

Program Year 2024-2025 Welcome Webinar

Presented by the Illinois Power Agency
and Energy Solutions

May 23, 2024



Today's Presenters



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Agenda

1 Welcome Back

2 Updates, Resources, and Guidance

3 Updated REC Contracts and 2024-25 REC Prices

4 Annual Block Capacity and Reallocations

5 Equity Accountability System

6 Prevailing Wage Requirements

7 Mentorship Program

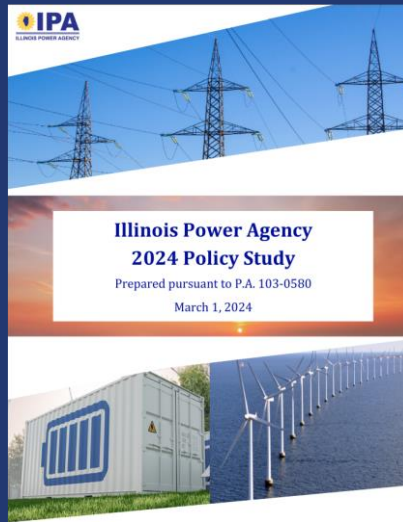
8 Portal and Website Updates

9 Stakeholder Support

10 Questions & Answers



Welcome Back – IPA Welcome



Along with important strides in Illinois Shines, the IPA continues to push the needle forward on other renewables efforts, including:

- The Agency's recent [2023 Annual Report](#)
- Agency's [Policy Study](#) released March 1, 2024
- Continued growth in staff to meet the needs of Illinois Shines and other state-wide renewables efforts



Program Administrator – Continued Focus Areas



Application Processing

- Throughput of high volumes of project applications.
- Additional staffing and cross training, automated follow ups, and data analysis to support processing.



Portal Functionality:

- Soliciting and receiving stakeholder input on Portal features, functionality, and fixes.
- Implementing prioritized app submission improvements to support accuracy and faster review.
- Meeting with utilities to streamline information sharing and access to documentation.



Contact Center Support

- Enhancing and increasing staff training to deliver improved first-level support, improved case routing, and escalations to experts where needed.



Sector Strategy:

- Continued support of stakeholders across project categories to facilitate participation and meeting Program requirements, Equity goals, and more.
- Forums: Approved Vendor (AV) Roundtables, Mentorship Pilot Program, AV and Designee Satisfaction Survey, Office Hours, 1:1 meetings, and Working Groups.



Consumer Protection:

- Proactive researching and investigation of complaints toward solutions.
- Implementing disciplinary actions as applicable
- Facilitating support of stranded customers.



Program Communications

- Optimization and formatting of communications to share high volumes of Program requirements, updates, key dates, and opportunities.
- Responsiveness to growing legislative, media, and consumer inquiries.

Program Administrator – State of the Program

Key Program Year 2023-24 Activities

Project and Vendor Participation

- Review of high application volumes in all project categories, allocating most of the Program Year’s capacity, and processing renewals and new enrollments of AVs, Equity Eligible Contractors (EECs), and Designees.

Equity and Consumer Protection Goals

- Successful launch of the Minimum Equity Standards, the Mentorship Pilot Program, refinement of advance of capital criteria for EECs, rigorous Consumer Protection enforcement, and more.

