



Illinois Finance Authority/Climate Bank

NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Solar for All Expansion: SolarApp+ Adoption and Implementation Grant

CSFA # 560-01-3562

Issued: April 11, 2025

Applications Due by: May 11, 2025 by 5 PM CDT

Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (CB), issues this **NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)** to announce the opening of the first round of competition for grants under the Illinois Solar for All award for SolarApp+ Adoption and Implementation.

This NOFO will **not** commit the State of Illinois or IFA/CB to any contracts for any supplies or services or any grant or funding awards. All costs associated with responding to this NOFO are at the applicant's expense.

This NOFO constitutes a Request for Proposals. Please submit your applications via the AmpliFund system. The Project Narrative, described below, shall not exceed five (5) total pages in length in Microsoft Word (.docx) or readable PDF format, and should be uploaded to the AmpliFund system. Submission via AmpliFund is the only acceptable method of delivery. Fax, mail, and courier delivery shall not be accepted, unless special accommodation is granted by the IFA/CB. Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted or not legible files, may not be reviewed.

Proprietary information: Any information obtained in response to this NOFO may be used by the IFA/CB and the State of Illinois for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if reasonable, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Any material within a response to this NOFO identified as confidential must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. IFA may publicly post a summary of the responses received.



UNIFORM NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

Summary Information

	Data Field	
1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (CB)
2.	Agency Contact:	Claire Brinley, federalfunding@il-fa.com , 312/651-1319
3.	Announcement Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	IFA-SFA-01
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	Illinois Solar for All Expansion: SolarApp+ Adoption and Implementation Grant
7.	CSFA Number:	560-01-3562
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	SolarApp+ Grants
9.	Assistance Listing (formerly CFDA Number):	Enter "not applicable" if Source of Funding does not include Federal or Federal pass-through funds
10.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	Up to 15
11.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$300,000
12.	Award Range	\$20,000 - \$30,000
13.	Source of Funding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through. US EPA Grant Number (FAIN): 84090501. SAM.gov Assistance Listing 66.959. <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding
14.	Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
15.	Indirect Costs Allowed Restrictions on Indirect Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction: US EPA General Terms and Conditions, Sec. 18; Assistance Amendment between IL Finance Authority and US EPA (limiting budget to 10% de minimus rate).
16.	Posted Date:	April 11, 2025
17.	Application Range:	April 11, 2025 – May 11, 2025
18.	Technical Assistance Session:	Session Offered: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Session Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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Notice of Funding Opportunity

A. Program Objectives

NOFO Purpose: Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (IFA/CB), invites project proposals under Illinois' award for the Illinois Solar for All Expansion: SolarApp+ Adoption and Implementation Grant Program (Program). With this NOFO, IFA/CB invites eligible entities interested in applying for funding under this program to file their application proposals in compliance with the terms of this NOFO.

IFA/CB reserves the right to revise any part of this NOFO by issuing addendum(s) at any time. Issuance of this NOFO, or subsequent addendum(s), if any, does not constitute a commitment by IFA/CB or the State of Illinois to fund any project. In addition, IFA/CB may cancel this NOFO at any time, without incurring any liability from responders or potential responders.

Illinois Solar for All Overall Objectives: In April 2024, Illinois was announced as one of the recipients of an award under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [Solar for All](#) program, created by the [Inflation Reduction Act](#). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) awarded \$156,120,000 to the State of Illinois to implement a variety of programs over the five-year Solar for All grant period (2024-2029). The SolarApp+ Adoption and Implementation Grant Program is one of the programs approved by US EPA.

Collectively, Solar for All programs will deliver on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's objectives by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution, delivering cost savings on electric bills for overburdened households, and unlocking new markets for distributed solar energy. State awards were competitive, and Illinois' Solar for All Expansion proposal was designed to bring the benefits of solar energy to low-income and disadvantaged communities across the state. It will expand the existing Illinois SFA (ILSFA) program and Adjustable Block Program/Illinois Shines Program (Illinois Shines) with financial assistance (including grants and loans) to support health and safety and enabling upgrades, incorporate energy storage, expand residential solar, support energy sovereignty and community-driven projects, and provide critical capital to disadvantaged solar vendors to grow their businesses and capabilities. The technical assistance portion of this effort, which includes SolarApp+ Adoption and Implementation Grants, will improve and extend direct community engagement efforts to expand residential solar adoption, will create tools for contractors to braid multiple funding streams, and support local governments to streamline the application and permitting process. Illinois' Solar for All Expansion programs will also leverage and build on Illinois' soon-to-be-implemented clean energy workforce development programs to grow an equitable workforce

