

Questions & Answers from April 9, 2026 Financing Opportunities Webinar



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General

Will the slide deck be provided after this webinar?

- A recording of the webinar and a copy of the presentation slides has been posted to <https://illinoisshines.com/webinars/>

Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA) Presentation

Do professional services organizations qualify for the HACIA Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program (CECI)?

- Yes, professional service organizations such as engineering, architecture, etc. are welcome to apply and participate. Please use this link for more info or to apply: <https://www.haciaworks.org/programs/ceci-program/>.

Is there a CEJA incubator serving the Southern Illinois area that I can contact?

- Yes, there are several incubators located downstate, including Man-Tra-Con (<https://mantracon.org/ceja/>) and Carbondale NAACP (<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/CEJA/Pages/CleanEnergyContractorIncubator.aspx>).

How can entities learn more about the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator program?

- Please visit <https://www.haciaworks.org/programs/ceci-program/> for program application and more information.

National Laboratory of the Rockies (NRL) Presentation

Will the U.S. Department of Energy still provide loans towards projects?

- National Laboratory of the Rockies is currently unable to confirm whether the Department of Energy (DOE) will continue to provide loans, or what specific priorities those may support. The Community Power Accelerator ("CPA")/Community Infrastructure Center ("CIC") platform discussed in this webinar focuses on private financing and is designed to connect verified project developers with verified capital providers to help them seek investment for their projects. The role of the lab and DOE is to facilitate these connections through the platform. The lab also provides technical support and other services. However, CPA/CIC itself does not provide loans or any form of direct financing.

How can entities learn more about the Community Power Accelerator?

- Please visit <https://communitypower.energy.gov/cic-transition> or contact Ruby Nahan at Ruby.Nahan@nrl.gov for more information.

Ameren Illinois Market Development Initiative Presentation

Where in Illinois are Ameren Market Development Initiative (MDI) programs made available?

- The MDI programs are available throughout the Ameren Illinois electric and gas service territory, which includes most of central and southern Illinois.

How can entities learn more about Ameren's Market Development Initiative program?

- Please contact Keyla Ward at kward@ameren.com about the program you are interested in or for more information.

Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund (CEJF) Presentation

We have church clients looking for PPA (power purchase agreement) financing for their churches in Illinois, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Can the team offer any recommendations?

- One organization EcoHealth Strategies recommends to contact and develop a relationship with for Illinois Churches is Faith In Place (<https://www.faithinplace.org>)

Are Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Funds (CEJF) opportunities primarily for residential projects?

- CEJF offers programs for both residential and commercial projects, and other technical assistance for contractors and more. Please visit <https://cleanenergyjobsjustice.org/> for more information.

How can entities learn more about the Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund?

- Please visit www.cleanenergyjobsjustice.org and explore www.canapoyclimate.com, and contact Rebeccah Sanders, Executive Director at rsanders@cleanenergyjobsjustice.org for more information.