

Updates Following Capacity Reallocation, Batch Fee Reporting Portal Feature Release, March 2026 State of the Program

April 3, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **April 9** – [Financing Opportunities Webinar](#)
 - **April 15** – [MES Compliance Webinar](#)
 - **April 24** – [IPA Power Hour: Understanding Electricity Prices: Trends & Tools in the U.S. and Illinois](#)
- **Deadlines**
 - **April 7** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (for April 23, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **April 9** – Election Deadline - Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (for April 23, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **April 21** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (for May 7, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **April 23** – Election Deadline - Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (for May 7, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **April 24** – Part II Verification for April

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – April 15, 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://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/91402926068>. The schedule is available at the [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.
 - **Assignment and Assumption Agreements and AV Switch Binding Agreements.**
 - Assignment and Assumption Agreements – to assign a Product Order(s) or an entire REC Contract to a new AV, the Assignee and Assignor must execute the Assignment and Assumption Agreement, as the Utility requires it in addition to the form of Acknowledgement. Two versions of the Assignment and Assumption Agreement form are available on the [Program Documents page under the Other Resources tab](#), one for Approved Vendors that are affiliated and another form for Approved Vendors that are not affiliated.
 - AV Switch Binding Agreement – An AV Switch Binding Agreement should be executed and submitted to the Program Administrator to transfer an Illinois Shines Project Application to a new AV for applications **not yet under REC Contract**. The Assignment & Assumption Agreement is not acceptable for AV Switching as these are two different processes. An example of an AV Switch Binding Agreement can be found on the [Program Documents page under the Other Resources tab](#).

Program News

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

- **New! Updates Following Capacity Reallocation** – [As previously announced](#), the Program paused for two business days, from March 29, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT, through April 1, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. CPT, to undertake data and reporting updates to reallocate 50% of unused Program capacity, that resulted in a total of 414.05 MW. Upon reopening, the Program detailed the steps it took to allocate capacity to eligible waitlisted applications, specific results of the allocations, the amount of capacity that was reallocated, and associated updates to project waitlists.
- **New! Batch Fee Reporting Portal Feature Release** – [As previously announced](#), the Program launched a Batch Fee Reporting Portal feature allowing AVs to see details about the fees applied to their batches. AVs are now permitted to see the application fee per kW, credit card fees, and total batch fees updated dynamically as projects are added to the batch. For each batch, AVs are able to export a report with batch fee details, and a list of each project and project size originally included in the batch. Additionally, AVs are able to run the batch fee details report for one batch at a time from the batch details page, either when creating a new batch or viewing a submitted batch. The export will include each filtered batch, the batch fees, and the associated project applications. This feature can be particularly useful when viewing a batch with applications that were shuffled out of the batch and those applications no longer appear on the batch details page.
- **New! Illinois Shines Releases March 2026 State of the Program** – [As previously announced](#), the Program published its latest [Illinois Shines State of the Program communication](#). The communication, published twice yearly, details key areas of Program progress, implemented solutions, current initiatives, forums to solicit and address stakeholder needs and requests, and an updated Program vision and stakeholder commitments from the Program Administrator. Access past State of the Programs on the [About](#) page, in the document archives section.
- **New! Part II Verification Cut Off for April** – The last Part II Verification date for April will be April 24, 2026. Applications that were Part II verified on or before April 24, 2026, will be included in the May invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between April 25 and April 30, 2026, will be invoiced in June 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page on the Program website.
- **New! April REC Invoicing Open** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on April 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by April 10, 2026, to receive payment for the April invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by April 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the June 2026 invoice period.
- **New! New to the Program Website** – Key additions to the [Program website](#):
 - [State of the Program](#) communication ([About](#) page)
 - Updated [Block Capacity Dashboard](#) ([Block Capacity Dashboard](#) page)
 - [Assignment and Assumption Agreement](#) and [Fillable PDF version](#) – for AVs that ARE NOT affiliated ([Program Documents](#) page)
- **IPA Lifting Pause on Two Withhold Limit** – In [August 2025](#), the IPA announced that it was pausing the enforcement of the two withhold limit, from Part I application submissions to the ICC meetings for REC Contract approval, due to the Federal Reconciliation Bill (H.R.1) and the Executive Order issued on July 7, 2025. The pause will be lifted with the start of ICC submissions under the 2026-27 Program Year. After the start of the 2026-27 Program Year, DG projects will only be permitted to be **withheld twice** before they must be submitted to the ICC for REC Contract approval or permanently withdrawn from the Program. Projects that have been

withheld more than two times already will be required to submit to the ICC or withdraw at the first ICC meeting submission after June 1, 2026.

