

# Petition Filed with ICC, Mentorship Program Registration Opening, CDCS Solar Application Deadline

August 15, 2025

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## Coming up in Illinois Shines

2025 Program events & due dates found at the [Key Dates & Deadlines webpage](#).

- **Events**
  - **August 20-21** – Southern Illinois Clean Energy Summit. See the [event page](#) for further information.
- **Due Dates**
  - **August 18** – AVs Re-Batching Opens for September 4, 2025 ICC Meeting
  - **August 20** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal for September 4, 2025 ICC Meeting
  - **August 25** – Part II Verification Cut Off for August
  - **September 2** – CDCS Application Submission Deadline for Program Year 2025-26 and registration opens for the Fall Mentorship Cohort

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## Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – August 27, 2025 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/91402926068>. Office hours are held on a bi-weekly basis.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - The Program Administrator publishes [Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders avoid *Need Info* requests that delay application approval.
  - **Comments to explain changes, relationships, and discrepancies.** Adding comments to project application sections to explain changes, relationships, and discrepancies can provide helpful clarification that prevent *Need Info* requests. Examples include:
    - Explaining why the name on the Proof of Site Control is different from the name on the Interconnection Agreement.
      - For example, “Jack Baker and Jane Miller are a married couple”. If a comment is not made explaining the relationship between the two names, a *Need Info* request would result.
    - Explaining why the address on supporting documents is different from the address on the Disclosure Form and application.
      - For example, “The address at 1234 S Main St is the correct physical address, while the address listed on the documentation, 1134 S Main St, is the utility address associated with the project.”
    - Indicating a change in the installer between the Disclosure Form and Part I application, or between the Part I and Part II applications. These applications would enter *Need Info* status unless explanatory comments are provided.
      - For example, “The installer is Company ABC. Business XYZ uses its services as a subcontractor and obtains the documentation for the customer.”

- Noting AC size changes that required a new Disclosure Form be signed.
  - For example, “A new DF (12345) has been signed due to change in AC size.”

Keep in mind that applications must still provide all necessary data in applicable fields. Overview comments cannot be used to circumvent Program or application requirements.

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## Program News

All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates webpage](#).

- **New! Petition Filed with Illinois Commerce Commission to Modify 2024 Long-Term Plan** - On August 14, 2025, the Joint Solar Parties and Advanced Energy United petitioned the Illinois Commerce Commission to reopen the proceeding that approved the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan to make modifications in consideration of the passage of the federal reconciliation bill H.R.1. The petition is [available here](#) and is filed in the ICC Docket [23-0714](#). Please see the [full announcement](#) for additional details.
- **New! New Field on Part II of the Community Solar Application** - On August 20, 2025, the Part II application for Community Solar projects will add an additional field to ensure accurate tracking of all project information. The new field, **Utility Project ID (Facility ID/Generation ID)**, will be added to Section 2 of all Community Solar Part II Applications. While the new field is optional, the Program Administrator requests that AVs populate the newly added field of Utility Project ID (Facility ID/Generation ID) to support accurate tracking.
  - ComEd customers should use the Facility ID, while Ameren customers should use the Generation ID. These IDs are unique identifiers given to each Illinois Shines Community Solar project, which differs from the Illinois Shines Program Project/Application ID.
- **New! 2025-26 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Registration Opening September 2** - On September 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. CPT, mentee and mentor registration for AVs and Designees will open for the 2025-26 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort on the [Mentorship Program page](#). Registration closes on September 12, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. CPT. The Mentorship Program provides virtual courses and training covering the Illinois Shines program processes and requirements and opportunities to network with other market stakeholders. Space is limited—mentors and mentees will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional information will be published soon.
- **New! Reminder: Community-Driven Community Solar Application Deadline** –The Community-Driven Community Solar (“CDCS”) application window for the 2025-26 Program Year closes September 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. CPT. Applications are not accepted after the close of the application window. Additional information about the review and scoring and CDCS project applications will be published following the close of the application window.
- **New! IPA Presents Illinois Shines Information at 2025 Solar Farm Summit** – On August 6, IPA Director of External Affairs Sarah Duffy spoke on a panel discussion at the [2025 Solar Farm Summit](#). The discussion explored how states and localities can take advantage of agrivoltaics, the practice of installing solar panels on farmland in a way that prioritizes primary agricultural activities. Instead of repurposing the land for a new solar array, farmers can make the switch to solar while continuing their work to grow crops, livestock, and more.
- **New! New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to the [Program website](#) have been shared:
  - [Minutes from the August 1, 2025 Consumer Protection Working Group \(CP Working Group page\)](#)
  - [Advance of Capital Request Template/Coversheet \(EEP and EEC page\)](#)
- **Paused Enforcement of Two Withhold Limit from ICC Meetings** – Per the Program Guidebook, AVs can only withhold projects from ICC submission twice before they must be withdrawn. However, due to the recent

Federal Reconciliation Bill (H.R.1) and the Executive Order issued on July 7, 2025, the Agency has decided to temporarily pause enforcement of the two withhold limit from ICC meetings. This pause will be in effect until additional federal guidance is received. AVs that do not wish to take advantage of these additional withholdings may send projects to the ICC during the re-batching window.

