

Part II Application Release, Consumer Protection Proposal Feedback, Quarterly Community Solar Subscriber Verification

December 16, 2022

Program News

- **Part II Application Portal Release and Informational Webinar**

Part II Applications were reopened and made available in the Program portal on December 15, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. CPT. In conjunction with this release, the PA migrated previously batched Part I applications into the portal. Following release, several system updates requiring brief periods of downtime were implemented, including a portal fix Thursday evening requiring stakeholders to re-submit Part II applications submitted on December 15, 2022, and the re-execution of application attestations. In support of the release, the Program Administrator and the Agency are providing an array of support, including:

- [Portal Help Guide for Part II Applications](#)
- Webinar walk-through of Part II Application: view [a video recording of the webinar](#) and [the presentation slides](#)
- Extended office hours sessions in support of Part II Application Release– see Program Administrator Office Hours section below for upcoming sessions

- **Stakeholder Feedback – Consumer Protection**

As previously shared, the Agency seeks public comment on thirteen proposals to update consumer protection documents for both Illinois Shines (Adjustable Block Program) and Illinois Solar for All Programs. The Agency proposes to streamline the Disclosure Forms, create new consumer protection requirements, and clarify existing requirements. Following incorporation of public comment, the Agency intends to finalize these documents for the 2023-2024 Program Year beginning June 1, 2023.

- The proposals and request for feedback can be found on the Consumer Protection page on the Program website: <https://illinoisabp.com/consumer-protection/>
 - Comments on Proposal #1 (Disclosure Forms) are due: **December 30, 2022**, and this week, Word versions of the DFs were posted to the Program website for ease of commenting
 - Comments on Proposals #2 through #13 are due: **January 27, 2023**

- **CS Disclosure Form API Working Group – Second Meeting held December 14, 2022**

The Agency and Program Administrator thank stakeholders interested to support the development of API functionality for Disclosure Form uploads to the Program portal. On December 14, 2022, the PA held a second working group meeting for the Community Solar DF API, which produced further valuable insights that are informing API development. If you missed the meetings and/or are interested to participate in future API development, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisabp.com with subject line “CS DF API”. The PA will soon provide information on any further follow up, or development plans, for the CS DF API, as well as for a separate working group for a Distributed Generation DF API to be held in the future.

- **Ongoing Program Portal Updates**

The Program Administrator continues to update and optimize the new Program portal, provide new help guides and informational webinars, and open Office Hours for support. Ongoing portal updates can be found at <https://illinoisabp.com/portal-updates/>. A growing library of diverse and continually-updated portal help guides can be found at [IllinoisABP.com/portal-help](https://illinoisabp.com/portal-help). Stakeholders should continue to visit the Portal Help page to ensure they are accessing the most recent version of the help guides.

Updates on Portal Issues/Improvements

- **REC Estimates** – As previously shared, the Program Administrator received reports from Approved Vendors that PVWatts capacity factors and REC estimates, and custom capacity factor REC estimates in Section 5 of the Part I application, were not calculating correctly. The Program Administrator investigated the reports and determined that there were calculation errors occurring due to several

portal coding errors. The Program Administrator and Agency determined that adjustments to PVWatts capacity factors and associated REC estimates, and REC estimates calculated using custom capacity factors were required, and these **adjustments and updates to the Program portal made for PVWatts capacity factors and REC Estimates have been completed.**

- Approved Vendors with impacted applications received an email on December 9, 2022 with more information on updates to their impacted applications. **If you are an AV that submitted a Part I application between September 1, 2022 and December 8, 2022 and did not receive an email on next steps, please reach out to the Program Administrator as soon as possible at admin@illinoisabp.com**
- Any new applications started between December 8, 2022 and December 10, 2022 will be adjusted with the appropriate changes separately after December 16, 2022.
- In order to implement this fix in the portal was taken down at 12:00 p.m. CPT on Saturday, December 10, 2022. The updates lasted about 24 hours and the portal reopened around 1:00 p.m. CPT on Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Future Release Information

- The Program Administrator and Agency appreciate the continued patience and input of stakeholders as development continues on the Program portal. The PA and Agency are dedicated to sharing more information with AVs and Designees, and expect to provide further information shortly on a variety of planned functionality and enhancements, including but not limited to:
 - Community Solar Disclosure Form API - The Program continues development work on the Disclosure Form API for Community Solar, making progress supported by stakeholder input through an ongoing working group process. This functionality is expected to be available in early 2023, with more information to follow.
 - Distributed Generation Disclosure Form API, including an upcoming Working Group
 - Other functional and cosmetic updates to both CS and DG Disclosure Forms
 - Re-batching functionality is tentatively aimed for release in the portal in early 2023. More information and guidance on using this functionality will be provided as the release approaches.

