

TCS Scoring and Random Selection Event Results, Updated Disclosure Form Deep Dives, Extended Maintenance Window

September 13, 2024

Coming up in Illinois Shines (Program events & due dates found at the [Vendor Forums & Key Dates webpage](#))

- **Events**
 - September 19, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. CPT - Technical Assistance Session - DCEO Equitable Energy Future Grant Program. Register with this [link](#)
- **Due Dates**
 - September 25, 2024 - Part II Verification Cut Off for September

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** - September 18, 2024 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. Zoom link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - The Program Administrator publishes [Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders in avoiding project applications entering *Need Info* status and delaying their review and approval.
 - On average, more than 1,000 Part I or Part II applications each month necessitate a *Need Info* request, resulting in delayed application review.
 - *Need Info* requests are emailed each Monday and Wednesday. The best way to reduce lost application review time *Need Info* is to respond to the request as quickly as possible and replying to the original *Need Info* email (rather than creating a new message) expedites processing.
 - Search “IL ABP – Need Info” for DG applications or “Need Info Request” for CS applications to quickly locate *Need Info* requests in an email inbox, or search for the Project Application ID and/or add the Project Application ID to the text search to locate a specific *Need Info* request.
 - A [Distributed Generation Project Application Checklist](#) is available at the Program website to help Approved Vendors avoid *Need Info* requests.

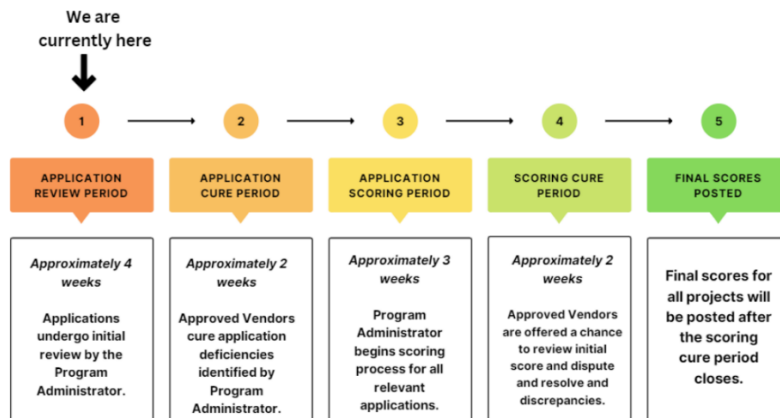
Program News – New or Updated Items (All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates webpage](#))

- **Community Solar Program News** - See [TCS](#) and [CDCS](#) hubs on Program website for all CS updates.
 - **Results of Program Year 2024-2025 Traditional Community Solar (TCS) Random Selection Event** – On September 10, 2024, the TCS Random Selection was held, and on September 12, 2024, the [recording](#), [presentation slides](#), [FAQs](#), and the [results spreadsheet](#) were posted to the Program website’s [Traditional Community Solar](#) hub page. Both Group A and Group B project waitlists (projects receiving scores of at least five points) have been updated on the [Block Capacity Dashboard](#) page, and will be further updated as new projects are submitted and scored. A special announcement regarding the random selection event was also shared on [September 12, 2024](#).
- **August 2024 - Stakeholder Feedback Request: Updating DG Disclosure Forms for Supply-Only Net Metering** - The Agency thanks stakeholders for feedback submitted on the stakeholder feedback request on updating DG Disclosure Forms for Supply-Only Net Metering. The comments have been posted to the [Consumer Protection Initiatives](#) page.
- **Updates to Disclosure Form Deep Dives** - The Program has added information regarding upcoming net metering changes on the [Disclosure Form Deep Dives](#), including supply-only net metering, which will be applicable for customers approved for net metering after January 1, 2025.

