

CDCS Application Deadline August 31, September Consumer Protection Working Group, Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Registration Closes Today

August 28, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **September 4** – [Consumer Protection Working Group](#)
 - **September 7** – Labor Day holiday
- **Deadlines**
 - **August 28** – [Mentee](#) and [Mentor](#) Registration for the 2026-27 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Closes
 - **August 31** – [AV/Designee Feedback for Subscriber Management Portal Feature](#) Due
 - **August 31** – CDCS Application Deadline for Program Year 2026-27
 - **September 8** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For September 24, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **September 10** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For September 24, 2026, ICC Meeting)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – September 9, 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 [Application Tips and Tricks](#) to help support stakeholders avoid Need Info requests that delay application review and approval. See this week's tip: ["Ways to ensure project application data and documentation submitted to the Generation Attribute Tracking System \(GATS\) Registry is correct to avoid Need Info delays"](#)

Program News

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

- **New! Reminder: CDCS Application Deadline for Program Year 2026-27 Monday, August 31, 2026** – As outlined in Section 5 of the [Program Guidebook](#), the CDCS application window closes 90 days after the start of the Program Year. With the Program Year commencing on June 1, 2026, the application submission deadline for Program Year 2026-27 CDCS projects is Monday, August 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT. Applications are not accepted after the close of the application window. Upon closing of the 90-day application window, projects will be reviewed and scored based on the scoring criteria as outlined in Appendix F of the [Program Guidebook](#), with projects selected from the application pool in the order of highest to lowest score until the block capacity is fully allocated. A minimum score of 6 points must be achieved to be eligible for a REC contract in the CDCS category. Random selection will be utilized as a tiebreaker only for equally scored projects to fill available capacity, if any. For any questions or support in the CDCS category, please contact communitysolar@illinoisshines.com.
- **New! September Consumer Protection Working Group** – The next [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) meeting will take place on Friday, September 4, 2026, and discuss market trends, best practices, consumer

education, updates to Program requirements and documents, and other consumer protection issues for both Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All. The Program invites stakeholders to submit suggested agenda topics for future meetings to admin@illinoisshines.com. The meeting agenda and notes from past meetings can be found at the [Consumer Protection Working Group](#) page.

- **New! Disclosure Form and Designee Registration Requirements for Stranded Customer Projects Document** – The Program has developed a [resource](#) on the [AVs and Designees Assisting Stranded Customers](#) to help participants determine when and whether a new Disclosure Form is needed specifically due to the identity of the AV or Designee changing. The chart should be used in combination with the [Circumstances Requiring New DF Issuance and Signature](#) document.
- **New! Part II Verification Cut Off for September** – The last Part II Verification date for September is September 24, 2026. Applications that are Part II verified on or before September 24, 2026, will be included in the October invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between September 26 and September 30, 2026, will be invoiced in November 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page.
- **New! August REC Invoicing Opens September 1, 2026** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on September 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by September 10, 2026, to receive payment for the September invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by September 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the December 2026 invoice period.
- **New! New to the Program Website:**
 - [Disclosure Form and Designee Registration Requirements for Stranded Customer Projects](#) and Updated FAQs ([AVs and Designees Assisting Stranded Customers](#) page)
- **Updated! Registration for 2026-27 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Closes Today** – [Mentee](#) and [mentor](#) registration for the 2026-27 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort can be found on the [Mentorship Program](#) page and will close today, August 28, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT. AVs and Designees certified as EECs, AVs designated as Small and Emerging Businesses, and/or businesses that are minority-owned, woman-owned, veteran-owned, or disability-owned are encouraged to register as mentees. The Mentorship Program is also seeking mentor applications from experienced AVs and Designees, including those certified as EECs, willing to share insights into Program and solar industry-related topics with mentees. Space is limited, and both mentors and mentees will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Please see the [full announcement](#) for more information.
- **Updated! Reminder: Requesting AV/Designee Feedback for Subscriber Management Portal Feature** – Earlier this year, the Program Administrator successfully delivered a new Subscriber Management portal feature, reflecting stakeholder input. The feature allows users to upload subscription data, edit and terminate subscriptions, and manage subscribed or unsubscribed Disclosure Forms, including project permissions for both AVs and Designees. Resources for this feature can be found at the [Portal Updates](#) page. To continue supporting stakeholders, the Program Administrator seeks feedback from users of this feature via a [5-minute survey](#). Those interested in providing feedback should respond to the survey by Monday, August 31, 2026.
- **Illinois Shines Releases Guide for Real Estate Professionals Supporting a Home Sale with Illinois Shines**
 - The IPA prioritizes educating consumers about the decision to go solar and has developed a variety of resources to support Program understanding and encourage awareness of available consumer protections. In light of the growing number of homes with energized Illinois Shines projects, the Program published [Navigating a Home Sale with an Illinois Shines Project Installed: Guide for Real Estate Professionals](#). The Program prepared this guide following feedback from participating homeowners that navigating a home sale with an Illinois Shines solar project installed can be challenging. Homeowners reported feeling unsupported by their real estate agents, who often did not know how to work with a home with solar. The guide is designed to help Illinois real estate professionals navigate the distinct sale process and provides an overview of Illinois Shines, solar panel ownership