Portal Development

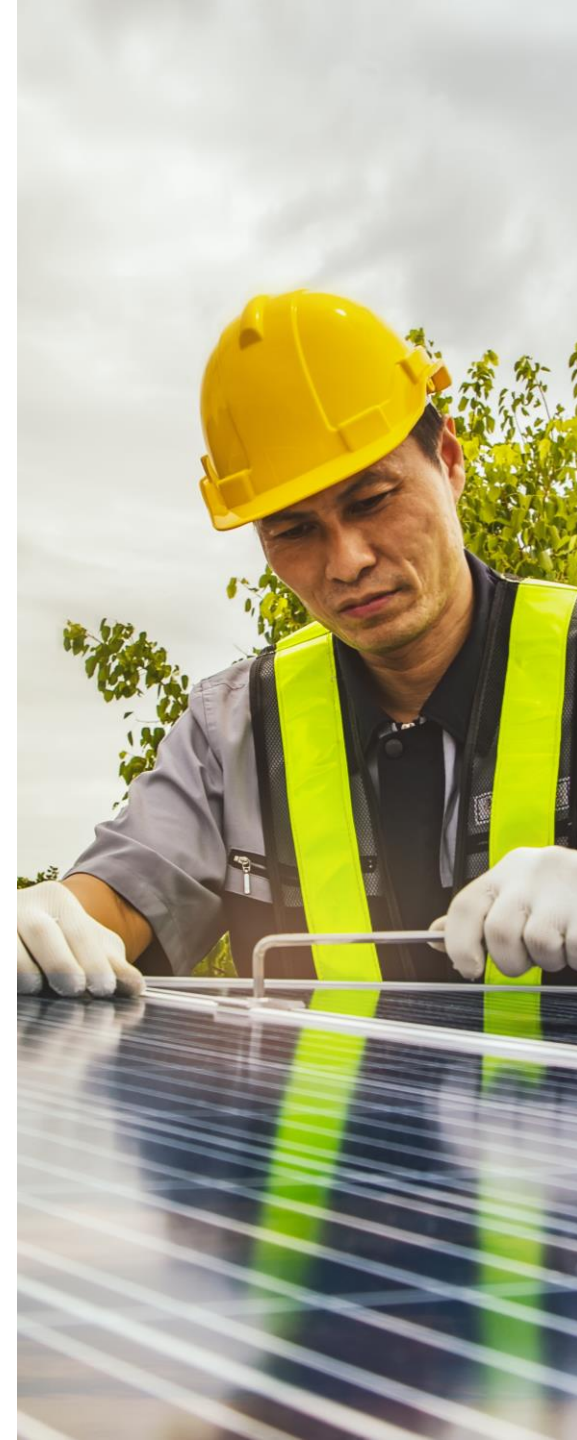
- Continued feature development and troubleshooting for Program Portal, and on buildout of streamlined documentation access to support Illinois utilities.

Stakeholder Forums and Feedback

- Dedicated Sector Strategists and other experts continued AV Roundtables, deployment of both AV/Designee and Customer Satisfaction surveys, the hosting of stakeholder working groups, individual vendor support, and various industry and public presentations.

Support Center and Communications

- Improved phone and email responses by the Contact Center,
- New Program website, vendor and customer resources to support stakeholders and requests for information from media, trade groups, and legislators.



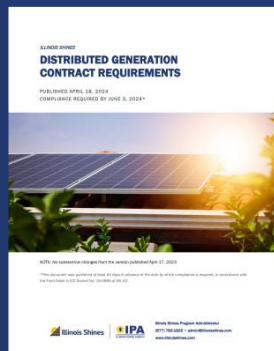
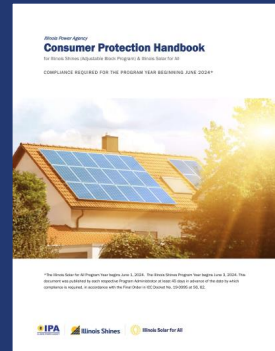
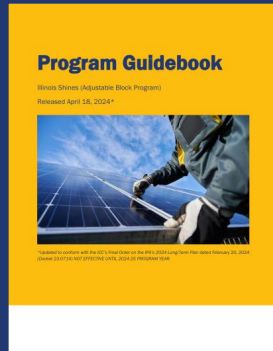
Program Administrator – Forward Vision

Energy Solutions' Vision for the Program's next phase includes:

- **Vendor and Designee Support:** continue to welcome new participants, expand access for EECs and Equity Eligible Persons, conduct project inspection, host forums for stakeholder participation and feedback, and continue developing vendor education, resources and tools.
- **Application Submission and Processing:** sustain delivery of critical Portal functionality, maintain application review within expected turnaround times, and conduct working groups to meet vendor and utility Portal needs.
- **Market Development:** continue Community Outreach and public-facing Program promotion, to seek and organize sector-specific market insights and resources, and to support stakeholders including mentoring of EECs and small businesses.
- **Consumer Protection:** continue to support customers through rigorous Consumer Protection activities, support for stranded customers, and development of both an escrow process and restitution program for customers who have incurred monetary losses.



Updates, Resources, and Guidance



- Updated Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan
- Updated Program Guidebook
- Updated Consumer Protection Handbook
- Contract Requirements for PY 2024-25
- Block Capacity Updates
- REC Prices and Long-Term REC Pricing Update
- Mentorship Program
- Website Updates
- Prevailing Wage Reminder



Updated Long Term Plan

The Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan was published on April 19, 2024



August 15, 2023

Draft of 2024 Long-Term Plan made available for public comment

October 20, 2023

Initial ICC filing of Long-Term Plan

February 20, 2024

ICC filed Final Order

2026

Next Update

RENEWABLE RESOURCES



2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan

Final Plan

Prepared to conform with the Illinois Commerce Commission's Final Order in Docket No. 23-0714, dated February 20, 2024.