• Ongoing Operations Updates

Recent and forthcoming operational updates include:

- **Community Solar December Quarterly Subscriber Verification** - The Program Administrator has begun reviewing Quarterly Reports and will be following up with Approved Vendors in the coming weeks regarding needed clarifications and reviewed subscription rates.
- **Application Processing Update** - The Program Administrator's Application Processing team is managing the review and scoring of Traditional Community Solar applications, Community-Driven Community Solar applications, and Part I and Part II Distributed Generation applications. Some of the application processing team is focused on Community Solar, with the remainder of the team split into two groups focused on processing Part I DG applications and Part II applications in the order received. TCS and CDCS application review and scoring will last into the first quarter of 2023, at which point processing of Distributed Generation applications can resume at full capacity. As shared on last week's Part II Application webinar, the Program Administrator and Agency have developed a planned schedule and sequence for application processing for the remainder of 2022, including:
 - Community Solar Applications
 - Part of the Application Processing team is currently focused on reviewing the TCS and CDCS applications received for the current Program Year
 - These projects will move through the Program as a group, due to the scoring element, and this is expected to last into the first quarter of 2023
 - Please see the below section on **Traditional Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process** for the latest information. For CDCS, a similar review and scoring process and timeline as with TCS is in use, including:

- Part I Application review: Approximately 4 weeks
- *Needs Info* requests and resolution: Approximately 2 weeks
- Project scoring: Approximately 3 weeks
- AV review of initial project scores: Approximately 2 weeks
- Distributed Generation Applications
 - New Part I DG apps received in the portal on or after September 1, 2022
 - New Part II DG apps received in the portal on or after December 15, 2022
 - There will be a continued focus on responding to and processing Need Info responses
- **Project Application Reports: Report #1** – This week it came to the Program Administrator’s attention that the column “Is this project subject to prevailing wage?” In Report #1 of the Project Application reports was not populating correctly, leading to mistakes in the applicability of prevailing wage requirements for various projects. The PA is currently looking into this issue and in the meantime has removed this column from the report. Once the issue is resolved, the column and corrected information will be returned to the report.

Transition Updates

- **Program Administrator Office Hours**

AVs and Designees experiencing technical difficulties with use of the portal or in resolving other challenges are invited to utilize open Office Hours that the Program Administrator offers via Zoom. Office hours use a waiting room format to support meetings with individual AV or Designee teams for privacy. Upcoming office hours are planned for the following dates and times with more dates expected to follow:

- Wednesday, December 21 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>
- Wednesday, December 28 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>

REMINDER: All transition updates can be found on the [ABP Transition Hub webpage](#), and a new [Events & Engagement](#) page at the Program website provides a calendar of upcoming webinars, meetings, support, feedback requests, key dates, holidays, and more. Please visit <https://illinoisabp.com/events-engagement/> for continuous updates.

