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) requires that in Program Year 2026-27, 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 involved in the Illinois Shines Program.

How Can the Program Administrator Support?

This quick assessment is designed to help your organization assess progress toward meeting the MES requirement. If your organization faces challenges in fulfilling these obligations, the 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).

Failure to submit a Mid-Year Report will not result in disciplinary action, but the Mid-Year Report does provide an opportunity to show progress toward meeting the Minimum Equity Standard ("MES"). If an organization is struggling to meet MES requirements, the Program Administrator will reach out to share additional resources and guidance. Failure to submit a Mid-Year Report may negatively affect an organization's request for a waiver.

Asterisks indicate required sections.

Key Actions Required:

1. **Mid-Year Report Submission:** please complete and submit your MES Mid-Year Report by December 31, 2026.

For more detailed information regarding the Equity Accountability System and the Minimum Equity Standard, please visit illinoisshines.com/equity-accountability-system-hub.

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

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 and title 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 14% MES Requirement in your total Illinois-based Illinois Shines project workforce?*
    a. Yes
    b. No
7. Do you anticipate hiring new employees for your Illinois-based Illinois Shines projects in the next 6 months?
    a. Yes
    b. No
8. If yes, who is the best person in your organization to engage on hiring efforts?
    a. Short answer
9. If you are not currently on track to meet the MES requirement, what barriers or hurdles are you experiencing?
    a. Long answer
10. 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
11. What additional resources or guidance would be helpful for you to meet the MES requirement?
    a. Long answer