

Community-Driven Community Solar Case Study, AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey, Subscriber Management Portal Feature Action Items

February 13, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

2026 Program events and due dates can be found at the [Key Dates & Deadlines webpage](#).

- **Key Dates**
 - **February 26** - [Subscriber Management Webinar](#)
- **Deadlines**
 - **February 17** - Re-Batching Opens for AVs (for March 5, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **February 19** - Election Deadline - Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (for March 5, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **February 23** - Part II Verification Cut Off for February
 - **February 27** - Close of AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey

Stakeholder Support

- **New! Program Holiday Hours** - In observance of President's Day, the Program will have limited services and updates on Monday, February 16, 2026. On this day, the Program Call Center will be closed. Updates to the Block Capacity Dashboard, application tables, application project reports, and waitlists will resume the next business day.
- **Program Administrator Office Hours** - February 18, 2026, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CPT - Individual AV or Designee support for Program requirements, Portal, application, or other questions. Join link: <https://energysolution.zoom.us/j/91402926068>. Office hours are held every two weeks. The schedule is available on the Program website's [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - The Program Administrator publishes [Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders avoid *Need Info* requests that delay application review and approval.
 - **Ensure accurate and complete Disclosure Form signatures.**
 - As a reminder, it is never permissible for an AV to electronically sign a Disclosure Form on behalf of a customer. For documents that are signed electronically, it's critical to include both the fully executed document, as well as the signature tracking page when uploading to the Portal or emailing the Program Administrator.
 - Additionally, the customer's email address in the "Customer Information" section of the Disclosure Form and the email address used to electronically sign the Disclosure Form (shown on the "Signature Tracking" page) should match. If the emails do not match, the Program's Consumer Protections team will need to contact the customer to verify they signed the Disclosure Form. If a customer does not have an email address, an [email address waiver](#) must be wet signed by the customer and uploaded in the Portal. In this case, the Disclosure Form must also be wet signed and uploaded.
 - For documents that are not signed electronically, the wet signature must be present for each signatory. Checking that all required signatures are present before uploading will avoid *Need Info* delays.

Program News

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

- **New! Community-Driven Community Solar Case Study Now Available** - Through its case study series, the Program is sharing real-world examples of successful projects participating in Illinois Shines that are achieving important financial and environmental benefits for their communities. The Program's [newest case study](#) spotlights Rock Cut Solar, a Community-Driven Community Solar project in Rockford, Illinois. The study offers insights for project developers, policymakers, and community leaders interested in advancing Community Solar in Illinois, highlighting how the project's AV addressed community questions, built trust, and designed a project reflecting local priorities. To read this, and past case studies, please visit the [About](#) page on the Program website.
- **Reminder: AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Open Through February 27** - On February 2, 2026, the Program Administrator opened the [2025-26 Approved Vendor and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey](#) to gauge the satisfaction of AVs and Designees participating in the Program. All participating AVs and Designees are encouraged to complete the survey and multiple respondents per company are accepted. **The deadline for survey completion is February 27, 2026.** The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete and all responses will remain anonymous. Survey results will be reported to the IPA and published in a [summary report of the survey results](#), including next steps to address identified concerns and opportunities. To view past reports, please visit the [About](#) page on the Program website.
- **Subscriber Management Portal Feature AV Action Items and Webinar** - Development of the Community Solar Subscriber Management Feature for the Program Portal continues with a planned March 2026 launch. The feature will replace the current manual workbook process in SharePoint and allow for improved subscriber data quality, the centralization of access, and give AVs and Designees the ability to view and manage subscriptions, view unsubscribed Disclosure Forms, and import and export subscription data. AVs will be able to manage project permissions and assign Designees to view/manage Community Solar projects. To support the transition, Community Solar AVs will be required to complete several action items prior to and after launch, which are detailed in a new section of the [Portal Updates](#) page, alongside resources and a full timeline. Stakeholders are also encouraged to register for the [Subscriber Management Webinar](#) on February 26, 2026, from 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. CPT.
- **First EAS Learning Series Webinar Held** - On February 3, 2026, the Program held the first webinar in the new Equity Accountability System (“EAS”) Learning Series, *Advancing Equity Through Inclusive Recruitment and Retention of EEPs*. This interactive session highlighted effective strategies for Recruitment and Retention of Equity Eligible Persons, and how to scale workforce to meet increasing MES requirements and how to scale organizations to meet the needs of a diverse workforce. An [audio recording](#) of the content, the [presentation slides](#), and the [one-pager](#) are available on the [Equity Accountability System Overview](#) page of the Program website.
- **IPA Publishes Energy Storage Webpage** - The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act, signed into law by Governor Pritzker on January 8, 2026, directs the IPA to facilitate the procurement of energy storage resources and evaluate the potential for a “Storage for All” program. The Agency has published a new [Energy Storage webpage](#) to provide interested stakeholders with detailed information on the IPA's work to bring 3,000 MW of energy storage projects online across Illinois by 2030.
- **TCS Scores for Projects Submitted October 31** - Following the Program Re-Opening, on October 31, 2025, capacity for the 2025-26 Program Year was expanded and allocated for the TCS category. Following the application window closure, and completion of the Application Review and Scoring periods, [scores](#) for projects submitted October 31, 2025, were posted on the [Traditional Community Solar hub](#) page of the Program website. Next steps include:
 - **Final scores and project selection published** – (February 17)

Full details on the schedule for application review and scoring were shared in [this announcement](#).

- Part II Verification Cut Off for February** - The last Part II Verification date for February will be February 23, 2026. Applications that were Part II verified on or before February 23, 2026, will be included in the March invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between February 24 and February 28, 2026, will be invoiced in April 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page on the Program website.

Reference and Reminders

- 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 temporarily paused enforcement of the two withhold limit from ICC meetings. This pause will be in effect until the Agency determines this pause is no longer necessary. AVs that do not wish to take advantage of these additional withholdings may send projects to the ICC during the re-batching window. 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)
2/17/2026	2/19/2026	3/5/2026
3/3/2026	3/5/2026	3/19/2026

- 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 IllinoisShines.com/Portal-Updates.
- Application Processing Tables and Updates** - 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. In addition to information available on the [Project Application Reports](#) page, the status of individual project applications can be checked using the [Project Look Up Tool](#).
- Reminder - Phishing Attempts** - The Program reminds stakeholders to remain vigilant against email phishing attempts and avoid opening unexpected emails or clicking suspicious links that appear to be from the Illinois Shines program, its Program Administrator, or the IPA. Official correspondence from these parties will only come from email addresses ending in @illinoisshines.com, @energy-solution.com, @illinoisabp.com, or @illinois.gov – please check our [Contact Us](#) page for more guidelines.

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