



Illinois Solar for All

ILSFA Approved Vendor Manual 7.0

5/8/2024

Review of Proposed Updates to the Approved Vendor Manual

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Vendor Manual Overview
- PY7 Calendar
- Program Changes
- Discussion and Comments
- Questions

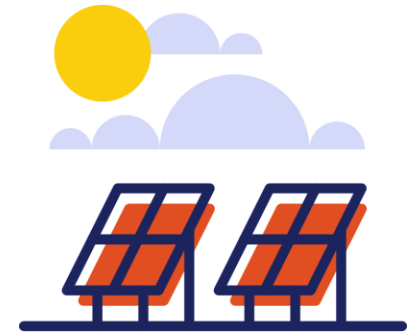


Vendor Manual Overview



Approved Vendor Manual 6.0 Overview

- **Program Year 7:**
 - June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025
- **Vendor Manual Updates include:**
 - 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan
 - Approved Vendor Types
 - Appeal Process
 - TBD Solar Disclosures
 - Critical Service Provider requests
 - Income Verification for Bright Neighborhoods
 - REC Contracts



Stakeholder Feedback

The Program Administrator and the Agency held a stakeholder engagement request for comments on the following:

- Vendor Manual
 - Draft and Redline (In the announcements section on the ILSFA website)
 - Comments Were Due: **April 17, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. CT**
 - Final Document was published on **May 1, 2024.**



Program Year 7 Calendar



Program Submission Windows

Project Submission Windows

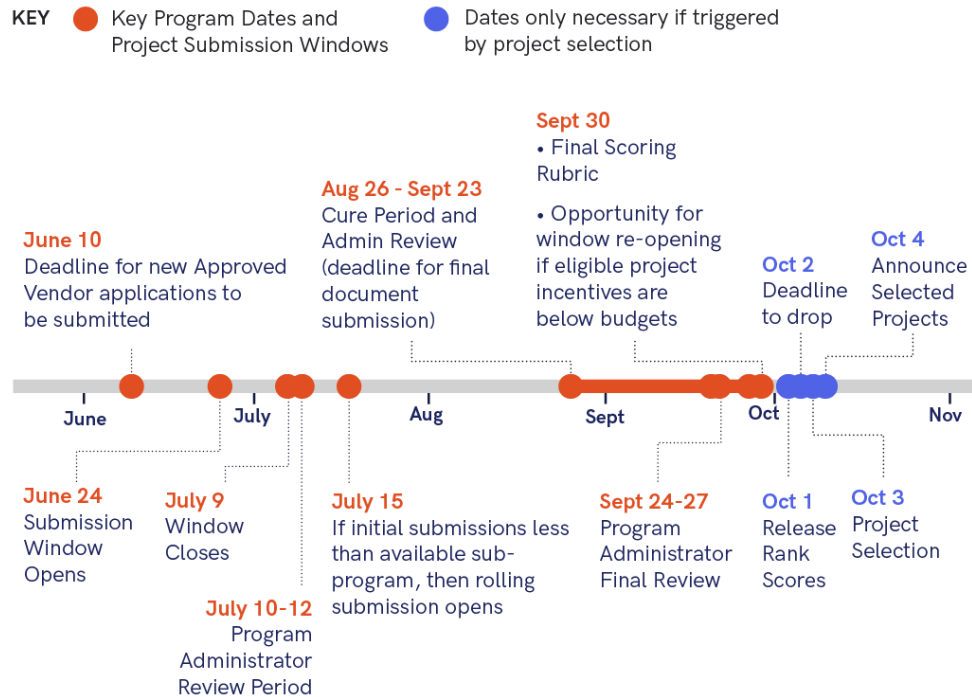
ILSFA's seventh program year will begin in June 2024 and features three separate initial project submission windows:

- **June 24 – July 9, 2024:** Illinois Solar for All: Residential Solar (Small and Large) sub-program
 - Window re-opening July 15th
- **July 15 – July 31, 2024:** Illinois Solar for All: Non-Profit and Public Facilities sub-program
- **October 7 – October 18, 2024:** Illinois Solar for All: Community Solar sub-program