Subaward Objectives: Under the administration of the IFA/CB, Illinois will hold a competitive selection process to identify projects for up to \$300,000 per year of this federal funding, to be deployed in up to 10 grants of up to \$30,000, to assist units of government in adopting and implementing the SolarApp+ solar permitting software platform. SolarApp+ is a free online platform developed by the U.S. Department of Energy to streamline and automate the permitting process for residential solar energy systems. SolarApp+ standardizes plan reviews and compliance checks, allowing for faster approval of permits, reducing administrative burdens for local governments, and expediting solar adoption. Grants may be used for costs associated with adopting and implementing SolarApp+, as well as costs associated with updating residential electrical codes, if needed, where that effort is paired with efforts to adopt and implement SolarApp+.

IFA/CB will select projects that support three core state objectives: **Administrative Efficiency, Community Impact, and Long-Term Sustainability**. The set of metrics and strategies described below will be used to effectively track whether investments achieve State goals.

IFA/CB's investment decisions in selecting projects under this program are guided by the "Climate and Equitable Jobs Act" (CEJA) and the stakeholder input received before submitting its Solar for All proposal and during the post-award Illinois Solar for All Expansion working groups convened in December 2024 and January 2025. CEJA establishes and addresses several Illinois energy policy goals and prioritizes investments for communities that experience low incomes and historic disinvestment.

To determine the scope of activities of this Program, the IFA/CB gathered stakeholder feedback at a meeting on December 20, 2024. The meeting had 31 attendees, including representatives of a large group of municipalities, solar industry advocates and developers, labor representatives, consumer and environmental advocates, government officials, and utilities. There, the IFA/CB and stakeholders discussed barriers to adopting SolarApp+ and other related issues that have been incorporated into this NOFO.

IFA/CB will assess the effectiveness of objectives highlighted here, through the Program implementation. Specifically, the State will assess whether the objectives established under this Program have resulted in projects that generate the greatest benefit in streamlining residential solar permitting decisions.

1. Administrative Efficiency

Objective: More efficient residential solar permitting processes.

Intended Outcomes: Reduce the cost and increase the speed of permitting residential rooftop solar systems, benefiting both governmental permitting departments and solar businesses.

Metric: Grant recipients will track the impact of SolarApp+ on municipal operations by measuring the average speed of a residential solar permitting process from application to a decision after SolarApp+ is implemented and comparing that to their experience before implementation.

2. Community Impact

Objective: Improve the market for residential rooftop solar systems, benefitting businesses that install the systems and residents who see reduced energy bills as a result of their system.

Intended Outcomes: Easier installation processes lead to increased installations of residential rooftop solar systems, resulting in increased economic activity and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, pollutants impacting public health, fuel costs, and energy burden.

Metrics: Permitted installations will be tracked, to the extent practicable, by census tract. IFA/CB will work with funding recipients to track emissions reductions related to their projects.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

Objective: Ensure the funded jurisdiction can sustain SolarAPP+ implementation after the grant period.

Intended Outcomes: By end of the project, SolarApp+ will be fully integrated with the funded jurisdiction's processes, staff and any consultants working with the jurisdiction will be trained on its use and connected to ongoing technical assistance, and solar installation contractors working in the community will be trained on SolarApp+ use.

Metrics: The IFA/CB will work with grant recipients to establish training goals specific to their community's needs and will make introductions to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) team supporting SolarApp+.

B. Funding Information

This award is utilizing federal funds. Sub-awards selected by IFA/CB are subject to preliminary approval of the US EPA before any funding is awarded to the applicant. IFA/CB will choose candidates based on the selection criteria discussed in Section E below. Then, as required by its grant agreement with US EPA, IFA/CB will work with those candidates to provide US EPA documentation that:

- Describes the activities that will be supported by the subaward;
- Specifies the range of funding to be provided through the subaward;
- Identifies which types of entities (i.e., governmental, non-profit, for-profit) will receive the subaward; and
- Specifies how the subrecipients are eligible subrecipients in accordance with EPA's subaward policy and specifically how the subrecipients will comply with the requirement that the subrecipient must only receive reimbursement for their actual direct or approved indirect costs such that they do not "profit" from the transaction.