April 19, 2024

Prepared in accordance with the Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 385) and the Illinois Public Utilities Act (210 ILCS 5).

Quick Link:
[2024 Long Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan](#)

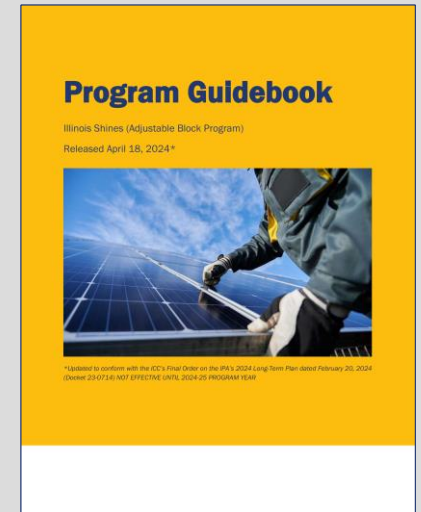
Updated Program Guidebook

Agency released the Program Year 2024-25 Program Guidebook on April 18, 2024 (goes into effect June 3, 2024).



High level changes to the Program Guidebook following the 2024 Long-Term Plan:

- Elimination of Group A and B distinction for Small and Large Distributed Generation (DG) categories
- Increased Program size to 800 MW annually
- Prioritized reallocation of uncontracted capacity at the end of each Program Year
- Prioritized DG within EEC and Public Schools categories
- Price adjustment cap for waitlisted DG projects
- New DC/AC ratio capacity of 200% for all systems that include a battery/storage component
- Application fee increased to \$20 per kW, not to exceed \$15,000 per project
- Traditional Communication Solar (TCS) application scoring changes



Quick Link:
[2024-25 Program Guidebook](#)

Updated Consumer Protection Handbook

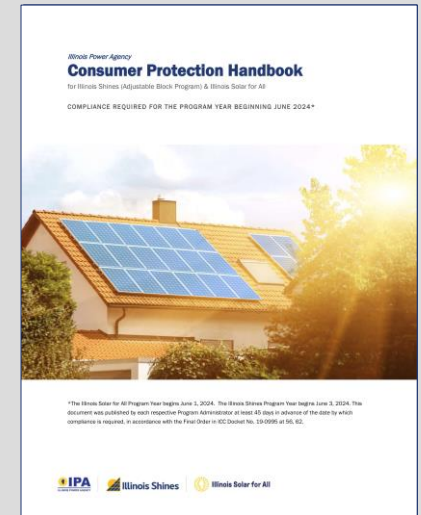


On April 18, 2024, the Agency released the Program Year 2024-25 Consumer Protection Handbook

- In effect beginning June 3, 2024

High-level changes include:

- New requirements for when a Community Solar (CS) provider manages customer's utility account and provides a consolidated bill
- Ability for Program Administrator to apply formal discipline to affiliates of an entity who have violated Program requirements
- Coming soon: Ability to split batches retroactively in limited circumstances



Quick Link:
[2024-25 Consumer Protection Handbook](#)

Consumer Protection Updates Coming Soon

The following updates will be developed during the 2024-25 Program Year, but some may not be implemented during the 2024-25 Program Year:



Escrow process for AVs that do not pass through promised incentive payments



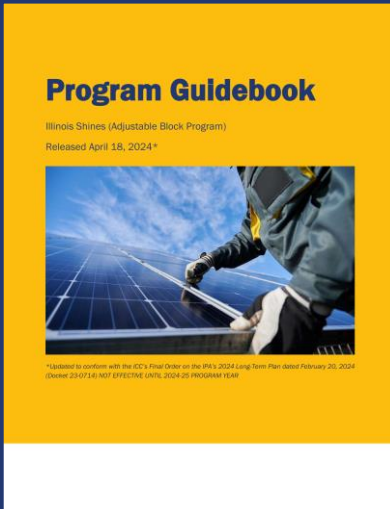
REC adder for stranded customers



Solar restitution program



Updated TCS Scoring



Quick Link:
[2024-25 Program Guidebook](#)

Built Environment

- Removed criterion for disturbed land
- Removed Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) subcontractor
- Added criterion for projects sited on rooftops or other existing structures

Equity Eligible Contractors

- Included new EEC certified subcontractor category in each criterion
- Adjusted project development work %
 - All project development work
 - At least 75% or more
 - At least 50% and up to 75%
 - At least 25% and up to 50%



Updated REC Delivery Contracts



On April 22, 2024, the IPA published the 2024 REC Delivery Contracts.

