AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey, Subscriber Management AV Action Items and Webinar, First EAS Learning Series Webinar Held

February 6, 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**

    - **Today, February 6** – Close of [AV](#) and [Designee](#) Surveys for new IPA Resources
    - **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 for February
    - **February 27** – Close of AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey

Stakeholder Support

- New! **Program Holiday Hours -** In observance of Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day, the Program will have limited services and updates on Thursday, February 12, 2026, and Monday, February 16, 2026. On these days, 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.

    - **Requirement to Note Expansions to Systems Already Under REC Contract.** AVs are required to indicate if a project is an expansion to a system that is already under a REC Contract on the application in Part I, Section 2.

        - Expansions to an existing system that is part of the Program must be marked on the application in Part I, Section 2 in Project Details under "Is this an expansion of an existing facility?". After selecting "Yes", the existing system should be identified by its Project Application ID, not its Disclosure Form ID. If an expansion is made to an existing system that is not part of the Program, and only the expansion is applying to the Program, confirming the original system is a "Non-Illinois Shines system" in the comments box at the time of submission can prevent Need Info request delays.

        - In the 2025-26 Program Guidebook (Section 4.E), expansion pricing is applicable to projects that are added on to existing Illinois Shines projects when the expansion project is submitted less than two years from the original project's ICC approval date. If an already built expansion

system is being submitted, AVs should upload the Certificate of Completion (CoC)/Permission to Operate (PTO) in Part I 'Additional Documents' for interconnection date verification. "Expansion" must still be marked on Part I Section 2 of the application, even if expansion pricing is not applicable as all other expansion guidelines still apply.

Program News

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

- **New! AV/Designee Program Satisfaction Survey Released** - 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. Your input is greatly appreciated and will aid the Illinois Shines team in identifying Program improvement opportunities. **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.

- **New! Subscriber Management Portal Feature AV Action Items and Webinar** - The Program Administrator continues development of the Community Solar Subscriber Management Feature for the Program Portal, which is slated for a March 2026 launch. This new feature will replace the current manual workbook process in SharePoint and will allow for improved subscriber data quality and the centralization of access. The new feature will give AVs and Designees the ability to view and manage subscriptions, view unsubscribed Disclosure Forms, and import and export subscription data. Additionally, AVs will have the ability to manage project permissions and assign Designees to view/manage Community Solar projects. To support the transition and the full launch of the Feature, the Program Administrator will require Community Solar AVs 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 sign up for the [Subscriber Management Webinar](#) on February 26, 2026, from 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. CPT.

- **New! 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.

- **New! 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.

- **New! February REC Invoicing Open** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on February 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by February 10, 2026, to receive payment for the February invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by February 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the March 2026 invoice period.

- **New! New to the Program Website** - The following key additions to the [Program website](#) have been shared:
  - Fillable Assignment Forms ([Program Documents](#) page, Other Resources Section)

- o Community Solar Subscriber Management development and launch details (Portal Updates page)

- o February 3, 2026 EAS Learning Series Webinar audio recording, presentation slides, and one-pager (Equity Accountability System Overview page)

- **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:
  - o **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 (January 27 – February 10)
  - o **Appeal determinations released to AVs** – Any changes to scores will be published to the Program website (February 24)
  - o **Final scores and project selection published** – (February 27)

  Full details on the schedule for application review and scoring were shared in this announcement.

- **Final Call for Stakeholder Input for New IPA Resources** - The IPA seeks help to continue building its resource library. Illinois Shines recently published the Homeowner Handouts *Buying a Home That Has an Illinois Shines Solar Project* and *Selling Your Home That Has an Illinois Shines Solar Project* in both English and Spanish. In continuation of this series, the Program hopes to publish handouts for real estate agents to ensure they are prepared to support current and potential solar customers. The Program is conducting brief surveys for AVs and Designees to support the buildout of these resources. Stakeholder expertise will directly inform the design of these resources to ensure they respond effectively to real-world needs. All responses will remain anonymous; the IPA may share anonymized, summary-level insights with companies participating in Illinois Shines and the public. **The surveys close today, February 6, 2026**. For any questions, please contact IPA.Solar@illinois.gov.

- **February 2026 Consumer Protection Working Group** - The Agency and the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Program Administrators hosted the February Consumer Protection Working Group meeting on February 6, 2026. The Working Group's agenda and meeting minutes can be found on the Consumer Protection Working Group page on the Program website.

- **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.

- **IPA, ICC, and IEPA Resource Adequacy Study Mitigation Plan Workshop** - In response to the directive in Section 9.15(o) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("IEPA") Act, IPA, ICC, and IEPA issued the Resource Adequacy Study Report on December 15, 2025, detailing an overview of the state of the Illinois energy market, explaining the evolution of that market as a participant in the broader Regional Transmission Organization markets, and evaluating the risk of reliability shortfall across various drivers, market conditions, and related factors. The executive summary, final report, data, and appendices are available at the Resource Adequacy Study page on the IPA website.

  - o On January 27, 2026, the IPA, ICC, and IEPA hosted a stakeholder workshop on the Resource Adequacy Study Mitigation Plan. A recording of the workshop, and the presentation used, can be found on the Agency website. The IPA and IEPA are interested in obtaining additional stakeholder feedback to inform the Mitigation Plan modeling and analysis. Stakeholders are encouraged to respond to both the ICC Request for Comments and the series of IPA and IEPA questions referenced in the full

announcement on the IPA website. Stakeholder responses are due to the IPA on Monday, February 16, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. CT.

o Additionally, the ICC has announced an upcoming Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") workshop and issued a Request for Comments seeking stakeholder feedback on a series of questions to inform the IRP process. The workshop will be held on February 18, 2026, with the question set having already been issued and responses due February 9, 2026. Full details surrounding the workshop and questions can be found on the ICC's IRP page.

Stakeholders are encouraged to subscribe to the Resource Adequacy Study email distribution list to receive regular updates.

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.

Development Focus	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
	Enhancement	
Fixed incorrect REC calculator for Public Schools	When a DG Disclosure Form is created followed by a DG Application for 20-year contracts, the PV Watts Capacity Factor calculations will now calculate correctly when methodology is "Custom Capacity Factor" or "PVWatts" and use 20 in the formula for years when the contract is a 20-year contract. This will match the external REC Estimate calculator calculations.	February 3, 2026

- **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.

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