Candidates will only be granted funding under this grant program after US EPA provides written confirmation of the adequacy of this documentation.

The total target funding distribution for the first year of the program is \$300,000. The ultimate allocation may differ from this target allocation based on the finalized amounts of awarded projects.

- Expected amounts of individual State awards: up to \$30,000 per project.
- Anticipated start dates and periods of performance for new awards: Summer 2025, 2 years
- Type of assistance instrument that may be awarded to successful applications: Grant.
- Cost match requirement: None.
- Indirect costs allowed? Yes, see Section C.8., below.

Should the initial process fail to result in awards of all funds from the small provider portion, Illinois may conduct one or more subsequent competitive project solicitation cycles with the aim of funding projects on a timeline that meets grant requirements and community needs.

C. Eligibility Information

Proposed projects must meet the grant requirements described below.

1. Eligible Entities

Only units of government that issue permits for residential rooftop solar energy installations are eligible for this funding. Applicants included in the SAM.gov Exclusion List and status on the Illinois Stop Payment List will not be eligible for an award.

2. Project Location

Only units of government in Illinois are eligible for this funding. In addition, projects must create benefits in communities where residents experience low incomes. Thus, eligible units of government must contain one or more census tracts identified by either:

- a. The Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program's [R3 Areas](#) map, which includes areas where residents have historically been excluded from economic opportunities, as evidenced by rates of child poverty, unemployment, gun injuries, and incarceration, among other factors; or
- b. The [Illinois Solar for All program's Income-Eligible Census Map](#), which identifies census tracts where at least half of the households earn an income of 80% or less of the Area Median Income.

Proposed projects must demonstrate a benefit to a census tract identified by one of these maps. The project's implementation does not need to be located within an identified census tract to create benefits for that census tract. However, projects must demonstrate that the use of SolarApp+ and, if applicable, updated codes, can reasonably be expected to create benefits such as those described in Sections A.1, A.2, and A.3 above, for communities identified by one or both of these maps.

3. Existing Electrical and Other Codes

Through the stakeholder process, IFA/CB learned that a key barrier to the adoption and implementation of SolarApp+ is the need to update electrical and other codes to those that are supported by the SolarApp+ platform. The SolarApp+ platform current [supports the following codes](#):

- 2017 National Fire Protection Association 70 National Electrical Code (NEC) for rooftop PV permits
- 2018 I-Codes (International Residential Code and International Building Code) for rooftop PV permits
- 2017 NEC for residential battery storage permits
- 2020 NEC for residential rooftop PV and battery storage permits
- 2021 I-Codes for rooftop PV and residential battery storage permits

Consequently, to be eligible for this funding, applying units of government must either:

- a. Have codes supported by SolarApp+ already in place, or
- b. Propose to update codes to those supported by SolarApp+, in addition to other required activities.

4. Eligible Activities

Subawards to eligible entities under this award must be used for activities to adopt and implement SolarApp+. Subawards may also be used for activities to update codes to those supported by SolarApp+, as described in Section C.3., above. These activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Community and stakeholder outreach and education on SolarApp+ and, if necessary, facilitating codes updates;
- b. Staff and policymaker education on SolarApp+ and, if necessary, facilitating codes updates;
- c. Technical working groups to implement SolarApp+ and, if necessary, facilitating codes updates;
- d. Coordination with third-party permit review vendors;
- e. Training for permitting staff and vendors;
- f. Training for solar installation contractors who must file for permits via SolarApp+;
- g. Training for solar installation contractors, if necessary, on facilitating codes updates; and
- h. other activities that are necessary to adopt and implement SolarApp+ and any facilitating codes updates.

Note: The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has training resources available. IFA/CB will work with NREL to ensure that grantees can take advantage of relevant no-cost training opportunities where they are available. However, applicants should include all training needs in their proposals.

Non-eligible activities: A subaward to an eligible entity under this grant Program **may not** be used for:

- a. Activities that do not support the adoption and implementation of SolarApp+ or, if necessary, facilitating codes updates;
- b. Equipment purchases or rental;
- c. Software (other than SolarApp+ which is available free of charge);
- d. Costs of acquiring “intangible property,” as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#), or
- e. Lobbying activities, union organizing, or other activities prohibited under the terms of the federal Solar for All program.

