

Program Year 2025-26 Opens, Mentorship Program Final Report Published, Detailed Memo on Uncontracted Capacity Reallocation

June 6, 2025

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

- **Events**
 - June 6, 2025 – Monthly Consumer Protection Working Group
- **Due Dates**
 - June 10, 2025 – June REC Invoicing Deadline
 - June 11, 2025 – Extended deadline for 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan Stakeholder Feedback
 - June 13, 2025 - Re-batching opens for AVs
 - June 17, 2025 – Election Deadline for Project Re-Batch of Withdrawn for July 2, 2025 ICC Meeting

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – June 11, 2025, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/91402926068>
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - The Program Administrator publishes [Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders in avoiding project applications from resulting in a *Need Info* request and delaying their review and approval.
 - As noted in Section 5.F of the Program Guidebook, effective for Program Year 2025-26, in order for a house of worship to be considered exempt from Prevailing Wage, the project application must demonstrate proof of exemption from property tax pursuant to Section 15-40 of the Property Tax Code. Sales tax exemption will no longer be accepted for this purpose.

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

- **2025-26 Program Year Open** – The 2025-26 Illinois Shines Program Year opened June 2, 2025. A [Welcome to Program Year 2025-26 announcement](#) provided links to updated resources, block capacity information and other important details, and on June 3, 2025, the Program announced updates on block capacity following the 2025-26 Program Year opening. Effective June 2, 2025 and throughout the 2025-26 Program Year, all participating entities must be in full compliance with the [2025-26 Program Guidebook](#), an updated [Consumer Protection Handbook](#), Minimum [DG](#) and [CS](#) Contract Requirements, and [REC Prices](#) which are available at the [Program Documents](#) web page. New Approved Vendor, AV Renewal, and Equity Eligible Contractor applications became available on June 2 as well at the [Become an Approved Vendor or Designee](#) and [Become an EEC](#) pages. On June 3, 2025, the Program published an [updated Program Guidebook](#) to correct a discrepancy to a REC Pricing sub-category.
- **2024-25 Traditional Community Solar Waitlisted Projects Awarded Capacity in Program Year 2025-26** - On June 2, 2025 Traditional Community Solar capacity for the 2025-26 Program Year opened with 64 MW for Group A and 149 MW for Group B. Capacity was first allocated to projects on the 2024-25 Group A and Group B Waitlists, with a 20% Developer cap applied. Capacity has been fully allocated to projects submitted before June 2, 2025. The [list of awarded waitlist projects](#) can be found at the Program's [Traditional Community Solar hub page](#).
- **MES 2024-25 Year-End Report Submission Due July 15, 2025** – On May 30, the Program [opened the MES Program Year 2024-25 Year-End Report submission](#), which is due from all participating Approved Vendors and Designees on **July 15, 2025**. All Program Participants should have received an email from the Program Administrator with a link to their secure MES submission portal. Please contact mes@illinoisshines.com for assistance.
- **2025-26 MES Compliance Plans Past Due** – On April 30, MES Program Year 2025-26 Compliance Plans opened for submission and were **due on June 2, 2025**. The Program is following up with participating entities

who have not submitted a 2025-26 Program Year Compliance Plan. Failure to submit could result in disciplinary action. Please contact mes@illinoisshines.com for any assistance.