Program Submission Windows

Residential Solar (Small and Large) Sub-Program

Illinois Solar for All: Residential Solar Project Submission Timeline

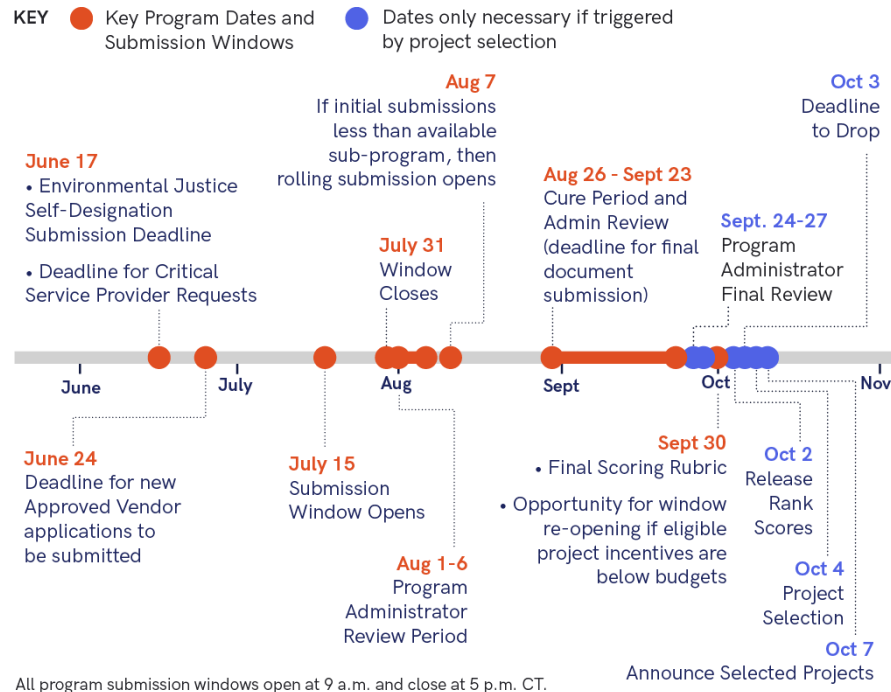


All program submission windows open at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. CT.

Program Submission Windows

Non-Profit and Public Facilities Sub-Program

Illinois Solar for All: Non-Profit and Public Facilities Solar Project Submission Timeline



All program submission windows open at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. CT.

Program Submission Window

Community Solar Sub-Program

Illinois Solar for All: Community Solar Project Submission Timeline

KEY ● Key Program Dates and Submission Windows ● Dates only necessary if triggered by project selection



Program Changes



Section 1 | Introduction

- Updated reference to the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan
- Added clarification on what constitutes Small and Emerging Businesses
- Added information on the Small and Emerging Business Guide
- Added information on updates to the Environmental Justice Community Map
- Added Chapter 1.4 with information on the Appeal Process

Section 2 | Sub-Programs Overview

- Updated REC pricing
- Added additional information on the Residential Pilot Programs
- Added information on the Department of Energy Clean Energy Connector Tool
- Clarified timeframes for sub-program budget carve-outs
- Added information on a “To Be Determined” option for community solar disclosure forms



Section 3 | AV Requirements and Registration

- Removed “Aggregator” as a stand-alone type of Approved Vendor in ILSFA and reclassified “Aggregator” as a true subtype of Approved Vendor
- Added clarification on “Approved Vendor” and “Designee” type of vendor registrations
- Added clarification around the role of “Sub-Contractors”
- Updated links to Approved Vendor registration forms
- Clarified the process for Violation of Program Requirements and Discipline for Approved Vendors
- Added sub-section 3.8 discussing the renewal process for Approved Vendors