5. Indirect Cost Rate

To charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs:

Federally Negotiated Rate. Organizations that receive direct federal funding, may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The organization must provide a copy of the federally negotiated NICRA.

State Negotiated Rate. The organization may negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have a Federally Negotiated Rate. If an organization has not previously established an indirect cost rate, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted through State of Illinois’ centralized indirect cost rate system no later than three months after receipt of a Notice of State Award (NOSA). If an organization previously established an indirect cost rate, the organization must annually submit a new indirect cost proposal through CARS within six months after the close of the grantee’s fiscal year.

De Minimis Rate. An organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with the Federal Government or the State of Illinois is eligible to elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC)¹. Once established, the De Minimis Rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the De Minimis Rate.

All grantees must complete an indirect cost rate negotiation or elect the de minimis rate to claim indirect costs. Indirect costs claimed without a negotiated rate or a de minimis rate election on record in the State of Illinois centralized indirect cost rate system may be subject to disallowance.

¹ MTDC is defined at [2 CFR 200.1](#).

D. Application Submission Information

1. Contact to Request Application Package and Accommodations.

The full application is available through the www.grants.illinois.gov/portal. If any assistance is needed in accessing application materials or submitting application due to limited Internet access or other limitations, the potential applicant should email federalfunding@il-fa.com.

2. Submission Approach

This NOFO is a competitive process to solicit project applications from interested entities to meet the funding objectives of this program. This process has been designed to reduce the burden on entities seeking to apply for funding and ensure alignment on funding objectives with respondents. The competitive process will be divided into stages:

- a. **Initial application window.** The initial application process will provide respondents with an accessible, easy-to-navigate method for outlining their proposed project to IFA for selection. The application process will provide the opportunity for entities with limited bandwidth to describe their project, demonstrate the ability of their project to meet program objectives, and receive rapid feedback on their project.
- b. **Candidate selection.** IFA will evaluate projects submitted under the application process on their likelihood and ability to meet program objectives, as described further in Section E below. Based on a review of applications, projects will be identified for funding and IFA will work with selected candidates to seek approval for funding from US EPA, as required by IFA's federal grant.
- c. **Competitive, rolling application windows.** After the initial application deadline, the IFA reserves the option to open a competitive, rolling application window for project selection. IFA anticipates that if it opens a competitive rolling application process, based on the availability of program funds, applications will be accepted on a quarterly basis and evaluated competitively as a batch, based on the ability of a project to meet program objectives.

3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), SAM.gov & GATA registration

To submit an application, the applicant must register and pre-qualify through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, www.grants.illinois.gov/portal. Registration and pre-qualification are required annually. Selected applicants must also register with the federal SAM.gov and must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) assigned in the SAM.gov. Applicants included in the SAM.gov Exclusion List and status on the Illinois Stop Payment List will not be eligible for an award. The Grantee Portal alerts the entity alerts of "qualified" status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., missing UEI Unique Entity Identifier assigned in SAM.gov, not in good standing with the Secretary of State). Inclusion on the SAM.gov Exclusion List cannot be remediated.

4. Application Content and Format

NOTE: Applicants selected for funding under this Program will be subject to the terms and conditions of the IFA's Assistance Amendment to its Illinois Solar for All Expansion grant (FAIN 84090501) and US EPA's [General Terms and Conditions](#), as they apply to subgrantees.

5. Mandatory Forms

All project submissions must include the following mandatory forms:

- a. Uniform State Grant Application (available in AmpliFund);
- b. Project Narrative (as described below);
- c. Budget using the Uniform Budget Template (available in AmpliFund);
- d. Timeline and Deliverables (available in AmpliFund).

Please complete the Application, Budget, and Timeline and Deliverables forms that are available in AmpliFund and upload a Project Narrative, as described below, to the AmpliFund system.

6. Project Narrative

The applicant must submit an application Project Narrative, in Microsoft Word or a readable PDF format, of up to 5 pages, in 11- or 12-point font. The Project Narrative must describe the proposed project in sufficient details, providing the following information:

Applicant's information and qualifications (up to 1 page):

- a. Lead applicant's name, type, and contact person (name, title, phone, email and address).
- b. A brief description of the applicant's background and any relevant experience, including with similar codes and permitting-related projects and/or working with other federal and state awards.
- c. Indicate if the applicant has been debarred or is a suspended entity.
- d. If more than one entity is involved in the proposed project, describe each entity involved and provide name and contact information for each entity's project lead.