- **New to the Program Website** – The following key additions to <http://www.IllinoisShines.com> have been shared:
 - Updated Disclosure Forms Deep Dives ([Disclosure Form Deep Dive](#) page)
 - Comments received for *August 2024 - Stakeholder Feedback Request: Updating DG Disclosure Forms for Supply-Only Net Metering* ([Stakeholder Feedback](#) and [Consumer Protection Initiatives](#) pages)
 - [Recording, presentation slides, FAQs, and results spreadsheet](#) from the September 10, 2024 Program Year 2024-25 TCS Random selection event ([Traditional Community Solar](#) page)
 - [Prevailing Wage Requirements](#) flyer ([Become an AV or Designee](#) page)
 - Updates to the [Become an Equity Eligible Contractor \(EEC\)](#) page
 - Updates to the [Equity Accountability System](#) page
 - Updates to the [Help for Stranded Customer](#) page

Program News – Previously Published Items (All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates webpage](#))

- **Community Solar Program News** - See [TCS](#) and [CDCS](#) hubs on Program website for all CS updates.
 - **Community-Driven Community Solar Update** - As outlined in Section 5 of the Program Guidebook, the Community-Driven Community Solar (“CDCS”) application window closes 90 days after the start of the Program Year. With the Program Year commencing on June 3, 2024, the application submission deadline for Program Year 2024-25 CDCS projects was September 3, 2024. Applications are not accepted after the close of the application window. **Please see the proposed schedule below for application review and scoring:**
 - Application Review Period - Applications undergo initial review by Program Administrator
 - Application Cure Period - AVs cure deficiencies identified by Program Administrator
 - Application Scoring Period - Program Administrator begins scoring process for all relevant applications (those submitted without deficiencies and those that successfully cure deficiencies during the 2-week cure period)
 - Scoring Cure Period - AVs are offered a chance to review initial score and dispute and resolve any discrepancies



- **Equitable Energy Future Grant Program Announcement** - On Friday, August 30, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (“DCEO”) announced \$25.5 million in a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(“NOFO”\)](#) for the Equitable Energy Future Grant Program. This grant funding will provide seed funding and pre-development funding opportunities to Equity Eligible Contractors (“EECs”) to work on renewable energy projects in low-income and historically disadvantaged communities. Grantees will be selected through a competitive NOFO process. Through a competitive NOFO qualified entities can apply for grants from \$250,000 to \$1 million. Applications will be accepted until December 31, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. To view and apply for the grant, please visit the DCEO [website](#). Interested parties are encouraged to reach out to CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov for application assistance. To help applicants prepare to apply for funding, DCEO will be holding a technical assistance [webinar](#) from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. on **September 19, 2024**.
- **MES 2023-24 Year End Report Next Steps** - The Program is reviewing all submitted Minimum Equity Standard Year-End Reports. Participating entities will be notified of their MES Rating beginning this month. Notice of

Potential Violations (“NoPVs”) were sent out this week to entities that failed to submit, the Agency encourages non-compliant entities to respond and get into compliance.

- **IPA Released Part I of its Equity Accountability System Assessment** – See [previous](#) announcement

Ongoing Operations Updates

- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** – Due to an increase in late requests to withhold projects from submission to the ICC, the Program Administrator would like to remind AVs of the important information below.

In advance of each submission of batches to the ICC for approval, AVs are provided the opportunity to withhold or re-batch projects. **AVs must indicate any requests to withdraw or withhold projects during the two day re-batching window.** In the absence of any action by an AV, the Program Administrator will re-batch the projects at their discretion and submit eligible projects to the ICC.

- **It is extremely important that AVs review their re-batching files on SharePoint to indicate any re-batching preferences, but especially requests to withhold projects from submission.** The Program Administrator alerts AVs by email when they have projects that are eligible for re-batching and planned to be submitted to the ICC in the next memo. Unfortunately, sometimes these communications are missed, and projects are submitted to the ICC despite an AVs intent to hold a project back.
- The Program Administrator requests that AVs who believe they may want to withhold or re-batch projects mark their calendars and review SharePoint folders for re-batching templates. This way, if any email alerts are missed, AVs are still aware of the dates that re-batching opens and can check if any projects are in the upcoming ICC submission. Below are the next re-batching windows:

