

Appendix R - Program Year 2026-27 Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Mid-Year Report for the Illinois Shines Program

PLEASE NOTE – THIS TEMPLATE IS NOT TO BE USED TO SUBMIT A MID-YEAR REPORT. THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR WILL RELEASE A DIGITAL FORM FOR SUBMISSIONS. THIS TEMPLATE IS SIMPLY TO PROVIDE TRANSPARENCY ON THE INFORMATION THAT WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH THE FUTURE-RELEASED FORM.

Program Year 2026-27 Minimum Equity Standard (MES) Mid-Year Report for the Illinois Shines Program

The Illinois Shines program is committed to fostering equity within the clean energy sector. As part of this initiative, the Minimum Equity Standard (MES), which mandates that at least 14% of the workforce for each participating entity must consist of Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs). This requirement applies to all Approved Vendors (AVs) and Designees participating in the Program for the 2026-27 Program Year, with specific exceptions for Equity Eligible Contractors (EECs).

How Can Illinois Shines Support?

This brief assessment is designed to help your entity assess the progress toward meeting the MES requirements. If your organization faces challenges in fulfilling these obligations, our Program Administrator is available to provide additional resources and guidance tailored to your needs. To ensure compliance with the MES, we encourage all participating entities to submit a Mid-Year Report (10-15 min needed). Asterisks indicate required sections.

We are dedicated to supporting you in achieving equitable representation within your workforce, ensuring that our clean energy initiatives benefit all communities effectively.

Key Actions Required

Mid-Year Report Submission due: **By December 31, 2026**, For more detailed information regarding the Equity Accountability System and the Minimum Equity Standard, please visit [Equity Accountability System - Illinois Shines](#).

1. Is your company an Approved Vendor, Designee, or both? *
 - a. Approved Vendor
 - b. Designee
 - c. Both
2. AV and/or Designee company name(s) *
 - a. Short answer
3. AV and/or Designee ID #(s) *
 - a. Short answer
4. Name of person completing form *
 - a. Short answer
5. Email of person completing form *
 - a. Short answer

6. Are you currently on track to meet the MES Requirement? *
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
7. Is your organization a non-union or union entity?
 - a. Non-union
 - b. Union
8. If you are not currently on track to meet the MES requirement, what circumstances apply to your company? Select all that apply
Please note that if your company has fewer than 8 employees in its Illinois-based Illinois Shines project workforce, does not hire any new employees during the Program Year, and/or does not employ an Illinois-based workforce, you may be exempt from meeting the MES requirements. Please refer to the MES FAQs for more information, or reach out to mes@illinoisshines.com with any questions.
 - a. My company has 8 or fewer employees
 - b. My company is not currently hiring new employees
 - c. My company does not employ an Illinois-based workforce
 - d. My company is struggling to hire EEPs
 - e. Other (please describe)
9. If you are not currently on track to meet the MES requirement, what steps do you plan to take to meet the requirement?
 - a. Long answer
10. What additional resources or guidance would be helpful for you to meet the MES requirement?
 - a. Long answer