Project Description (up to 4 pages):

- a. **Project Location:** Indicate the unit of government proposing to adopt SolarApp+ and, if needed, facilitating code updates. Indicate whether at least one Census tract within the unit of government's jurisdiction is marked as an R3 Area on the [R3 Areas](#) map or as Income-Eligible on the [Illinois Solar for All program's Income-Eligible Census Map](#).
 - i. Note: Each R3 Area corresponds to a single Census tract. However, adjacent tracts on the map may be shaded the same color, so many tracts may appear as only one.

When scoring applications, IFA/CB staff will verify how many R3 Areas each unit of government contains using these maps.

- b. **Facilitating Codes Upgrades:** If the project includes efforts to upgrade codes to facilitate the adoption and implementation of SolarApp+, as described in Section C.3. above, identify which codes are currently in use and which codes the applicant will seek to adopt and implement in place of the current codes.
- c. **Project Description.** Describe the activities included in the project in as much detail as possible. Refer to the list of eligible activities in Section C.4, and also describe any other activities the applicant will undertake to adopt and implement SolarApp+ and, if necessary, facilitating codes upgrades. Do not include activities and expenses listed as ineligible for funding in Section C.4 or D.6(j)(viii).

Describe how the activities included in this project are expected to bring about the adoption and implementation of SolarApp+ in your jurisdiction. Identify any work that has already been done in your jurisdiction to adopt and implement SolarApp+ or, if needed, facilitating codes upgrades, and describe the outcome of that work and how this proposal for funding will build on that work (if applicable). Give an assessment of the barriers to adopting and implementing SolarApp+ and, if needed, facilitating codes upgrades, and describe how this proposal will overcome those barriers.

- d. **Anticipated Community Benefits.** Provide any available data on the number of residential rooftop solar installations and permitting decisions made by your jurisdiction over the past 5 years. Provide any available data on the length of time from permit request to final decision for residential rooftop solar installations in your jurisdiction. Describe outreach or other efforts to encourage the adoption of residential rooftop solar in low-income communities in the jurisdiction.
- e. **Workforce Benefits.** If the proposed project includes a workforce training component, describe who will be trained (for example, permitting staff, installation contractors, others?), how they will be trained and other details. As noted above, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has SolarApp+ training resources available. IFA/CB will work with NREL to ensure that grantees can take advantage of relevant no-cost training opportunities where they are available. However, applicants should include all training needs in their proposals.
- f. **Funding Objectives:** Describe how the application of SolarApp+ and, if needed, facilitating codes upgrades, can reasonably be expected to create benefits, including those described in Sections A.1, A.2, and A.3 above, for communities identified by the [R3 Areas](#) map or as Income-Eligible on the [Illinois Solar for All program's Income-Eligible Census Map](#). Describe how the proposed project meets any or all of the Program Objectives outlined in Sections A.1, A.2, and A.3 above, and the applicant's ability to demonstrate compliance with the highlighted metrics.

- g. **Project timeline:** Applicants must provide a high-level project timeline outlining major tasks, milestones, and expected completion dates using the timeline form provided in AmpliFund. Tasks and associated metrics must align with the proposed budget and the total grant amount requested.
- h. **Project costs breakdown.** Respondents should fill out the budget template using the form in AmpliFund. All expenditures must be allowable, allocatable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles. For more information, see [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](#) - Cost Principles as well as applicable provisions of [2 CFR Part 1500](#).
- i. **Performance measurement.** Grantees will be responsible for ensuring all reporting requirements associated with the federal funding are met. This includes providing timely and accurate reporting to the Climate Bank in compliance with all federal and programmatic obligations. The Climate Bank will ensure that reporting processes are adjusted as necessary to meet updated or additional requirements issued by U.S. EPA. Reporting will include, but is not limited to, project financial and activity report, and assistance in developing sample project case studies.

