

# Program Guidebook

Illinois Shines (Adjustable Block Program)

Addendum Released October 31, 2025\*



*\*Updates to conform with the ICC's Order on Reopening the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan (Docket 23-0714)*



## Changes to Program Resulting from Approval of 2024 Long-Term Plan Reopening

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On October 16, 2025, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) issued an Order in which it approved the Administrative Law Judge's Proposed Order, with modifications, on the Re-opening of the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan (Long-Term Plan). The Order is available in Docket 23-0714.<sup>1</sup> The modified 2024 Long-Term Plan will be published by the Agency on its website by October 31, 2025.

This Program Guidebook Addendum reflects the changes to the 2025–26 Program Year pursuant to the ICC's Order on the Reopening of the 2024 Long-Term Plan, which include:

- Expanding the 2025–26 Program Year capacity by 100% except for the EEC Category, which will be expanded by 64 MW for Group A and 169 MW for Group B
- Imposing an interim reallocation of 50% of remaining unused capacity on April 1, 2026, to distribute among waitlisted projects as the waitlist exists on April 1, 2026

All Program requirements set forth in the 2025-26 Program Guidebook<sup>2</sup> will continue, with the considerations described below.

### Temporary Program Portal Closures

Pursuant to the ICC's Order on the 2024 Long-Term Plan Reopening in Docket 23-0714 the Program paused for one business day, from October 30, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. CPT through October 31, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. CPT, to undertake data and reporting updates, including updates to the Program website and the Program Portal and allocation of capacity to waitlisted applications.

Prior to the interim reallocation on April 1, 2026, the Program will pause for two business days from March 30–31, 2026, to determine the amount of unused capacity and to redistribute the resulting 50% capacity in accordance with the prioritization for year-end reallocation set out in Section 1.I of the 2025–26 Program Guidebook.

These closings restrict all access to the Portal with the exception of the generation, delivery, and execution of Disclosure Forms, so as to have minimal impact on the market.

### Block Structure Updates

The 2024 Long Term Plan Reopening expanded the 2025-26 Program Year capacity by 100%, except for the EEC Category, which will be expanded by 64 MW for Group A and 169 MW for Group B. For categories featuring subcategories or subdivisions within the Group, the new capacity will be divided following the percentages described for each category in Section 1.E of the Program Guidebook.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/docket/P2023-0714/>

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://illinoisshines.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Illinois-Shines-2025-26-Program-Guidebook-Final-18-April-2025-3June2025-correction-for-publication.pdf>

The additional capacity was applied to eligible waitlisted projects first, following applicable developer cap requirements, before utilizing the additional capacity for newly submitted applications.

#### Block capacity added on October 31, 2025

Category	Allocation	Group A (MW)	Group B (MW)	Statewide Allocation
Small Distributed Generation	16 %	-	-	142
Large Distributed Generation	16%	-	-	142
Traditional Community Solar	25%	64	149	-
Community-Driven Community Solar	4%	11	25	-
Public Schools	12%	-	-	107
Equity Eligible Contractor	27%	64	169	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>391</b>

Updated Block sizes for the 2025-26 Program Year, inclusive of reallocated capacity from the 2024-25 Program Year and capacity from the 2024 Long-Term Plan Reopening were announced on October 31, 2025.

### Developer Cap

For categories subject to this requirement, the developer cap is calculated as 20% of the total capacity awarded in a given Program Year's category block, determined separately for Group A and Group B, including capacity carried over from the prior Program Year and allocated to waitlisted applications.

The expansion of capacity resulting from the 2024 Long-Term Plan Reopening increased the total capacity awarded for each category block, thus increasing the category's developer cap size while maintaining the 20% threshold.

The April 1, 2026, uncontracted capacity reallocation may further increase the capacity awarded for categories with an existing waitlist, thus a category's developer cap size may increase based on the 20% threshold.

### Traditional Community Solar

Pursuant to the 2024 Long-Term Plan Reopening, the day after the Program pause, October 31, 2025, will be treated as the first day of the Program Year, and will follow the scoring mechanism outlined in Appendix E of the Program Guidebook. If required, the Agency will utilize a random selection process to break ties between projects that received tied scores and where those scores would impact project selection, or waitlist placement.

The 20% developer cap, applied separately for Group A and Group B, for any affiliated family of project developers for this Traditional Community Solar capacity will continue to apply in the 2025-26 Program Year, as described in Section 1.E.

## Community-Driven Community Solar

The 2025-26 Program Year 90-day application window for Community-Driven Community Solar projects closed on September 2, 2025. All projects submitted to the category during this window will be reviewed and scored based on the scoring criteria as outlined in Appendix F. Projects will be selected from the application pool in the order of highest to lowest score until the block capacity is fully allocated. After project selection, projects that have a minimum score of 10 points will be placed on a waitlist.

The Program will open an additional 45-day application window on January 16, 2026, regardless of capacity availability as of that date. All projects submitted to the category during this window will be reviewed and scored based on the scoring criteria outlined in Appendix F. This application window will utilize the existing processes described in Section 1.E of the Program Guidebook, including the minimum scoring criteria for capacity allocation and waitlisting and the random selection mechanism.

