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# Questions and Answers

2020 Grassroots Education Request for Proposals (RFP)

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The following questions were submitted to the Program Administrator by various organizations.

Additional questions and answers are available in the recordings of the Grassroots Education Webinars available [here](#).

## Approved Vendors' Relationship to Grassroots Education Campaigns

**Can you provide clarification around how grassroots education organizations would approach a scenario where there are no Approved Vendors in an area? How would connections be made? Does this mean that the education entity would be encouraging other vendors to become ILFSA Approved Vendors?**

In this case, grassroots education organizations could encourage local contractors to become Approved Vendors, connect local installers with Approved Vendors located elsewhere in the state to provide coverage, or encourage Approved Vendors not currently working in an area to expand their coverage. In all cases grassroots education would need to provide opportunities equally to any local contractors/installers they worked with and any other entities who subsequently choose to work in their area.

**Do we have a better idea of Approved Vendors that are actually working on Distributed Generation (DG) projects? One barrier for proposers is an unwillingness (at least downstate) of Approved Vendors to take on those projects.**

The Program Administrator is requesting information on specific offers and service areas from Approved Vendors so that residents and grassroots education organizations can have greater knowledge of what options exist for their communities. A number of Approved Vendors have indicated their interest in working in the DG sub-program in downstate Illinois. The Program Administrator is developing a new referral system and catalog of offers that is expected to be available prior to the beginning of the next grassroots education cohort in June 2020.

For more information on Illinois Solar for All Approved Vendors, please see: <https://www.illinoissfa.com/vendor-directory/>.

## Budget

**If you submit a proposal for \$100K and are not selected for \$100K, could you be approved for a lesser amount?**

Yes, final budgets and scopes of work are subject to negotiation.

**Is funding provided as a reimbursement?**

Yes, though an advance payment might be possible at the beginning of the contract. Additional information about possible alternative payment terms can be found on page 12 of the Request for Provider Proposals, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Metrics and Outcomes

**In addition to the tasks listed in the RFP on page 10, under the heading “Funded grassroots education organizations will be expected to,” is there a certain number of outreach events or other events that participating organizations are required to complete as a part of this campaign?**

Each campaign will propose a different number of events and a mix of event types based on their expertise and budget, so there is no minimum number of events required.

**I am hoping to find out information regarding how many people each group was able to reach/what is expected in terms of that. If this is not something the webinar covers, do you know if that information is available elsewhere? I am reading over the Grassroots Education Design and Feedback section of the Phase 1 Evaluation Report but am not seeing that type of information. It may not be available, but thought I would check with you.**

In terms of expectations surrounding the number of people reached, the Program Administrator understands the desire for a clear benchmark, but will not be publishing a specific guideline because differences in approach, depth of education, and funding requests will vary considerably. For example, a campaign that reaches fewer individuals but provides in depth education and heavy support for individuals and households who want to participate in Illinois Solar for All or Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) job training programs would not be expected to have overall education numbers similar to a campaign requesting the same amount of funding but for a lighter touch approach. Converting education into action is important, so grassroots education campaigns should consider the balance of efforts to educate numbers of participants with support for those participants’ participation in ILSFA by providing follow-up, answering questions (or connecting to resources like the Program Administrator’s program support team or grassroots coordinator), and documenting any participant concerns.

Information on attendance levels of grassroots education events will be released in future Evaluation Reports.

**Regarding reporting requirements- What does this entail of? I wanted to know if this was something one person on our staff could complete or does it require additional staff oversight/involvement?**

Information specifying event date & time, address, and other scheduling details is entered into the tracking system (Salesforce) upon scheduling of the event. Following the event, attendance information is entered into Salesforce specifying the number of people who attended, as well as information on interested participants and some demographic information. While it seems to work best for the person planning/conducting the event to enter the information into Salesforce in most circumstances, organizations can determine their own structures for reporting. It does not require multiple layers of staff approval. Interested participant contact information will need to be retained by the grassroots education organizations and made available to the Solar for All Program Evaluator as needed.

## Collaboration

In regard to the following RFP question:

***Will your campaign employ or subcontract with person(s) with records (as defined in the Future Energy Jobs Act) or foster care alumni?***

**Are you able to point me in the direction as to where/how this is referenced in FEJA? I was also wondering if this is something that was included in last year's funding process and how many campaigns satisfied this piece.**

Section 16-108.12(a) of the Public Utilities Act (as amended by the Future Energy Jobs Act) states:

“For purposes of this Section, “person with a record” means any person who (1) has been convicted of a crime in this State or of an offense in any other jurisdiction, not including an offense or attempted offense that would subject a person to registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act; (2) has a record of an arrest or an arrest that did not result in conviction for any crime in this State or of an offense in any other jurisdiction; or (3) has a juvenile delinquency adjudication.”

This was not a provision in the previous RFP and the Program Administrator does not have information regarding their participation in currently supported campaigns.

## ILSFA Program

**Can residents who have municipally-owned utility or co-op electricity participate in Community Solar and Distributed Generation sub-programs?**

Residents can participate in the Low-Income Distributed Generation sub-program as long as their municipally-owned utility or co-op provides net metering. Participation in the Low-Income Community Solar sub-program is possible but would require that a project has been selected and

located within the resident’s utility territory (e.g., Ameren customers can only subscribe to community solar projects constructed within Ameren’s territory, and the same applies for other utilities and co-ops).

**Do City of Chicago Colleges and Chicago Public Schools qualify for Illinois Solar for All?**

Yes. As long as they meet the program eligibility criteria, including but not limited to of being located in a low-income or environmental justice community, these institutions could apply for the Non-Profit/Public Facility sub-program.

## **Environmental Justice Communities**

**Are there any environmental justice communities in my area if they are not listed on the map?**

All environmental justice communities, whether designated through calculation or the Self-Designation Process, are included in the map found [here](#).

Communities that believe they should have the “Environmental Justice Community” designation but do not can learn more about applying for self-designation [here](#).