These contracts are for use for projects approved in the 2024-25 Illinois Shines Program Year which begins June 3, 2024.

Quick Links:

[15 Year REC Delivery Contract](#)

[20 Year REC Delivery Contract](#)

[DG Contract Requirements](#)

[Community Solar Contract Requirements](#)

Updated REC Contracts

- All projects approved by the ICC after June 3, 2024, will use the new 2024 REC Contracts.
- Removing 5% REC contract collateral for Public Schools in Tier 1/Tier 2/EJC.



2024-2025 REC Prices

- On March 29, 2024, new REC prices were announced, pursuant to the process outlined in the 2024 Long-Term Plan.
- New \$5 REC adder for Community Solar projects sited on rooftops
 - Does not apply to Community-Driven Community Solar (CDCS)

Distributed Generation		
	Group A	Group B
0 – 10 kW AC	\$73.71	\$83.87
>10 – 25 kW AC	\$63.53	\$77.53
>25 – 100 kW AC	\$55.89	\$70.23
>100 – 200 kW AC	\$53.63	\$63.34
200 – 500 kW AC	\$46.58	\$54.60
>500 – 2,000 kW AC	\$43.77	\$49.49
>2,000 – 5,000 kW AC	\$33.03	\$37.05

Community-Driven Community Solar		
	Group A	Group B
0 – 25 kW AC	\$73.82	\$91.47
>25 – 100 kW AC	\$75.40	\$92.92
>100 – 200 kW AC	\$73.28	\$89.36
>200 – 500 kW AC	\$67.73	\$82.24
>500 – 2,000 kW AC	\$57.93	\$68.95
>2,000 – 5,000 kW AC	\$41.94	\$49.79

Traditional Community Solar		
	Group A	Group B
0 – 25 kW AC	\$57.49	\$70.91
>25 – 100 kW AC	\$58.84	\$72.15
>100 – 200 kW AC	\$57.50	\$69.58
>200 – 500 kW AC	\$53.46	\$64.20
>500 – 2,000 kW AC	\$46.02	\$54.24
>2,000 – 5,000 kW AC	\$33.99	\$39.98

Public Schools		
	Group A	Group B
0 – 25 kW AC	\$77.17	\$93.17
>25 – 100 kW AC	\$68.57	\$84.96
>100 – 200 kW AC	\$65.81	\$76.91
>200 – 500 kW AC	\$57.72	\$66.88
>500 – 2,000 kW AC	\$54.51	\$61.04
>2,000 – 5,000 kW AC	\$42.15	\$46.74



Annual Block Capacity

- Increase in Program Capacity from 666 MW to 800 MW
- Removing Group A and B capacity allocation for Small and Large DG

Category	Allocation	Group A (MW)	Group B (MW)	Statewide Allocation
Small Distributed Generation	18%	-	-	142
Large Distributed Generation	18%	-	-	142
Traditional Community Solar	27%	64	149	-
Community-Driven Community Solar	4%	11	25	-
Public Schools	13%	-	-	107
Equity Eligible Contractor	20%	48	112	-
Total	100%	123	286	391

Annual Block Capacity Reallocation

Reallocation prioritization was shifted to focus on Distributed Generation projects.

Updated prioritization for the reallocation of uncontracted capacity at the end of the Program Year for the 2024-25 year is:

1. Small Distributed Generation
2. Large Distributed Generation
3. Equity Eligible Contractors Distributed Generation Subcategory
4. Public Schools Distributed Generation Subcategory
5. Community-Driven Community Solar
6. Equity Eligible Contractors Community Solar Subcategory
7. Public Schools Community Solar Subcategory
8. Distributed evenly across remaining categories with outstanding waitlists



Subcategories in Public Schools and EEC Categories



Public Schools

- 75% capacity of the Public Schools category will be set aside for Distributed Generation projects and 25% of the category will be set aside for Community Solar projects.
- Within these subcategories, 70% of capacity will be allocated to schools categorized as Tier 1, Tier 2, and schools located within Environmental Justice Communities. The remaining 30% will be allocated to Tier 3 and Tier 4 schools not located within Environmental Justice Communities.