Reporting will include semi-annual reports to assist the Illinois Climate Bank in showing progress on achieving this program's purpose. These semi-annual progress reports will be due to US EPA within 30 calendar days of the end of the semi-annual reporting period. Consequently, to allow time to compile reports from multiple grantees, reports may be due to the Climate Bank within as few as 10 days of the end of the semi-annual reporting period, which run from July 1 to December 1 and from January 1 to June 30 of each year. Grant recipients will track the impact of SolarApp+ on municipal operations by measuring the average speed of a residential solar permitting process from application to a decision after SolarApp+ is implemented and comparing that to their experience before implementation. Permitted installations will be tracked, to the extent practicable, by census tract. IFA/CB will work with funding recipients to track emissions reductions related to their projects. The IFA/CB will work with grant recipients to establish training goals specific to their community's needs and will make introductions to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) team supporting SolarApp+.

- j. **Funding Compliance Requirements.** In responding to this NOFO, applicants must acknowledge compliance with the requirements related to this US EPA subaward:
 - i. **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and other Federal statutes and regulations** prohibiting discrimination in Federal financial assistance programs apply, including provisions protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, and the environment per [200 CFR 200.300\(a\)](#), as well as regulations, including [2 CFR](#)

- [200.300\(b\)](#) prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- ii. **Consultant Cap.** Grant funds available for salary paid to individual consultants is limited to the maximum daily rate for Level IV of the Executive Schedule.²
 - iii. **Management Fees.** Management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and approved indirect rates are not allowable.³
 - iv. **Real Property and Equipment.** Real property and equipment are not allowable expenditures under this grant.
 - v. **Foreign Work and Materials.** IFA/CB must obtain written consent from US EPA prior to awarding a subaward that will be performed in a foreign country. Alert the IFA/CB in the proposal if any portion of the project will be performed in a foreign country.⁴
 - vi. **Reporting Executive Compensation.** Certain subrecipients receiving federal funding may be required to report executive compensation. For more information, refer to [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), section 15.3 and 15.4.⁵
 - vii. **Conflicts of Interest.** Applicants must have systems in place to address, resolve, and disclose conflicts of interest and must disclose conflicts of interest to IFA/CB, as described in [US EPA's Conflicts of Interest policy](#).⁶
 - viii. **Utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.** US EPA requires that subrecipients make good faith efforts to utilize Disadvantaged Business Enterprises when procuring services and supplies, and retain documentation of doing so. The specific six good faith efforts can be found at [40 CFR Section 33.301\(a\)-\(f\)](#).
 - ix. **Other Ineligible Activities.** Certify that the requested funding will not be used to encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned, or pending legislation or directly or indirectly support or oppose union organizing.⁷
 - x. **Refreshments.** IFA/CB has not received advance permission from US EPA to fund light refreshments or meals served at meetings, training workshops, or outreach events. Thus, applicants may not use funds from this grant for these purposes.⁸

² For more information, see [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Section 8.7.

³ [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 9.

⁴ [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Section 8.11.

⁵ [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 15.3, 15.4.

⁶ [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 23.2.

⁷ [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 13 (union organizing) and Sec. 45 (lobbying).

⁸ See [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec 35.

- xi. **Procurement Standards.** The procurement standards in [2 CFR Part 200](#), including those requiring competition when the subrecipient acquires goods and services from contractors (including consultants), and Domestic preferences for procurements at [2 CFR 200.322](#) will apply to grant awardees.
- xii. **Suspensions and Debarment.** The applicant must certify that it is not suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal funds as specified in [2 CFR 200.332](#) and [2 CFR 180.300](#) and is not suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal funds in *SAM.gov* and in *SAM.gov* Exclusions.
- xiii. **Proposed Costs.** The applicant must certify that proposed costs are reasonable, allocable, and allowable, as defined by [US EPA's Interim General Budget Guidance](#).
- xiv. **Reporting Potentially Duplicative Funding.** The applicant must certify that if it or a project team member receives any other award of federal funds for activities that potentially overlap with the activities funded under this award, it will promptly notify the IFA/CB in writing. If there are identical cost items, the subrecipient must promptly notify the IFA/CB in writing of the potential duplication and eliminate any inappropriate duplication of funding.

E. Review and Selection Criteria

Minimum Requirements: To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be located in Illinois, be submitted by an eligible entity, as described in Section C.1 above, and propose eligible activities, as described in Section C.4 above.