models (including Purchase, Lease, and PPA), Renewable Energy Credit (REC) contracts, legal and administrative logistics of transferring a project, and more.

- **Large DG Case Study Now Available** – The Program’s [newest case study](#) spotlights seven municipal solar projects in Harrisburg, Illinois, where the city government partnered with an Illinois Shines AV to develop solar through the Program’s Large and Small DG categories. It also offers insights for municipalities, project developers, and community leaders interested in advancing distributed generation in Illinois, highlighting how local partnerships and visible project success can help build trust in solar and support long-term economic transition. To read this and other case studies, please visit the [Success Spotlights](#) page.
- **IPA Launches Expanded Clean Energy Dashboard** – [As previously announced](#), the IPA launched Phase II of the [Illinois Clean Energy Dashboard](#), a significant expansion of the online resource, featuring 23 interactive data dashboards that provide greater access to statewide clean energy data. Created and maintained by the IPA, the Illinois Clean Energy Dashboard is a public data resource that enables users to explore Illinois’ renewable energy landscape and track the progress of the state’s clean energy transition. Phase II introduces an enhanced user experience, including interactive dashboards, visualized datasets, searchable maps, and more. To learn more, users can view the [Phase II Release Notes](#) or the [How to Explore a Dashboard](#) web pages for tips on navigating the dashboards.
- **Annual Report Response Deadlines and Cure Period** – The Annual Report Cure Period has begun for all AVs. During the Cure Period, the Program Administrator will review Annual Report responses and contact AVs to address any report discrepancies. The Annual Report Cure Period concludes on October 13, 2026, for AVs that have not signed a REC Contract Amendment and on October 30, 2026, for AVs who have signed a REC Contract Amendment. At this point, the Program Administrator will calculate any potential Drawdowns for the annual REC performance evaluations. Please review your portfolio to ensure that any contract status is correct and request any changes in a timely manner so the Drawdown calculations can be completed accurately. The Program Administrator created and posted on-demand resources to enable AVs to familiarize themselves with the requirements and understand how Annual Report data is utilized to assess REC performance in relation to contractual obligations. Please see the [REC Contract and Annual Report Help Guides](#) page for more information.

Reference and Reminders

- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** – AVs must indicate any requests to withdraw or withhold projects from ICC submission during a 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. 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)
9/8/2026	9/10/2026	9/24/2026
9/22/2026	9/24/2026	10/8/2026

DG projects are only 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 will be required to submit to the ICC or withdraw. See Section 5.A of the 2026-27 [Program Guidebook](#) for more detail.

- **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 [Portal Updates](#) page.

- **Application Processing Tables and Updates** – Application processing tables are maintained [here](#). These tables are updated daily. 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](#). For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisshines.com.
- **Updated! Update on Part I and Part II Application Processing Following Submission Spikes** – [As previously announced](#) application review timelines are significantly delayed, **Part I application review time is 10 weeks and Part II application review time is also 10 weeks**. The Program Administrator is expanding the Application Processing team and implementing automated review enhancements to improve efficiency and increase application review capacity. The Program Administrator anticipates a return to the target two-week review time for Part I applications by mid-October and Part II by the end of November. Part II projects with a battery or storage component undergo additional technical review which may extend the initial application review timeline. The Program has added 200+ hours per month for battery schematic review and anticipates moving battery schematic reviews to the Portal to reduce admin time and turnaround time for review. Please see [this announcement](#) for more details.

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