

Illinois Solar for All Expansion: SolarApp+ Adoption and Implementation Grant Responses to Applicant Questions

Notice of Funding Opportunity

[IFA-SFA-03](#)

August 8, 2025 - Current

This loan or grant product is funded under the federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Solar for All program. At 5:00pm on August 7, 2025, the Illinois Finance Authority/Climate Bank received a letter from the U.S. EPA stating that it is terminating the Solar for All program. We are evaluating our options and our obligations under the U.S. EPA Solar for All grant award, and we will provide additional information as it becomes available.

August 4, 2025 – August 6, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

July 28, 2025 – August 1, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

July 21, 2025 – July 25, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

July 14, 2025 – July 18, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

July 7, 2025 – July 11, 2025

Question: I am interested in the Illinois Solar for All Expansion: SolarApp+ Adoption and Implementation Grant and wanted to confirm the state was still moving forward with the program even though funding stems from the Inflation Reduction Act.

Response: Thanks for reaching out. Yes, we are still moving forward with the program. We will respond to any changes from the federal level as they arise, but our Solar for All funding has been formally obligated and we are continuing with implementation.

Question: Just to confirm, matching contributions are not required for this program, correct?



Response: Correct. Awards of up to \$30,000 will be issued with no matching requirement.

Question: Are up to 14 awards expected to be made? I ask because that information is provided in the program documentation, but it's also stated that 10 awards will be provided.

Response: Apologies for the confusion. We have \$270,000 remaining for this program for calendar year 2025. Applications will be accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis until December 31, 2025, or when funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. There is no limit on the number of awards made, only the available funding. If we issue 9 awards for \$30,000 each, that would consume the rest of the allocation for 2025. However, if we receive requests for smaller amounts of money, we may be able to issue more awards. If funds are exhausted for 2025, there is another \$300,000 budgeted for this program in 2026.

Question: The project period expected to begin within one month of award agreement, and last for two years, correct?

Response: Correct. These are two-year grants, and we expect grantees to begin work shortly after signing the award agreement. Timelines and milestones should be outlined in the application, but will be negotiated during the award agreement process.

June 30, 2025 – July 4, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

The last day to submit questions for IFA-SFA-03 is December 19, 2025, at 5:00 PM CT or when funding is expended, whichever comes first.



Responses to Applicant Questions

Notice of Funding Opportunity

[IFA-SFA-01](#)

May 5, 2025 – May 9, 2025

Question: Are for-profit businesses eligible?

Response: No, only units of local governments are eligible.

Question: Is this grant exclusive to the adoption of SolarApp+ or would other similar solar programs also be eligible?

Response: This is exclusive to the adoption of SolarAPP+.

Question: Does the IFA or the groups running these webinars have availability to meet with nonprofits before submitting to answer specific questions/help think through specific types of outreach?

Response: No. Unfortunately, State law associated with Illinois grants is designed to ensure all grantees have the same information, so we are not allowed to meet with applicants or provide individual technical assistance.

Question: When can applicants expect to hear if they have been selected and how soon is work expected to start?

Response: IFA/CB will get responses back to applicants within a month after they close, and work will start quickly after. Project start date will vary by grant.

Question: What is the timeline of the Climate Bank in terms opening additional funding opportunities? Are these all the NOFOs the Climate Bank will be releasing this year?

Response: For the Solar for All programs, these are the only two grant programs opening this year. IFA/CB does have a number of Solar for All financing (loan) programs that we're working to get out by the end of the year, but they won't involve NOFOs. For CPRG, IFA/CB is working on a number of programs that were outlined within the initial workplan application that went to U.S. EPA. There will be additional NOFOs for new programs under CRPRG. We are working diligently to get those programs up and running. There are also a number of other programs that IFA/CB works on, including the 40101(d) Grid Resilience grants. Another NOFO under that program will open soon. IFA/CB will continue to have webinars as other NOFOs/programs open.

Question: Will these grants open up again in the near future? Or are they only being funded for this FY?

Response: If we do not receive enough qualified applications from these programs during this application window, IFA/CB reserves the right to open a later application window later this year, no earlier than June. Each of these grants has multi-year funding at this time, so we plan to open NOFOs yearly each spring



for the next 5 years. However, if there is a lack of interest or we receive feedback on the program, IF/CB may change its plans for future rounds of funding.

Question: For educational/ school districts, which grant opportunities would be appropriate for them to apply for? Additionally, would houses of worship be eligible for these grants and if so, which ones?

Response: Only units of local government with permitting power are eligible for the SolarAPP+ Adoption grants. Houses of worship would be eligible for the Residential Solar Outreach grants. Educational school districts are eligible to apply for both, but they may not be the best fit for these programs. For Climate Pollution Reduction Grants programs, the Stretch Code Adoption Grants are intended for units of local government. The Small Utility Clean Energy Planning grant is intended for municipal or electric utilities. We don't think either of these entities are the intended audience for these grants, but if you disagree, you are free to apply.

April 28, 2025 – May 2, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

April 21, 2025 – April 25, 2025

Question: I'm understanding that applicant must meet ILSFA IE or R3 criteria, have relatively current codes or the ability to update codes within two years, and already have an automated permitting process. Correct?

Response: Your understanding regarding SolarApp+ is generally correct, although I'm not sure that the applicants need to already have an automated permitting process. If they feel that they could use the funding to move to such a process using SolarApp+, they would be qualified to apply.

The last day to submit questions for IFA-SFA-01 is May 9th at 5:00 PM CT.