Re-Batching Opens for AVs	Election Deadline – 12:00 p.m. CPT (Re-batching closes for AVs)	Trade Date (ICC Meeting Date)
9/24/2024	9/26/2024	10/10/2024
9/30/2024	10/2/2024	10/17/2024
10/15/2024	10/17/2024	10/31/2024
10/21/2024	10/23/2024	11/7/2024
11/1/2024	11/6/2024	11/21/2024
11/15/2024	11/19/2024	12/5/2024
12/3/2024	12/5/2024	12/19/2024

- **Part II Verification Cut Off for September** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II Verification date for September will be **September 25, 2024**. Applications that are Part II verified on or before September 25, 2024 will be included in the October invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between September 26, 2024 and September 31, 2024 will be invoiced in November 2024.

Application Processing Updates

- **Application Processing Update** - The Program Administrator has completed the review of all Small DG waitlisted applications and is currently reviewing applications from the 2024-25 Program Year across all project categories. The Program Administrator expects to be within a two-week turnaround time for review of applications submitted in the 2024-25 Program Year at the end of September for all application categories.

This forecast is subject to change, and updates will be provided in each weekly announcement until processing times are back within a normal range.

Ongoing Program Portal Updates

- The latest Portal updates and enhancements, a Portal Development Roadmap, and portal help guides can be found at <https://illinoisshines.com/portal-updates/>.
- **Extended Portal Maintenance and Releases** – An extended scheduled system maintenance window will occur on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. The maintenance window will begin at 8:00 p.m. September 17, 2024 and end at 2:00 a.m. September 18, 2024. The regular scheduled system maintenance will resume again on Thursday evening (from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. CPT), during which times the Portal is typically unavailable to users; the Program hopes these windows are minimally disruptive to Program participants. Users working in the Portal should save their work prior to the 8:00 p.m. CPT start of system maintenance window, as any unsaved information will be lost when the system is moved into maintenance mode. In some cases, Portal availability may resume earlier than noted, though AVs and Designees should plan on the full scheduled time.

Requirements and Reminders

- **Resource Reminder - Approved Vendor Program Requirements Annual Checklist** - To support approved vendors in awareness of annual program requirements, the Program provides an [Approved Vendor Program Requirements Annual Checklist](#), which is available with other helpful tools and resources at the [Program Help Guides and Application Tips](#) page of the Program website. Approved Vendors and Designees may also find additional helpful resources at the [Project Category Hub's](#) category-specific pages.
- **Stakeholder Feedback** - This table outlines current and forthcoming proposals and feedback requests. Details on previous proposals and feedback requests can be found [at the Program website](#).

Proposal or Feedback Topic and Link to Details	Request for Comment Released	Deadline for Comment	Results or Updates to Request
Updating DG Disclosure Forms for Supply-Only Net Metering	August 21, 2024	September 6, 2024	Comments received are published here .

- **IPA Request for AVs and Installer Designees Interested To Serve Stranded Illinois Shines DG Customers** - As previously [announced](#), the Program seeks entities interested in serving stranded customers, and [updates the lists](#) of participating vendors on a rolling basis. The original announcements include details regarding the opportunity to support stranded customers, eligibility requirements, and anticipated responsibilities.
- **Free Renewable Energy Contractor Clinic** - The Illinois Shines program and HIRE360 will host a Renewable Energy Contractor Clinic on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CPT. This free event will include presentations on how to register as an Equity Eligible Contractor (“EEC”), participate in the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs, how to access free business advising and small business resources from the Cook County Small Business Source, and an overview of the grant opportunities by the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (“DCEO”) as well as information on working capital loans, certification support and other no cost resources for contractors that HIRE360 provides. Lunch will be provided, and the event includes a networking hour from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. CPT. The event will take place at 2540 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60616. Register here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WhykgeRTDE2nqHQvI9dkUU00ZkZbI0FCv1XakYuDriFUNzc2RFE00U1UWTFQjdDRjk5Q1dVR1o3WS4u&origin=QRCode>
- **Notification of Email Phishing Attempts Posing as Illinois Shines Compliance** - See [previous](#) announcement
- **Annual Report Next Steps** - See [previous](#) announcement

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