## Public Schools

The Public Schools subcategory allocation, as described in Section 1.E of the Program Guidebook, will continue throughout the first 180 days of the 2025-26 Program Year. If any of the below allocations are not filled within 180 days, projects submitted to this Program category will then be accepted on a first come, first serve basis regardless of Tier, Environmental Justice Community location, or project size.

### Public Schools Subcategory Capacity added on October 31, 2025

Public Schools Subcategory	School Tier	Project Size		
		≤250 kW	>250 - 1,000 kW≤	>1,000 - 5,000 kW
DG (80 MW)	Tier 1, 2, and EJC	14 MW	28 MW	14 MW
	Tier 3, 4	6 MW	12 MW	6 MW
CS (27 MW)	Tier 1, 2, and EJC	5 MW	9 MW	5 MW
	Tier 3, 4	2 MW	4 MW	2 MW

## Equity Eligible Contractor

On October 30, 2025, 64 MW was added to Group A and 169 MW to Group B in a manner consistent with the existent subcategory split as described below.

- **EEC Subcategories** - Each Group in the EEC category will continue to feature subcategories for Community Solar and Distributed Generation projects for the initial eleven months the block of capacity is open at the start of the 2024-25 Program Year. The 2024-25 capacity of each Group will be split 75% for community solar and 25% for distributed generation. After the category has been open for eleven months from the start of the Program Year, the reserve of capacity for the subcategories will end, and all remaining capacity in the block will be available to both CS and DG projects within the respective Group.

#### EEC Subcategory Capacity added on October 31, 2025

Group A Total – 64 MW	Group B Total – 169 MW
Community Solar – 48 MW	Community Solar – 42.25 MW
Distributed Generation – 16 MW	Distributed Generation – 126.75 MW

The 20% developer cap for any affiliated family of project developers for the Equity Eligible Contractor capacity, applied across Group A and Group B separately, will continue to apply in the 2025-26 Program Year.

#### **50% Uncontracted Capacity Reallocation**

The Agency will determine the amount of uncontracted capacity that remains available across all program categories two business days prior to April 1, 2026. That uncontracted capacity will be summed to a total amount and 50% of that total amount will be distributed according to the prioritization set out in Section 7.3.4 of the Modified 2024 Long-Term Plan and reproduced below. For categories without Group A/B distinctions, reallocated capacity will be applied to the category's waitlist in rank order until the waitlist is depleted. For categories that do feature the Group A/B split, capacity will be divided along the 30%/70% split and applied to Group A/B waitlists accordingly. If a category other than Public Schools has subcategories or subdivisions within the Group, those percentages will be followed after the Group A/B percentages are applied to the available capacity. For all prioritizations below, the Agency will endeavor to clear out all waitlists that remain in all Program categories:

- **First**, the Agency will allocate any uncontracted capacity to the Small Distributed Generation category waitlist.
- **Second**, the Agency will allocate any uncontracted capacity to the Large Distributed Generation category waitlist.
- **Third**, the Agency will allocate any uncontracted capacity to the Distributed Generation subcategory of the Equity Eligible Contractor category waitlist.
- **Fourth**, the Agency will allocate any uncontracted capacity to the Distributed Generation subcategory of the Public Schools category waitlist.
- **Fifth**, the Agency will allocate any uncontracted capacity to the Community-Driven Community Solar waitlist. Eligible waitlisted projects will be required to have met the minimum scoring threshold for waitlist placement.
- **Sixth**, the Agency will allocate any uncontracted capacity to the Community Solar subcategory of the Equity Eligible Contractor category waitlist.

- **Seventh**, the Agency will allocate any uncontracted capacity to the Community Solar subcategory of the Public Schools category waitlist.
- If uncontracted capacity remains after the above allocations are made, the Agency will evenly distribute the remaining uncontracted capacity across the remaining Program categories featuring waitlists on a pro rata basis. Should a category's waitlist be satisfied by less capacity than that distribution, then the remaining capacity shall be added to any other category or categories featuring waitlists.

If any or all uncontracted capacity cannot be used to satisfy existing waitlists, then that remaining uncontracted capacity will be distributed across all Program categories on a pro rata basis corresponding with those categories Section 1-75(c)(1)(K) percentage allocations.<sup>3</sup>

The Agency will endeavor to publish a detailed memo of capacity redistribution within one week after April 1, 2026. Capacity distribution to categories featuring waitlists will result in projects being selected off those waitlists by waitlist order. For waitlisted capacity not met through uncontracted capacity redistribution, Section 1- 75(c)(1)(K) also provides that "the waitlist of projects in a given year will carry over to apply to the subsequent year when another block is opened." Thus, those projects which are not selected off the waitlist during this April 1, 2026, reallocation will remain on the waitlist for potential selection upon the reallocation of all remaining capacity at the end of the 2025-26 Program Year.

The 25% rollover of unallocated Public Schools capacity as set out in Section 7.3.4, which occurred at the end of recent Program Years, is not applicable during the interim reallocation of uncontracted capacity that will occur on April 1, 2026.

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<sup>3</sup> Small DG – 20%; Large DG – 20%; TCS – 30%; Public Schools – 15%; CDCS – 5%; EEC – 10%