS projects is not specifically mentioned one way or the other, it is clear that only projects receiving 10 points or more can be waitlisted for this category.

The CDCS scoring criteria for the blocks that opened December 14, 2021, differ greatly from the CDCS scoring criteria approved in the Agency's 2022 Long-Term Plan, which governs Program requirements for the upcoming 2022-23 program year. Of the two eligible projects submitted prior to the closing deadline, the selected project received a score of three, while the unselected project received a score of two. The maximum number of points allowable under the original scoring system was six. While the Agency understands that the unselected project could not have received 10 points, the project cannot be waitlisted as it does not meet the minimum score requirements of the Long-Term Plan. The December 2021 Program Guidebook did not guarantee that there would be a waitlist process for this new category and there were no objections raised to Section 7.4.5 of the Agency's 2022 Long-Term Plan. The unselected project may be resubmitted in the CDCS category in a future program year, under the new scoring criteria outlined in the Long-Term Plan.