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

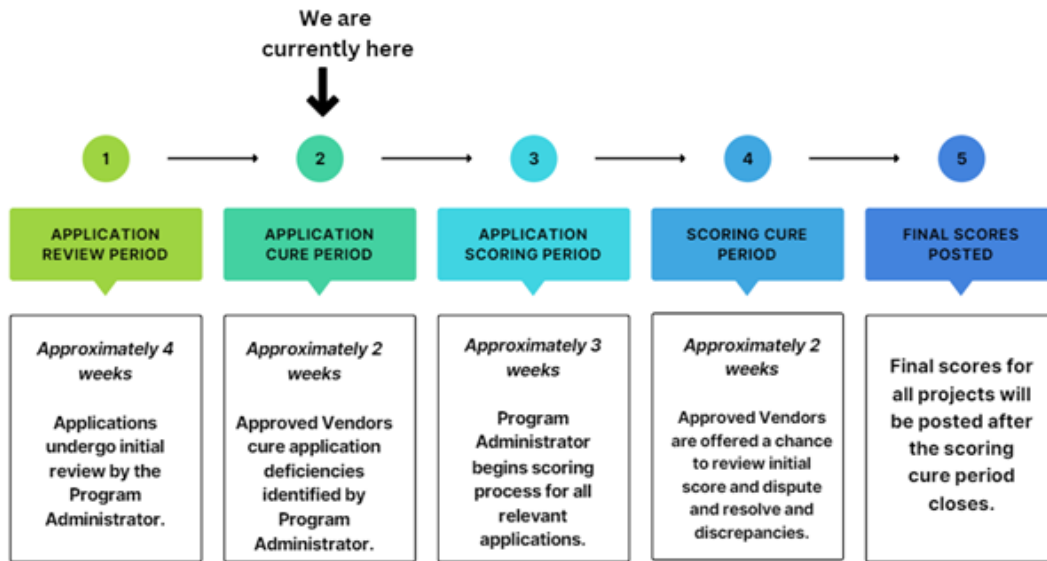
Requirements and Reminders

- **EEC Block Capacity – Group A**

On December 2, 2022, the IPA petitioned the Illinois Commerce Commission to reopen the proceeding that approved the 2022 Long-Term Plan in order to make modifications to the Plan to address issues related to the Equity Eligible Contractor category of the Adjustable Block Program. The petition and proposed Plan modifications are found on the [Program’s Resources page](#) and are filed in [ICC Docket 22-0231](#). To participate in the docket, you may intervene in the proceeding before the ICC consistent with the process outlined in the Commission’s Rules of Practice.

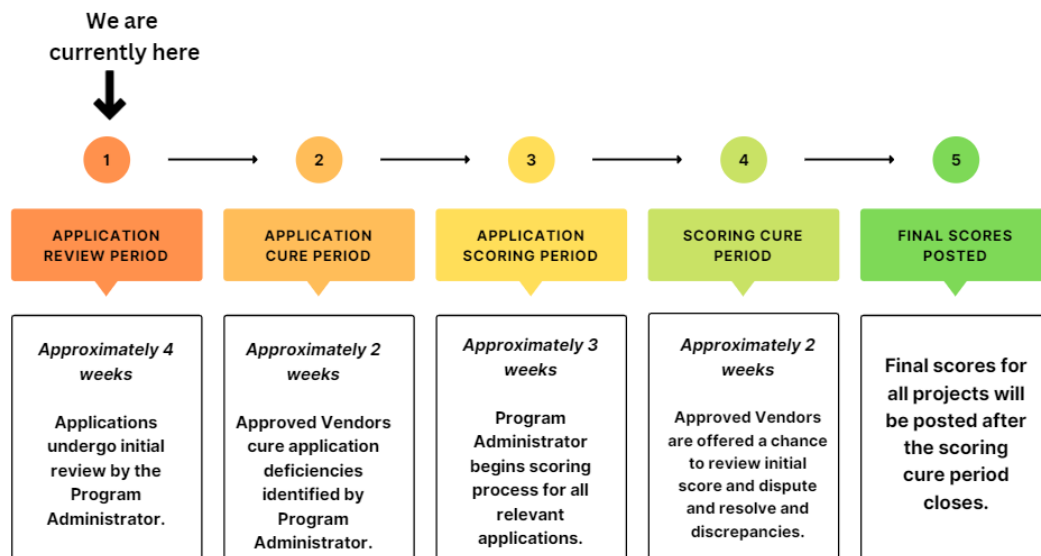
- **Traditional Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process**

The Program Administrator has completed initial review of submitted Traditional Community Solar applications and is now in the application cure period, which is scheduled to conclude on December 21, 2022. **On Friday, December 16, the Program Administrator will be sending a follow-up email to AVs with applications that remain in a *Need Info* status, and these stakeholders are asked to rapidly provide the PA with the requested information no later than the end of day, Wednesday December 21, 2022.** Because the next phase of the TCS review and scoring process, Application Scoring Period, begins on December 21, 2022, and all applications must move together into the next phase, it is important that all remaining *Need Info* requests are addressed by AVs as soon as possible. See below for the status of the TCS application review and scoring process.



- Community-Driven Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process**

The Program Administrator is currently working on reviewing CDCS applications submitted to the Program during the application window, which closed on November 29, 2022. The PA will continue to share updates as we move through the process of application review and scoring.



- Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Updates**

DCEO has several CEJA updates and opportunities for feedback as it relates to job training and CEJA implementation, see below for more information.

- [Request for Information](#) for the Illinois Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Energy Transition Navigators Program, and the Energy Transition Barrier Reduction Program - Posted December 8. Submit responses via the [online form](#) by January 6, 2023. Responses to the RFI are [made publicly available](#).
 - Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program [Request for Information](#) - Posted December 7. Submit responses via the **online form** by December 22. Responses to the RFI are [made publicly available](#).
 - Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program [Request for Information](#) - Posted November 16. Responses were due via the [online form](#) by December 13. Responses to the RFI are [made publicly available](#).