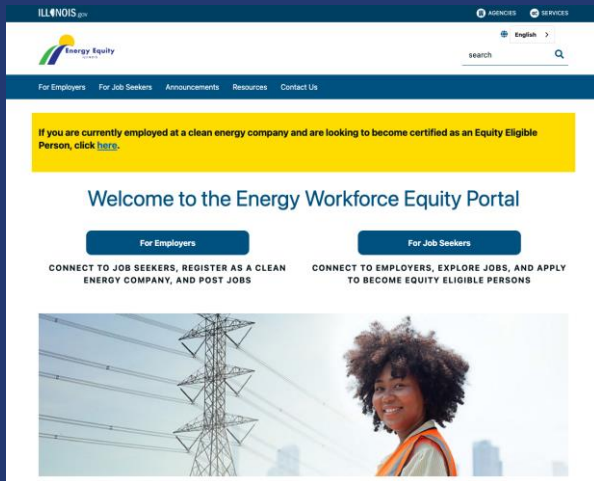
If any of the above allocations are not filled within 180 days, projects located at a public school will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis regardless of prioritization based upon Tier, Environmental Justice Community location, or project size.



Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC)

- EEC capacity for Group A and B will be split 75% for community solar and 25% distributed generation for the first 11 months of Program Year.
- After 11 months of the Program Year the subcategories will be removed and remaining capacity will be offered to any project type.

Equity Accountability System



Quick Links:
[Equity Accountability System page](#)
[Energy Workforce Equity Portal](#)

New EEC Subcontractor certification

- Intended for businesses that qualify as an EEC and seek to participate in the Program but do not have a relationship with an AV or Designee and/or do not have a customer-facing role

EEC AV/D updates

- An individual EEP may only serve as the majority owner for one EEC Designee and one EEC AV
- EECs will need to re-certify as an EEC each year
- 20% developer cap for EEC category

Advance of Capital Changes

- Cap on advance of capital requests to the lesser of \$750,000 or 50% of the total REC incentive value with a maximum REC incentive value of \$1.5 million
- Cap on the cumulative total of advances awarded in a single Program Year of \$5 million

Minimum Equity Standards

- 10% of project workforce must consist of EEPs
- 2024-25 MES Compliance Plan due June 3, 2024



Prevailing Wage Requirements

Prevailing wage is a minimum compensation level by county set by the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) for construction activities related to public works. The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) expanded the prevailing wage requirement to individuals engaged in the construction of applicable projects submitted to the Program; the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) oversees the implementation and enforcement of the Prevailing Wage Act (PWA)

How do I demonstrate compliance with prevailing wage?

To demonstrate prevailing wage has been correctly paid for eligible construction work, each contractor and subcontractor under contract for construction activities for an Illinois Shines applicable project must submit a Certified Transcript of Payroll (CTP) to the Program Administrator via the Part II application demonstrating that prevailing wage was paid on all project construction activities. The AV must generate the CTP from the IDOL website monthly throughout construction activities.

Mentorship Program



Illinois Shines Program Overview Part 1

Presented by Energy Solutions
October 23, 2023

Conducted a successful mentorship pilot in Program Year 2023-24

- 12 participants
- 8 workshops
- High satisfaction rate among participants

Launching an annual mentorship program starting this Program Year

- Features:
 - Live sessions recorded for reference
 - Pre-recordings and reference materials
 - Networking opportunities
- Timeframe:
 - Registration in December 2024
 - Workshops in January and February 2025
 - Mentoring in March 2025



Portal and Website Updates

Quick Links:

[Program portal](#)

[Block Capacity Dashboard](#)

[Project Map](#)

[Project Application Reports](#)

- Illinois Shines Portal will close for the 2023-24 Program Year starting on May 27, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. CPT and will reopen on June 3, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. CPT
 - All Portal functions will be unavailable during this time, including the ability to submit Part I project applications and download or submit Disclosure Forms
- (EEC) New questions in Part I application collecting information to support advance of capital requests
- TCS applications updated scoring criteria
- As of June 30, 2024, the legacy portal database will no longer be accessible
- Continuous updates and resource additions to the Illinois Shines website



TCS Application Submission Portal Updates

Application submission in the Portal has been updated reflecting the change in TCS scoring criteria.