- CS projects will undergo the new opt-in batching process in which projects can **opt-out of ICC submission for up to four ICC meetings**. At the fifth ICC meeting the AV must opt-in to ICC submission or the project will be automatically and permanently withdrawn. This process is further outlined in the [Draft 2026-27 Program Guidebook](#). Projects that have already been withheld will start fresh under the new process and be allowed to opt-out of four ICC meetings before being required to opt-in or will be permanently withdrawn.
- **May 31, 2026, REC Transfer Deadline** – In preparation for the close of the 2025-26 delivery year and the upcoming Annual Report, the Program Administrator reminds AVs that **all REC transfers must be completed by 11:59 p.m. CPT on May 31, 2026**. RECs will be counted toward the 2025-26 Annual Report based on the date that their transfer is complete, NOT the day that their transfer is initiated or when they are generated. Ensuring REC transfers are complete will help minimize potential Drawdowns on posted collateral.
- **Resources, Guidance for Complying with MES Reporting Requirements and Upcoming Webinar** – [As previously announced](#), in response to stakeholder feedback, MES reporting, previously submitted in two separate reports, will be consolidated into one report due on July 15, 2026. This new combined report, the *MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report*, allows entities to simultaneously submit their 2026-27 MES Compliance Plan and their 2025-26 MES Year-End Report. All AVs and Designees participating in the Program are required to submit the *MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report*, [including EECs starting PY 2026-27](#). The Combined Report has two sections:
 - The MES Year-End Report looks backward and captures how your organization achieved the MES requirement for the 2025-26 Program Year.
 - The MES Compliance Plan is forward-looking and captures how your organization intends to achieve compliance with the MES requirement in the upcoming 2026-27 Program Year.

To ensure compliance and prepare for the upcoming MES reporting season, Illinois Shines AVs and Designees are invited to join the Program's upcoming MES Compliance Webinar on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. CPT**. This webinar will provide guidance on preparing and submitting the *MES Combined Compliance and Year-End Report*. Register for the webinar [here](#).

- **Consumer Protection Working Group Moving to Quarterly Schedule** – [As previously announced](#), the Program Administrators and IPA solicited feedback on changing the cadence of the Consumer Protection Working Group to a quarterly schedule for a richer agenda and more robust discussion from stakeholders. Effective June 2026, the meetings will shift to a quarterly schedule, occurring on the first Friday of March, June, September, and December. The next meeting is on Friday, June 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CST. Should circumstances require, the Programs and IPA can schedule a special meeting outside of this cadence and would endeavor to provide stakeholders with at least two weeks' notice of such a meeting.
- **IPA Power Hour - Understanding Electricity Prices: Trends & Tools in the U.S. and Illinois** - On April 24, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. CT, the IPA will host the educational Power Hour webinar, *Understanding Electricity Prices: Trends & Tools in the U.S. and Illinois*. The session will dive into how electricity prices are set, recent national and Illinois trends, key drivers behind price changes, and market developments shaping future costs. Attendees will also learn about tools and strategies that states are deploying to navigate these evolving dynamics. Featured speakers for this webinar include Will Gorman, Research Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, who co-authored a Science Direct white paper on factors influencing recent retail electricity price trends; Nathan Miller, Senior Director at Energy + Environmental Economics, Inc., which collaborated with IPA and other Illinois state agencies on the Resource Adequacy Study; and James Rouland, IPA Planning & Procurement Chief. Registration is required to attend. [Please register with this link](#).
- **Stakeholder Feedback for Draft Program Guidebook and Consumer Protection Published** – The IPA released drafts of several key program documents for stakeholder feedback, including the [Draft 2026-27](#)

