

Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

February 29, 2024

Introductions (10 mins)

Meeting Structure and Procedures (3 mins)

- Share Agenda
- Review committee purpose and goals
- Topics discussed at the meetings are meant to spur discussion to explore ideas to advise the Agency on updates to the ILSFA program, with a goal of increasing program participation.
- Format and Logistics
- Ground rules

Topic 1: Participation in Residential Solar (Small) Sub-Program (40 mins)

- Progress in Small Residential sub-program in Program Year 6
- Bright Neighborhoods initiative
- Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative

Closing (7 mins)

- Poll Questions
 - *What is your preferred time of day for a committee meeting?*
 - *Do you prefer to meet virtually, or would you prefer an in-person meeting?*
 - *Select your top two subcommittees you would like to engage in*
 - *What learning opportunities would you like while on this committee?*
- What's next
 - Recording/transcript, steps
- Next meetings
 - Coordination with CAAs and LIHEAP/Energy Efficiency programs subcommittee (March 19)
 - Residential Solar Subcommittee (April 23)

Topic 1	Participation in Residential Solar (Small) sub-program
Background	<p>Prior to Program Year 6, the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program had not seen enough participation to use the full annual budget. Stakeholders in the past have reported various barriers to participation, including participant unfamiliarity with solar power, distrust in marketers, language barriers, and a complex administrative process. Following this feedback, the Illinois Power Agency (the “Agency”) proposed the creation of a pilot program that would shift the customer acquisition, outreach, and marketing to the Program Administrator to reduce these barriers and facilitate more participation in this sub-program. The Residential Solar Pilot, or Bright Neighborhoods as it is being marketed, works within three selected community areas: West Garfield Park-Chicago, Waukegan, and the Carbondale-Marion Micropolitan Area (including Jackson, Williamson, and Johnson counties). Each community area has a selected Approved Vendor to install Bright Neighborhoods projects. This initiative was launched August 1, 2023, and is open for enrollment until March 31, 2024.</p> <p>The need for home repairs and upgrades, namely roof and electrical, is another barrier to participation in this sub-program as preconditions to installing solar on a home. The Agency proposed the Home Repairs and Upgrades Pilot in recognition that income-eligible residents are more likely to face this impediment to participation. This pilot first searches for necessary funding through the various state, federal, and non-profit programs supporting home repairs. Where external funding is unavailable, the program may provide additional incentives in the form of REC adders to the Approved Vendor for completing the roof and electrical repairs before solar installation. This pilot also enables the Program Administrator to gather more information on the extent and frequency of these repair and upgrade types in income-eligible homes across the state. This initiative is available during Program Year 6 until May 31, 2024.</p> <p>The Residential Solar (Small) sub-program continues to run outside of these two pilot programs this program year and has received about 1,300 projects with an incentive value of about \$31 million, and about \$14 million remaining in the small residential budget with three months remaining in the program year. Between Program Years 2-5, there were a combined number of 445 approved small residential projects (Program Year 1 had none), with a total incentive value of \$8.86 million.</p>

<p>Issue/Topic for Discussion</p>	<p><i>Bright Neighborhoods:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Do you know of any other community organization or group working in the selected communities who may be a useful partner to support the initiative?</i> 2. <i>How may we encourage customers to continue in the customer journey to address the drop-off during income verification?</i> <p><i>Home Repairs and Upgrades Pilot:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Are there other state, federal, local, or non-profit programs that have funding (or have cycles of funding) for home repairs that we could add to our external funding document?</i> 2. <i>Is there anything else we could be doing to spread the word about the pilot to AVs and get them involved within this program year?</i>
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