- **Uncontracted Capacity Reallocation Process for the 2025-25 Program Year** - Illinois Shines features annual blocks of capacity that remain open until block capacity is exhausted for the Program Year, and unused or uncontracted capacity is redistributed after the close of a Program Year. An [initial memo](#) outlining the steps the Agency took to reallocate remaining capacity from the 2024-25 Program Year for use in the 2025-26 Program Year was issued on May 29, and the Program published [a detailed memo](#) on June 5, 2025.
- **Mentorship Program Final Report** - The Illinois Shines 2024-25 Program Year Mentorship Program concluded March 10, 2025, capping an eight-week program during which mentees completed virtual training courses and participated in live, interactive sessions with experienced AV mentors and the Program Administrator's subject matter experts and an in-person graduation event. This week, the Program published a final [Illinois Shines 2024-25 Mentorship Program Final Report](#) which provides details on the Program as well as post-program surveys and participant feedback, and recommendations for future expansion. The report is available at the Program website's [Mentorship Program page](#), where recordings and slides from the Mentorship Program are also available.
- **Deadline Extended: Stakeholder Feedback Request Regarding 2026 Long-Term Plan** - Following hosted workshops on April 30 and May 1, the Illinois Power Agency issued a [request for stakeholder feedback](#) on May 19, 2025 as it prepares to develop its 2026 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan. The linked documents provide background on the various requests and pose questions for stakeholder input. Stakeholders may respond to any of these subjects or submit feedback on any other topic related to the Agency's work. Comments should be provided via email attachment to IPA.ContactUs@Illinois.gov with the subject "[Responder's Name] - Chapter [insert chapter number] LTP Feedback"; the deadline for submission has been extended until **June 11, 2025** at 5 p.m. CPT. Responses will be published on the IPA website.
- **June 2025 Consumer Protection Working Group** - The Agency and its Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Program Administrators hosted the June Consumer Protection Working Group meeting today. The notes from the Working Group will be published [on the Program website](#), where agendas for meetings are also shared. The next Working Group meeting will be held on Friday, August 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CPT. If you are interested in participating in the group and future meetings, please submit [the form](#) on the website.
- **New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to <http://www.IllinoisShines.com> have been shared:
 - [Detailed Memo on Uncontracted Capacity Reallocation Process for the 2025-25 Program Year](#) -
 - [2024-25 Mentorship Program Final Report \(Mentorship Program page\)](#)
 - [List of 2024-25 Traditional Community Solar Waitlisted Projects Awarded Capacity \(Traditional Community Solar hub page\)](#)

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

- **Community Solar Updates and Reminders for 2025-26 Program Year** - On May 28, 2025, the Program shared [updates and reminders](#) for the Community-Driven Community Solar (CDCS) and Traditional Community Solar (TCS) project categories, including application acceptance, allocated block capacity (notwithstanding additional capacity resulting from the uncontracted capacity reallocation process), waitlist procedures, and more. Please [see the full announcement](#) for details.
- **Annual Report Resources** - As previously shared, the Program Administrator created and posted training videos at the [Program website](#), in support of the close of the 2024-25 delivery year and the start of the Annual Reporting period, including:
 - [Annual Report and REC Performance Evaluation Walkthrough video](#)
 - [Community Solar Parameters Evaluation Walkthrough video](#).
 - Please refer to the [Community Solar System Parameters Evaluation \(Annual Subscriber Evaluation\) guide](#) as a supplemental resource.
 - [REC Performance Calculation Evaluation Walkthrough video](#)
 - [2024-25 Approved Vendor Annual Report Guide](#)

These on-demand resources enable Approved Vendors to familiarize themselves with the requirements and understand how Annual Report data is utilized to assess REC performance in relation to contractual obligations.

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.
- AVs may withhold a Part I verified application from submission to the ICC **no more than twice** for any given project application. Once a project has been withheld twice, it must either be withdrawn from the Program or submitted to the ICC in the next memo.
- 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)
6/13/2025	6/17/2025	7/2/2025
6/30/2025	7/2/2025	7/17/2025
7/22/2025	7/24/2025	8/7/2025
8/5/2025	8/7/2025	8/21/2025

- **Part II Verification Cut Off for June** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II Verification date for June will be June 24, 2025. Applications that were Part II verified on or before June 24, 2025 will be included in the June invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between June 26, 2025 and June 30, 2025 will be invoiced in August 2025.

Application Processing Updates

- **Application Processing Tables** - Application processing tables are maintained at [IllinoisShines.com/project-application-reports/](https://illinoisshines.com/project-application-reports/). These tables are updated daily. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@IllinoisShines.com.
- **Application Processing Update** - Following the May 7, 2025 conclusion of the Small DG soft close period, review of Part I applications has exceeded the 10-day expected turnaround time. The Program Administrator is working to bring application review back into the expected turnaround time and will continue to inform stakeholders of progress. In addition to information available at the Project Application Reports page, the status of individual project applications can be checked with the [Project Look Up Tool](#).

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/>.
- **Portal Maintenance and Releases** - Scheduled system maintenance windows will continue on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings (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 three hours.**

Requirements and Reminders

- **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
Equity Eligible Contractor Certification	April 1, 2025	April 18, 2025	Comments to be published
CS Subscriber Management Function	Survey issued April 7, 2025	April 21, 2025	Results of stakeholder survey under evaluation by Program for requirements updates.
2026 Long-Term Plan Development	May 19, 2025	June 11, 2025	Comments should be emailed to IPA.Contactus@illinois.gov

- **IPA Request for AVs and Installer Designees Interested in Serving 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.

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