

Update on Part I and Part II Application Processing, Reminder About Marketing Federal Credits, Updated Disciplinary FAQs

August 7, 2026

Coming up in Illinois Shines

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

- **Key Dates**
 - **August 17** – Mentee and Mentor Registration For the 2026-27 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Opens
 - **August 28** – Mentee and Mentor Registration For the 2026-27 Mentorship Program Fall Cohort Closes
- **Deadlines**
 - **August 18** – Re-Batching Opens for AVs (For September 3, 2026, ICC Meeting)
 - **August 20** – Election Deadline – Project Re-Batch or Withdrawal (For September 3, 2026, ICC Meeting)

Stakeholder Support

- **Program Administrator Office Hours** – August 12, 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: "[Program REC Quantity Calculations are calculated using the AC system sizes and output.](#)"

Program News

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

- **New! Update on Part I and Part II Application Processing Following Submission Spikes** – [As previously announced](#), Part I application review time is 14 weeks and Part II application review time is 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 [yesterday's announcement](#) for more details.
- **New! Reminder About Marketing Federal Credits** – Section I.C.1. of the [Consumer Protection Handbook](#) states that “any marketing to customers that mentions a federal investment tax credit (FITC) must be accurate based on current availability and limitations of any such credit and must not be misleading.” Although the residential tax credit has sunset, the commercial credit is still available and may be used by tax-exempt entities through Elective Pay. The IPA has received reports of misleading marketing regarding Federal Tax Credits, including overestimates of the tax credit some projects are eligible for and assurances that certain equipment qualifies when, in fact, it does not. The IPA strongly encourages all AVs and Designees to take caution when speaking with customers about the eligibility of individual projects for certain levels of tax credits, especially tax-exempt customers eligible for

[Elective Pay](#). That option carries its own set of requirements that may differ from the requirements for the commercial ITC. Additionally, AVs and Designees generally should exercise caution when discussing tax credits with customers or projecting the amount the customer will receive. The IPA encourages customers to consult with a tax professional.

- **New! New to the Program Website:**
 - Complaints and Disciplinary Action FAQs ([Consumer FAQs](#) page)
 - Disciplinary Action FAQs ([Vendor FAQs](#) page)
- **Update to Proof of Property Tax Exemption for Houses of Worship** – Previously, only a Non-Homestead Property Tax Exemption Certificate was acceptable proof of property tax exemption for projects up to 100 kW AC sited on Houses of Worship. If the AV cannot provide the Non-Homestead Property Tax Exemption Certificate, alternate means of proof of property tax exemption include:
 - A letter from the county, on county letterhead, confirming the project address is in exempt status. It is best practice for the letter to detail the land and buildings that are exempt from taxation under the non-homestead exemption law.
 - A screenshot from the county website showing a Zero Tax Bill or a parcel summary that shows the project address/parcel is exempt or doesn't have a taxable assessment/assessed value.
- **Contracting Utility Registry Accounts Matrix Updated** – [As previously announced](#), the [Contracting Utility Registry Accounts](#) matrix has been added to the [Program Documents](#) page and provides updated guidance on which GATS and M-RETS tracking registry accounts standing orders should be set to for projects under the 2026 REC Contract.
- **Renewal Process for Approved Vendors with Common Ownership** – In 2025, the Program modified the annual renewal process for AVs who share common ownership with, one or more, other AVs. In September and October, all AVs who share common ownership will be required to submit their annual renewals at one time in a single Excel file. Questions on the renewal form are not changing. Beginning in early August and into September, the Program will provide additional information, including links to where AVs can submit their renewals and company's specific due dates, to these AVs about the updated process.
- **CDCS Application Deadline for Program Year 2026-27 is August 31, 2026** – [As previously announced](#), the application submission deadline for Program Year 2026-27 CDCS category is August 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CPT. Applications will not be accepted after the close of the application window. Additional information about the review and scoring and CDCS project applications will be published following the close of the application window. For any questions or support in the CDCS category, please contact communitysolar@illinoisshines.com.
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for August** – The last Part II Verification date for August is August 25, 2026. Applications that are Part II verified on or before August 25, 2026, will be included in the September invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between August 26 and August 31, 2026, will be invoiced in October 2026. Part II Verification Cut Off dates for each month have been added to the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page.
- **August REC Invoicing Opened August 1, 2026** – REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on August 1, 2026. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by August 10, 2026, to receive payment for the August invoice period. Any invoice amounts not submitted to the utility by August 10, 2026, will be carried forward and included in the November 2026 invoice period.
- **IPA Wins National Clean Energy Awards for Illinois Shines Mentorship Program and Solar Consumer Protection Initiatives** – The IPA's Illinois Shines Mentorship Program and Solar Consumer Protection Initiatives received national State Leadership in Clean Energy (SLICE) Awards from the [Clean Energy States Alliance](#), a bipartisan coalition of state energy agencies. The SLICE Awards recognize innovative state-led programs that are accelerating the adoption of clean energy technologies. Please see the [IPA press release](#) for additional details.

