

Become an Equity Eligible Contractor with Illinois Shines

As a result of the passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, the Illinois Power Agency established the Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC) project category within its statewide solar incentive program, Illinois Shines. The EEC category expands access to the clean energy economy. Benefits of becoming a certified EEC include:

- A separate, reserved block of project capacity available only to EEC Approved Vendors (AVs)
- Potential additional financial incentives for qualifying EEC projects
- The opportunity to apply for an advance of capital to support project development costs*
- Tailored support from the Program Administrator team
- Eligibility for [CEJA Equitable Energy Future Grant](#) under the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)



What is an Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC)?

An EEC is a business that is majority-owned by Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs), a nonprofit or cooperative that is majority-governed by EEPs, or an individual EEP offering personal services as an independent contractor. EEPs consist of individuals who meet one of four criteria:



Persons who graduated from or are current or former participants in qualifying job training programs;



Persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system;



Persons who were formerly incarcerated; or



Persons whose primary residence is in an [equity investment eligible community](#) (“EIEC”).

See the [Illinois Shines website](#) for details on EEC qualification criteria.

* EEC AVs may request an Advance of Capital which are capped at the lesser of \$750,000 or 50% of the REC Contract value. The total REC Contract value of the project cannot exceed \$1.5 million. More information can be found at illinoisshines.com/eep-and-eeec.

Steps to Become a Certified EEC:

1

Review the eligibility criteria and ways to participate in Illinois Shines as an EEC on the [Become an Equity Eligible Contractor \(EEC\) page](#) on the Illinois Shines website.

2

Apply for program participation.

- Approved Vendors: Complete the AV application **and** EEC application
- Designees: Complete Designee registration **and** the EEC application
- Subcontractors: Complete the EEC application **only**
 - See the [program website](#) for details on these different pathways

3

Check your email and respond to Program Administrator follow up requests.

- EEC application review typically takes 3-6 weeks; EEC Approved Vendor and Designee applications take additional review time.

Get Started!



Illinois Shines and the Illinois Power Agency are committed to the success of Equity Eligible Contractors.

Need support? A dedicated EEC Sector Strategist is ready to support prospective & current EECs.

Contact the EEC Sector Strategist at eec@illinoisshines.com or the Program Administration team at admin@illinoisshines.com.