[Program Year Program Guidebook](#), the [Draft Consumer Protection Handbook](#), Illinois Shines [CS Contract Requirements](#) and [DG Contract Requirements](#), and the [2026 REC Adder – Categories of Stranded Customers Update](#) document. Stakeholder feedback was due March 20, 2026, and comments received have been published to the [Stakeholder Feedback](#) page. The Agency will release the final Program Guidebook and Consumer Protection documents for the 2026-27 Program Year on April 17, 2026, 45 days in advance of the start of the Program Year, to allow Program participants time to prepare for changes in the Program before the 2026-27 Program Year commences on June 1, 2026.

- Expedited CDCS Application Review and Scoring Schedule for 45-Day Application Window** – As a result of the Modified 2024 Long-Term Plan, the Program opened an additional 45-day CDCS application window from January 16, 2026, to March 2, 2026. Any project submitted during the 45-day window that qualifies for the waitlist will be placed behind projects submitted during the initial 90-day application window, regardless of score. On March 20, the Program announced an expedited review and scoring schedule to prioritize the selection of projects in the 2025-26 Program Year. AVs should review the planned, [updated timeline](#) and ensure a timely response to the Program Administrator. Failure to respond to the Program Administrator by the end of each cure period may result in project removal. The last eligible ICC Meeting for the 2025-26 Program Year is May 21, 2026. Projects not selected for capacity during the Random Selection Event will remain on the waitlist until new capacity becomes available at the start of the 2026-27 Program Year and will be subject to all 2026-27 Program Year requirements and, if awarded capacity, will be placed on the 2026 REC Delivery Contract.
- Financing Opportunities Webinar – April 9, 2026** – [As previously announced](#), the Program Administrator will host a webinar on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 12:00p.m. CPT to provide information on financial resources and financing opportunities, including grant and loan programs, Illinois Shines vendors can pursue. Presenters include Illinois Shines partner organizations HACIA, NLR, CEJF, and the Ameren Market Development Initiative. The event will be recorded, with presentation materials shared afterward. [Please register here.](#)
- East St. Louis CEJA Community Day** – CEJA grantees in East St. Louis are organizing a [Community Day](#) on Saturday April 4, 2026, from 11:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. at Wyvetter H. Younge Higher Education Campus and are seeking employer participation. The event will connect residents, businesses, and community partners to career opportunities, clean energy resources, and workforce education. Employer participation allows businesses to meet and recruit local talent, including EEPs, share information about industry pathways, and help strengthen the regional clean energy workforce ecosystem. [Visit the website](#) or contact info@ucmetroeast.org for registration, event details and logistics.

Reference and Reminders

- Request for 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 Release	Deadline for Comment	Results or Updates to Request
Consumer Protection Documents	3/19/2026	3/20/2026	IPA is reviewing comments, which have been posted to the Program website.
Draft 2026-27 Program Guidebook	3/19/2026	3/20/2026	

- 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)
4/7/2026	4/9/2026	4/23/2026
4/21/2026	4/23/2026	5/7/2026

- 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		
Batch Fee Reporting	For AVs Vendors, the "Export Batch Fee Data" button that runs the batch fee report did not appear on the batch details page after a batch has been submitted, preventing the report from being run for batches in any status other than "Created". This fix displays the button for all batch statuses, enabling AVs to run the report for all batches regardless of status.	April 3, 2026
Disclosure Form Export Records mismatch and export contains duplicates/missing records	Program Admins, IPA, AVs, and Designees will be able to now export a report of unsubscribed Disclosure Forms without any duplicate entries or missing entries	April 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](#).
 - Small DG Application Processing Update** – Following a spike in submission of project applications, review of Small DG Part I and Part II applications had exceeded the 10-day expected turnaround time. Part I application review has now returned to expected review timeframes; the Program Administrator is working to bring Part II application reviews into the expected turnaround time and will continue to inform stakeholders of progress.
- 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.