Section 4 | Project and Participant Eligibility

- Added language around Bright Neighborhoods participants in HUD Qualified Census Tracts and the option for use of the Income Affidavit form
- Added additional language about public schools; clarifying that community colleges are considered public schools and can only participate in the IL Shines program
- Removed “Municipal administrative offices” from the list of eligible Critical Service Providers, and provided a new scoring rubric for CSP requests
- Added scoring information for Critical Service Provider requests



Section 5 | Participant Savings Requirements

Section 5

- Added information on elective pay option, tax credits, direct pay and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
- Added clarification about Non-Profit or Public Facilities projects that choose a purchase contract and what savings are required



Section 6 | Project and Participant Verification

Section 6

- Income verification that meets the eligibility requirement is good for 12 months from date of validation
- Approved Vendors must submit Part I within 12 months of income validation
- Addition of the option for participants who live within HUD Qualified Census Tracts who are participating in the Bright Neighborhoods Pilot to sign an affidavit confirming that they make less than 80% Area Median Income
- Added SNAP cards that include a recipient's name as a valid form of documentation for income verification
- Added a "Method D" for the Bright Neighborhoods Pilot Program



Section 7 | Marketing and Consumer Protections

- Added language regarding violation of ILSFA Marketing requirements or consumer protection guidelines
- Added information about how to appeal any disciplinary action for violation of ILSFA Marketing requirements or consumer protection guidelines.



Section 8 | Project Submission Process

- Added information on a “To Be Determined” option in the Disclosure Form for an Illinois Solar for All community solar offer
 - To be used when the terms of the subscription are set but the specific project for the subscription has not been determined
- Addition of sub-section 8.4 for Caps on Project Sizes



Section 9 | Project Selection & Prioritization

Section 10 | System Requirements

Section 9

- Added clarifying language around the Energy Sovereignty and Environmental Justice Community budget carveouts

Section 10

- Added a link to the flow chart for Co-location and Expansion Projects
- Added information on expansion and co-location projects
 - <https://www.illinoissfa.com/app/uploads/2024/04/Co-location-Expansions-logic-1.pdf>



Section 11 | REC Credit Management

Section 11

- Noted that new REC contracts will be available for PY7
 - <https://www.illinoissfa.com/announcements/2024/04/final-2024-illinois-solar-for-all-rec-delivery-contracts-posted/>
- Added a sub-section on Claw Backs and Drawdowns
- Added language about transfer dates for REC delivery
- Added paragraph about Flexibility in Batching to Facilitate Project Reassignment

POSTED: April 22, 2024

**Master
Renewable
Energy Credit
Purchase and Sale
Agreement**



Section 12 | Invoicing & Payments

Section 13 | Inspections

Section 13

- Added the requirement for Quarterly reporting for Community Solar projects beginning with PY7

Section 14

- Highlighted REC invoicing option for community solar projects that are not fully subscribed at Part II approval
- Added information and calendar graphic for Invoice Schedules



Section 15 | Job Training Requirements & Verification

- Added prevailing wage language
- Added language regarding Eligible Job Trainees qualifications



