

Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group Meeting, Final Traditional Community Solar Project Selection Proposal, and Public Schools Clarification

October 7, 2022

Program News

- **First Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group Meeting Held This Friday, October 7, 2022**
As previously announced, the Agency is excited to expand and recalibrate the Consumer Protection Working Group and hopes to engage a diverse set of stakeholders to generate a robust discussion of consumer protection issues. The October 7, 2022, meeting agenda has been [posted online](#). If you would like to receive further updates about the Working Group, please sign up using this link: <https://illinoisabp.com/cp-working-group/>.
- **DCEO CEJA Updates on Job Training Comment Process**
On August 31, 2022, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) [released a Request for Information](#) on the Energy Transition Community Grant Program, which was established by P.A. 102-0662, (“CEJA”) and will be implemented by DCEO. The deadline to submit public comments was September 30, 2022. Responses to the RFI are publicly available using this link: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=5144f23105484422a6a0427d6a4528ee>
Those interested in reading past announcements and receiving future updates on DCEO’s implementation of CEJA may sign up to receive updates about program development and funding opportunities using the following link: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/ClimateAndEquitableJobs.aspx>
- **Public Schools Clarifications**
The passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (P.A. 102-0662) introduced several new project categories within the Adjustable Block Program, including the Public Schools category. The IPA has drafted [the following clarifications](#) in response to stakeholder questions regarding the Public Schools category. These clarifications will be incorporated into the next version of the Program Guidebook.
- **Traditional Community Solar – Final Project Selection Guidelines**
On September 1, 2022, the IPA released [an initial proposal](#) and stakeholder feedback request on Traditional Community Solar (TCS) project selection and scoring criteria. Through this proposal, the IPA encouraged robust and comprehensive stakeholder feedback on the TCS selection process. Proposal responses were due on September 16, 2022, and the IPA received a total of [13 responses to the TCS Project Selection Proposal](#). After reviewing the submitted feedback the IPA published the [final scoring criteria](#) and [rationale](#) documents. Please note that applications for TCS (and TCS projects within the EEC and Public Schools categories) will not be available until November 1, 2022.
- **Upcoming and Recorded Equity Accountability System Webinars**
On October 4, 2022, the Agency and the Program Administrator held a webinar formally introducing the Equity Accountability System (EAS), outlined in Chapter 10 of the [Final 2022 Long-Term Plan](#). Topics covered in the webinar included an overview of the EAS, discussion of key elements, its applicability to the Adjustable Block Program including future opportunities and requirements for Approved Vendors and Designees, and available support from the Program Administrator. A recording of the webinar, a copy of the presentation slides and a viewer attestation form are available on the [Equity Accountability System page](#) of the Program website.

On November 15, 2022, the Program Administrator and IPA will hold a second webinar introducing the EAS and providing more information on annual compliance plan assessment, with more education and training to follow in early 2023. Participants are encouraged to ask questions during the Question & Answer section of

the webinar. Attendees can join the webinar via Zoom at this link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95834352530>

- **Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) Prevailing Wage Training Webinars**

As noted in the [2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan](#), most Adjustable Block Program projects must comply with the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, which requires that employees engaged in construction activities related to a project be paid prevailing wage; minimum compensation levels are set by the Illinois Department of Labor. Information regarding prevailing wage can be found on the Program's [Prevailing Wage Hub](#). IDOL is hosting informational webinars on prevailing wage requirements and will answer questions as time allows during scheduled webinars, which will be held via WebEx at the following upcoming dates and times.

- Wednesday, November 16 at 3:20 p.m. CT – Join link:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=mbcef9ff65828f936043500c4b3a33d26>

- **Ongoing Program Portal Updates**

The Program Administrator continues to update and optimize the new Program Portal. A release of improvements scheduled for October 6, 2022, includes the following:

- Ability for Program Administrator to assign a Designee to an Approved Vendor
- Bug fixes for Part I Application submissions

- **Ongoing Operations Updates**

The Program Administrator continues to work diligently to ensure that Program operations and processes are functioning efficiently and effectively. With each week and phase of the current Program year, updates will be shared with Approved Vendors and Designees to provide a deeper look into continued Program operations and processes. Recent updates for the week of October 3, 2022, include:

- Processing applications for new Approved Vendors and Designees
- Processing project applications
- Reviewing status of cures to discrepancies in Annual Reports
- Reviewing disclosure forms for active Community Solar projects

Transition Updates

- **Program Administrator Office Hours**

To support AVs and Designees experiencing technical difficulties with use of the Portal or in resolving other challenges, the Program Administrator is pleased to continue offering open “office hours” to answer questions, provide support, and gather feedback. Sessions are held with individual AV or Designee points of contact, via Zoom, utilizing a waiting room for individual appointment privacy. Many Approved Vendors and Designees continue to take advantage of the office hours, which are supported by members of the Program Administrators’ service, strategy, operations and technical team, and provide an opportunity to establish direct relationships with the Program Administrator. Upcoming office hours are planned for the following dates and times, with more dates expected to follow:

- Wednesday, October 12 – 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CT – Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302>
- Wednesday, October 19 – 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CT – Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302>
- Wednesday, October 26 – 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CT – Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302>

REMINDER: All transition updates can be found on the [ABP Transition Hub webpage](#).

CONTACT US: For Portal, application, or Program-specific questions and inquiries, please contact admin@illinoisabp.com or call 877-783-1820.

Requirements and Reminders

- **Program Year 2022-2023 Resources Available for Stakeholders**

On September 1, 2022, the launch of the Program Year 2022-2023, a variety of resources were released for Prospective and Approved Vendors and Designees. Resources are available at the following links.

- [Approved Vendor Application](#)
- [Welcome to Program Year 2022-2023 Webinar](#)
- [Program Year 2022-2023 Resource Guide](#)
- [Program Year 2022-2023 Webinar Q&A](#)