



04.23.2021

Questions and Answers

2021 Grassroots Education Request for Proposals (RFP)

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The following questions regarding the [Grassroots Education Request for Proposals](#) were submitted to the Program Administrator by various organizations. Additional questions and answers are included in the recordings of the Grassroots Education Webinars available [here](#). Responses are due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, 4/27/2021. They should be sent to grassroots@illinoisfa.com as attachments.

What actionable opportunities exist in East Central IL?

- Community Solar: A low-income community solar project located in Urbana is currently seeking subscribers throughout Ameren territory. Additional community solar projects are expected to be energized and begin seeking subscribers in the coming months.
- Residential Solar: One Approved Vendor has indicated interest in pursuing small LIDG projects in East Central Illinois. The Program Administrator hopes that additional Approved Vendors will come on board in the future.
- Non-Profit/Public Facilities: Although the Non-Profit/Public Facilities sub-program is not a major area of education desired for grassroots campaigns, if the Non-Profit/Public Facilities sub-program funds are fully allocated during the initial project submission window in early summer 2021, non-profits and public facilities can begin preparing applications for the program year that begins in the summer of 2022.

My nonprofit does not have the insurance that is referenced. Will I need to invest in that if I want to be eligible for this work?

Yes. Proof of insurance is not required at time of application, but it will be the responsibility of a selected organization to obtain the required insurance prior starting work

I only have one Approved Vendor in the southern region with a current offer. So it seems like I will be promoting that Approved Vendor, but I'm not supposed to do that. So I'm just wondering how that works.

When there is only one Approved Vendor working within a grassroots educator's service area, referring individuals interested in distributed generation to that single specific Approved Vendor is acceptable. The Program Administrator expects additional community solar projects to become available for income-eligible Ameren customers during 2021, allowing grassroots educators working throughout the Ameren territory to refer interested residents to "all available" projects (if community solar is in the scope the grassroots education efforts of that grassroots educator).

How do I determine where the low-income communities that would qualify for community solar are located? Do I just have to ask individual households for their income level?

Households whose income is at or below the thresholds found in [this table](#) (based on county and household size) are eligible to participate in a community solar project located in the same service territory. There is a simplified income verification process for community solar for households that reside in [Qualified Census Tracts](#). Income verification is conducted by the program's Approved Vendors, or directly through the Program Administrator (See [Section 4.1 of the Approved Vendor Manual](#)). Grassroots

educators will not have to collect income information. Currently, low-income community solar projects are under development in ComEd and Ameren service territories only and therefore there are not currently low-income community solar opportunities for customers served by co-ops or munis.