- **Update to Application Processing Statuses** - To improve efficiency in application processing, several application processing statuses, including *Reviewed*, *Technical Review*, *5f Eligible*, and *Updated*, will be retired. These process steps will now be managed using internal-facing statuses. As a result, any applications currently in one of the retiring statuses will be reverted to their previous status of either *Submitted* or *Need Info*. They will remain in that status until they reach *Verified* status. Please note that this change does not reflect any modification to the state or content of the application itself.
- **Prevailing Wage Resources Reminder** – The Program has observed an uptick in inquiries relating to Prevailing Wage requirements. Helpful information can be found at the Program’s [Prevailing Wage Hub](#), including links to the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) website, the [Prevailing Wage Requirements for Illinois Shines](#) resource, and a recently recorded [Prevailing Wage Walkthrough Video](#). Stakeholders should consult IDOL resources for detailed, current information about Prevailing Wage.
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for August** –The last Part II Verification date for August will be August 25, 2025. Applications that were Part II verified on or before August 25, 2025, will be included in the September invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between August 26, 2025 and August 31, 2025 will be invoiced in October 2025.
- **Illinois Solar Workforce Study Call for Study Participants** – The University of Illinois’ [Climate Jobs Institute](#) informs Illinois’ clean energy transition through research that foregrounds workers and their communities, and guides state climate policy to reduce emissions and promote high-quality job creation. The [Illinois Solar Workforce Study](#) seeks to better characterize the solar workforce and understand job quality and work conditions in Illinois’ rapidly expanding solar industry, including wages, benefits, job safety, training, and labor standards compliance. To support this research, the Institute is inviting solar workers, contractors, and employers to participate in one or both of:
  - A 15–20 minute online survey – participants will receive a \$15 gift card incentive
  - A 1-hour virtual or in-person interview – participants will receive a \$60 gift card incentive

Details about the study and information about participating can be found [here](#). Participation is voluntary and confidential.

- **Traditional Community Solar Review and Scoring Schedule** - Preliminary scores for all Traditional Community Solar (TCS) projects submitted during the “first day” application window on June 2, 2025 were shared individually with each AV on Wednesday, July 23, 2025. AVs were sent an email directing them to the TCS scoring file located in their AV SharePoint folder, which commences the scoring cure period.

Please see the initial, planned scoring schedule below:

- **Application Review Period:** Applications undergo initial review by Program Administrator – Approximately 4 weeks (*Complete*)
- **Application Cure Period:** AVs cure deficiencies identified by Program Administrator – Approximately 2 weeks (*Complete*)
- **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) – Approximately 3 weeks (*Complete*)
- **Scoring Cure Period:** AVs are offered a chance to review initial score and dispute and resolve any discrepancies – Approximately 2 weeks (*currently July 23 – August 15*)

- **Scores published:** AVs wishing to appeal their project score will have two weeks from the receipt of scores to submit an appeal to the Program Administrator (*date TBD*)
- **Random selection:** Event to ordinarily rank projects with tied scores (*date TBD*)
- **Published findings:** Final scores and project selection published (*date TBD*)
- **Annual Report Response Deadlines and Cure Period** – Please reference a summary of the Annual Report and Cure Period timeline below:
  - The Annual Report response period closed on July 15, 2025, for AVs that have not signed a REC Contract Amendment, and August 1, 2025, for those who have signed a REC Contract Amendment. The cure period is now in effect, meaning the Program Administrator will begin contacting AVs to address any reported discrepancies.
  - The Annual Report Cure Period concludes on October 30, 2025. At this point no modifications to Annual Report data will be permitted, so it is critical for AVs to respond to cure emails in a timely manner. Once the cure period has ended, the Program Administrator will calculate any potential Drawdowns for the annual REC performance evaluations and Community Solar Parameters evaluations. These will be completed by December 2, 2025 and AVs will receive draft notifications from the Program Administrator in advance of formal notice being provided by the contracting utility in early 2026.

The Program Administrator created and posted training videos on 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 AVs to familiarize themselves with the requirements and understand how Annual Report data is utilized to assess REC performance in relation to contractual obligations.

- **Updated Renewal Process for Approved Vendors with Common Ownership** – The Program is modifying the annual renewal process for AVs who share common ownership with one or more other AVs. Beginning in September, all AVs who share common ownership will be required to submit their annual renewals at one time, in a single Excel file. Questions on the renewal form are not changing. The Program began contacting these AVs in early August to provide additional information.

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## Reference and Reminders

- **Southern Illinois Clean Energy Summit** – In collaboration with Illinois Shines and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois Solar for All is hosting the Clean Energy Equity Summit at John A. Logan College in Carterville, IL, on August 20-21, 2025. This two-day event is free to attend. [Registration is required](#). Attendees who wish to attend both days must register for each day separately.
- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** – To avoid late requests to withhold projects from submission to the ICC, 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 its discretion and submit eligible projects to the ICC. Please note that due to recent federal action, the Agency has decided to temporarily pause enforcement of the two withhold limit from ICC meetings. This pause will be in effect until additional federal guidance is received. Upcoming windows for re-batching are as follows:

Re-Batching Opens for AVs	Election Deadline – 12:00 p.m. CPT (Re-batching closes for AVs)	Trade Date (ICC Meeting Date)
8/18/2025	8/20/2025	9/4/2025
9/2/2025	9/4/2025	9/18/2025

- **Portal Maintenance and Releases** - Scheduled system maintenance occurs **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. Users working in the Portal should save their work prior to the 8:00 p.m. CPT start of system maintenance window. Any unsaved information will be lost when the system is moved into maintenance mode. The latest Portal updates and enhancements, a Portal Development Roadmap, and Portal help guides can be found at [here](#).
- **Application Processing Tables and Update** – Application processing tables are maintained [here](#). These tables are updated daily. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at [admin@IllinoisShines.com](mailto:admin@IllinoisShines.com).
  - 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](#).

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

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