- TCS application submissions in the portal on and after June 3, 2024, will require user to populate "Version 2" scoring criteria
 - All TCS applications "in process" on June 3, 2024 will default to Version 2 in Section 8
- Submitted applications from previous Program years (prior to June 3) will be assigned "Version 1" scoring criteria

The screenshot displays four sections of the TCS application submission portal, each with a maximum of 4 points. Each section includes a list of criteria with checkboxes and a 'Must Submit Supporting Documentation' requirement.

- Built Environment - Maximum of 4 Points**
 - Select all that apply.
 - A - Contaminated Land - 2 Points *
Sited on "contaminated lands" as defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
 - B - Rooftops or Other Existing Structures - 3 Points *
Sited on rooftops or other existing structures.
 - C - Brownfield Land - 2 Points *
Sited on a brownfield, as defined in Section 1-10 of the IPA Act and further clarified in Section 5.4.2 of the Plan.
 - D - Agrivoltaics - 1 Point *
Commitment to utilize agrivoltaics.
 - E - Pollinator Friendly Habitat - 1 Point *
Commitment to pollinator friendly habitat, as defined in the Pollinator Friendly Solar Site Act (525 ILCS 55).
- Interconnection Status - Maximum of 4 Points**
 - Select all that apply.
 - A - Valid Interconnection Agreement - 1 Point *
Project has a valid interconnection agreement at the time of application.
 - B - Top Two Queue Position - 2 Points *
Project has a top-two queue position among community solar projects on a substation on the date of the application.
 - C - Recency of Interconnection Agreement - 1 Points
PA Admin staff - not the AV - compares interconnection dates between all TCS applications, thus there is no checkbox for this sub-category. Refer to Traditional Community Solar Project Selection Final Proposal for details.
- Siting - Maximum of 4 Points**
 - Select all that apply.
 - A - Environmental Justice Community - 2 Points
Sited in an Environmental Justice Community or an R3 area.
 - B - Non Profit or Public Entity - 2 Points *
Sited on land owned by a non-profit or public entity.
 - C - Counties without a TCS or CDCS Project - 2 points
Sited in a county (or a township within Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, or Will County) that does not currently have a community solar project that was approved by the ICC for a REC contract under the Illinois Shines Program at the time of application.
- Equity Eligible Contractors - Maximum of 4 Points (Only 1 selection is allowed.)**
 - A - EEC Certified Approved Vendor & All Project Development Work - 4 Points *
Project is developed by an EEC certified Approved Vendor and can demonstrate contractual commitments for all project development work to be performed by EEC certified Designees.
 - B - EEC or Non-EEC Certified Approved Vendor & 75% or more - 3 Points *
Project is developed by a non-EEC certified Approved Vendor and can demonstrate contractual commitments for all project development work to be performed by EEC certified Designees.
 - C - EEC or Non-EEC Certified Approved Vendor & at least 50% to 75% - 2 Points *
Project is developed by an EEC certified Approved Vendor and the contractual commitments for EEC certified Designees that work on the project represent 50% or more of the project's REC Contract value.
 - D - EEC or Non-EEC Certified Approved Vendor & at least 25% to 50% - 1 Points *
Project is developed by a non-EEC certified Approved Vendor and the contractual commitments for EEC certified Designees that work on the project represent 50% or more of the project's REC Contract value.
 - None

Each section includes a 'Must Submit Supporting Documentation (PDF, DOCX, JPG) - Multiple Documents Allowed' requirement with 'Browse...' and 'Upload' buttons.

The bottom part of the screenshot shows the 'Traditional Community Solar Scoring' interface, including a progress bar for sections 1-8, a 'Total Claimed Score (Pending Review): 5', and contact information for Illinois Shines and IPA.

Stakeholder Support

The Program Administrator and Agency provide ongoing to support of participating entities. Current and upcoming support includes:

- Support for the second year of the Minimum Equity Standard
- Support throughout Annual Reporting process
- Disclosure Form Support
- Vendor FAQs and Tips and Tricks
- Consumer Protection Working Group
- Weekly Office Hours on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. CPT
- AV one-on-one support

Strategy Roundtables/Market Insights

- In 2024, the Strategy team will host a third series of AV Roundtables for each Program category as part of its effort to gain market insights about the Program.
- The Strategy team will also deploy the second annual AV survey to compare participants' satisfaction with the Program Year over year.





Questions and Answers

Thank you!

Program Administrator

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