- **IPA Issues Illinois Shines Program Year 2025-26 End of Year Report** – On July 31, 2026, the Program released the [Program Year 2025-26 End of Year Report](#). The Report highlights data on some of the most significant and high-impact activities produced by the Program and its participating stakeholders. The full report is available on the [About](#) page.
- **Annual Report Submission Deadlines and Cure Period Begins** – On July 1, 2026, AVs with an active REC Contract were sent an email with a link to the Annual Report Response Form and a link to their SharePoint folder where Annual Report data will be housed. The Annual Report submission deadline for entities that did NOT sign the REC Contract Amendment was July 15, and the Annual Report Cure Period began July 16, 2026, where the Program Administrator contacted AVs to cure any report discrepancies. The Annual Report submission deadline for entities who have signed a REC Contract Amendment was on August 3, 2026, and the Annual Report Cure Period for these entities began on August 4, 2026. Submission of an Annual Report is a Program requirement, and failure to submit an Annual Report is an Event of Default under the REC Contract that puts both the AV and its contracted projects in jeopardy. Following the conclusion of the Annual Report cure period on October 30, 2026, the Program Administrator will calculate any potential Drawdowns for the annual REC performance and CS parameters evaluations. The calculation will include any finalized batch or contract assignments, REC delivery obligation reduction requests, or Force Majeure requests that are reported before October 30, 2026. 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. Please review the [2025-26 Approved Vendor Annual Report Guide](#) and additional AV resource materials under [REC Contract and Annual Report Help Guides](#) 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)
8/18/2026	8/20/2026	9/3/2026
8/24/2026	8/26/2026	9/10/2026

Beginning with re-batching that opened on June 29, 2026, DG projects are now 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. Upcoming portal enhancements include:

Development Focus	Details	Delivery
Fixes issue where user account does not unblock, after five minutes, after three unsuccessful login attempts	To solve a login blocking issue, attempt logging was added and user accounts are now unblocked after a five minute cooldown period and login attempts can resume.	August 4, 2026
Excludes Public Schools from EEC and Small DG REC adder calculations	For DG Disclosure Forms in the Portal, where customer type is Public School, users are now notified that the "Calculate" button, to calculate the expected REC incentive payment, does not include either the EEC DG \$5/REC adder or the Small DG Customer-Owned \$20/REC adder and that these adders must be manually calculated and entered if they are to be included for Public School customers.	August 4, 2026
Subscriber Management - Subscription Dashboard	AVs and Designees will now be able to see the Designee ID (if Disclosure Form is being created with Designee ID) on the Subscriptions dashboard, when they create and complete a CS Disclosure Form via CSV import or Copy functionality.	August 4, 2026
Allows CS Projects to be Interconnected with MidAmerican	AVs can now select MidAmerican as the utility for all types of CS project applications and disclosure forms. When selected, the applicable MidAmerican utility rates will be used to update estimated bill credits for first year calculations. For Disclosure Forms, MidAmerican can be selected via the Portal, CSV upload, and API. Note that when submitting a CS application, the Illinois Shines program in MidAmerican territory requires compliance with both the Illinois Shines program requirements and MidAmerican's community solar tariff. The IPA strongly advises that any developers considering this reach out to both the IPA and MidAmerican Energy Company to discuss their planned approach. To discuss this with the IPA, please reach out to IPA.Solar@illinois.gov .	August 4, 2026

- **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.

Other Opportunities

- **Safer Foundation Job Fair** – The Safer Foundation is hosting a job fair on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Safer Foundation Danny K. Davis Second Chance Center on Chicago's West Side. The Safer Foundation is a CEJA Workforce Hub that trains returning residents across multiple industries, including clean energy. Program participants looking to connect with EEPs are encouraged to table free of charge. Interested employers should sign up following the instructions on [this form](#).

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