

Request for Written Comments on Revised LIDG Referral Proposal

The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) and Program Administrator are seeking written comments on the updated draft Referral Proposal for facilitating residential projects in the Low-Income Distributed Generation (LIDG) sub-program.

The IPA and the Program Administrator issued a draft Referral Proposal on November 5, 2020, outlining a proposed process for facilitating connections between interested income-eligible residents and Approved Vendors to help facilitate participation in the 1-4 unit LIDG sub-program. A virtual workshop was held on Thursday, December 3, 2020, to discuss the proposal as well as other barriers to LIDG participation with stakeholders.

Based on the discussion at that workshop, the IPA and the Program Administrator updated the draft proposal to clarify that potential participants have the option to have their contact information shared with Approved Vendors as a part of the Referral Proposal. A process for revisiting referral requests from potential participants in geographies not currently served by Approved Vendors has also been added based on the discussion at the workshop.

The IPA and Program Administrator are issuing this request for written comments to solicit additional feedback on the updated proposal.

Request for Comments

Specific questions on which feedback is sought are found below. Commenters need not respond to every question (some may be inapplicable) and should not feel limited by these questions in providing feedback on the updated proposal. Comments are welcome from both participants in ILSFA as well as from other interested parties.

In general, responses will be made public and published on the ILSFA website (IllinoisSFA.com). However, should a commenter seek to designate any portion of its response as confidential, that commenter should provide both public and redacted versions. Independent of that designation, if the Agency or the Program Administrator determines that a response contains confidential information that should not be disclosed, it reserves the right to provide its own redactions.

The updated draft Referral Proposal is posted at IllinoisSFA.com/app/uploads/2021/01/Referral-Proposal.pdf.

Responses are due by Monday, February 1, 2021 and should be sent to comments@IllinoisSFA.com.

Questions for Stakeholder Comment

- Is the revised Referral Proposal likely to facilitate participation in the LIDG program by Approved Vendors and result in an increase in project applications?
- What changes to the revised Referral Proposal would increase participation by Approved Vendors in areas of the state currently underserved?
- For potential participants who go through the referral process but don't have any active Approved Vendors in their area, would having the option to be placed on a list of interested, income-eligible customers that would then allow for outreach to Approved Vendors based on having that pool of eligible customers in a particular area result in Approved Vendors expanding into those geographies?
- Are there aspects of the revised Referral Proposal that would preclude participation by AVs? If so, what modifications could be made to the Referral Proposal that would allow for a precluded AV to participate?
- How would the revised Referral Proposal impact the participant experience?
- Should referrals be provided to all AVs or only to those who provide offers included in the [Distributed Generation Offers](#) resource? Should other criteria be considered for AV participation in the referral program?
- What unintended consequences could the revised Referral Proposal create for AVs or participants?
- Are there alternative structure(s) for a referral program for income-eligible households?
- At the December 3 workshop, workshop participants suggested that additional marketing and improved coordination with energy efficiency programs may be useful as tools to remove barriers to program participation that are not dependent on the referral proposal. What other strategies can be employed to ease barriers to program participation?