Selection Criteria: Applications will be reviewed competitively. IFA/CB will evaluate projects for selection based on the following criteria, at a minimum:

- **Feasibility and Readiness:** The extent to which the applying unit of government demonstrates that it has the capacity to implement the proposed activities and has policies in place, or a willingness to put policies in place, to adopt and implement SolarApp+ and facilitating codes updates, if needed.
- **Quality and Clarity of Proposed Activities:** A clear, detailed, and structured plan of activities that are designed to accomplish the program's objectives.
- **Expected Improvement in Administrative Efficiency:** The potential to reduce the time and effort needed to make permitting decisions, both for the applying unit of government and for parties seeking permits.
- **Expected Impact on the Community:** The potential to increase the installation of residential rooftop solar installations, including those participating in Illinois' Solar for All program and those located in census tracts identified by the [R3 Areas](#) map or as Income-Eligible on the [Illinois Solar for All program's Income-Eligible Census Map](#).
- **Long-Term Sustainability:** The potential for the results of the grant to persist over time. That is, extent to which applications lead to the full integration of SolarApp+ with the funded

jurisdiction's processes; training for staff, relevant vendors, and installation contractors; and connections to ongoing technical assistance.

Project Community Benefits assessment: A successful project must score at least 30 points out of maximum 50 points. The selection criteria will be evaluated as follows:

Program Objectives Category	Maximum Points	Poor	Fair	Strong
Feasibility and Readiness	5	1-2 points	3 points	4-5 points
Quality and Clarity of Proposed Activities	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
Administrative Efficiency	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
Community Impact	20	1-7 points	8-14 points	15-20 points
Long-Term Sustainability	5	1-2 points	3 points	4-5 points
Total Points	50			

Each category will be evaluated in the Poor, Fair, or Strong bracket based on the description of the benefits in the project application and the likelihood of the applicant's ability to achieve them because of the proposed project activities and to successfully measure these benefits.

F. Award Administration Information

1. Schedule

IFA/CB reserves the right to deviate from this schedule at any time and without notice.

Activity/Event

Public Notice of Request for Projects:	April 11, 2025
Deadline for Receipt of Applications:	May 11, 2025
Anticipated initial project selections submitted to USEPA:	Late May 2025
Optional Rolling Application Window Opening:	July 1, 2025

2. Anticipated Announcement and Award Notices

Applicants will be notified of the selection decision within 30 days after the deadline for application submission.

Before IFA/CB can issue an award, each project selected by the IFA/CB must receive preliminary approval of the US EPA program officer. Once the successful applicants receive notice of selection, the applicants may be required to submit additional information and forms necessary for the IFA/CB to submit the project for the US EPA approval.

IFA/CB anticipates sending the Notice of State Award (NOSA) to successful applicants by email within 30 days of the approvals of the applicant's project by the US EPA.

NOTE: Neither the initial notice of selection, nor the Notice of State Award (NOSA) are authorization to begin performance of the project or incur costs. Costs incurred before entering into a subaward agreement with the IFA/CB will not be recoverable.

3. Reporting

The awarded projects will be required to report project metrics semiannually. IFA/CB may post these reports on the IFA's public website. In addition, the applicant will be required to submit project management reports quarterly throughout the life of the project.

4. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Contacts for questions and assistance:

Claire Brinley
Project Manager, Illinois Finance Agency
160 N. LaSalle St., Suite S-1000
Chicago, IL 60601
FederalFunding@il-fa.com
312-651-1319

5. Other Information

No Funding Commitment. The State is not obligated to make any award as a result of this NOFO. Any award under this program is subject to preliminary approval of the US EPA. This NOFO will **not** commit the State of Illinois or IFA/CB to any contracts for any supplies or services or any grant of funding awards. All costs associated with responding to this NOFO are at the applicant's expense.

Confidential and Proprietary Information: Any information obtained in response to this NOFO may be used by the IFA/CB and the State of Illinois for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if reasonable, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Any material within a response to this NOFO identified as confidential must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. The State may publicly post a summary of the responses received.

Appeals. IFA/CB will follow the appeal process under 44 ILL. Adm. Code 7000.350. IFA/CB intends to give the applicants that were not selected in this round of solicitation sufficient opportunities to develop



their application further so that they may resubmit their projects in the future rounds of project solicitations as they open.