Section 16 | Complaint Management

Section 18 | Glossary

Section 16

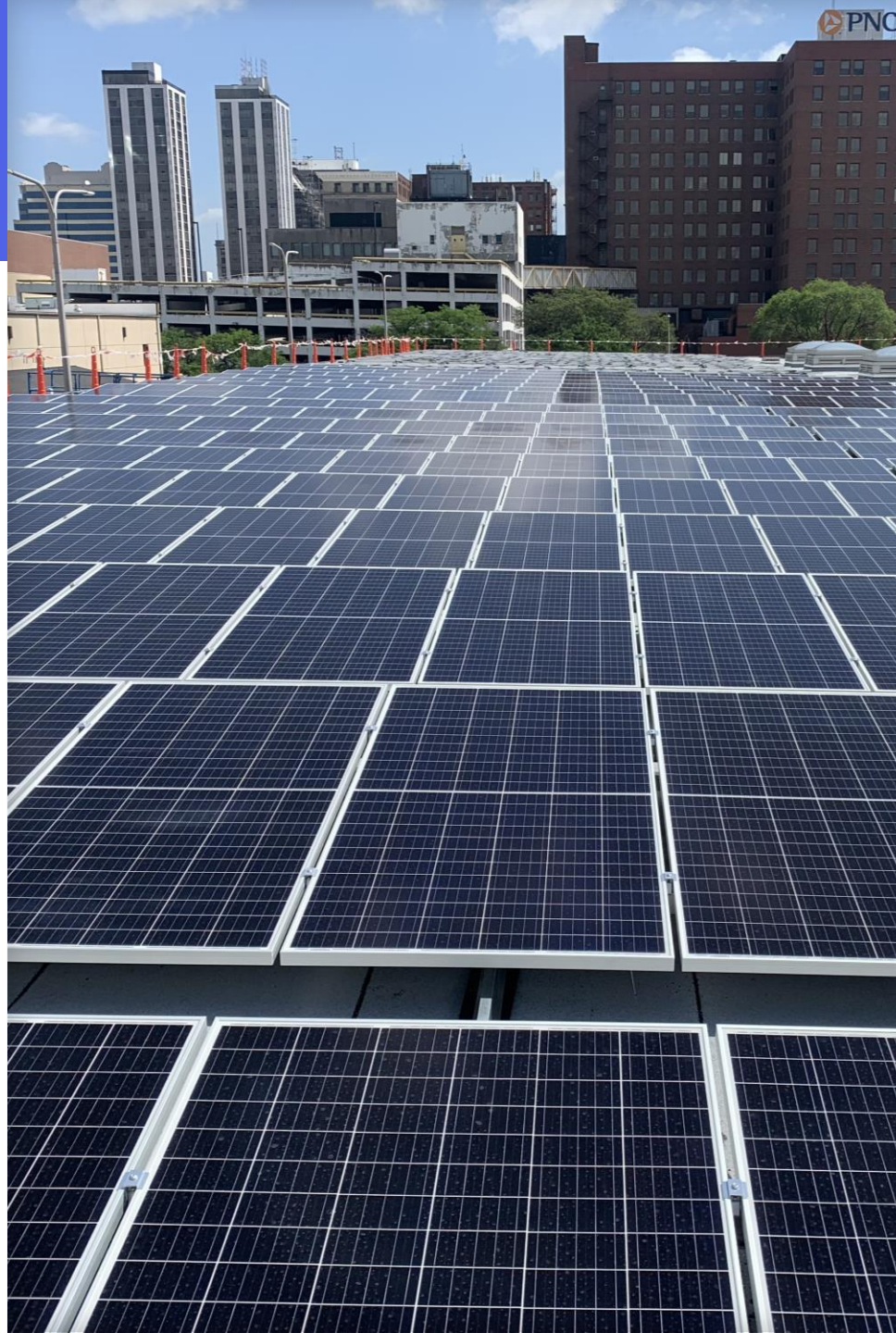
- Edited Consumer Protection Handbook language

Section 18

- Added a Glossary to the Manual



Questions?



Additional Items for Discussion



New REC Contracts and REC Reporting

- The REC Delivery Contracts for the Illinois Solar for All program have been updated according to the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan (“2024 Long-Term Plan”).
 - The Illinois Commerce Commission approved the 2024 Long-Term Plan with modifications in Docket 23-0714 on February 20, 2024.
- These contracts are for projects approved in the planning year starting June 1, 2024.
- <https://www.illinoissfa.com/announcements/2024/04/final-2024-illinois-solar-for-all-rec-delivery-contracts-posted/>



To Be Determined Disclosures

- Similarly, an Approved Vendor or Designee may select a “To Be Determined” option in the Disclosure Form for an Illinois Solar for All: Community Solar offer when the terms of the subscription are set but the specific project for the subscription has not been determined.
- Each “To Be Determined” Disclosure Form must:
 - list a **portfolio** of between two and five community solar projects to which the “To Be Determined” subscriber will ultimately be assigned
 - list the **location** of each project in the portfolio.
- Each portfolio may only include community solar projects **owned by the same Approved Vendor**, or separate Single Project Approved Vendors under a common parent company.



Aggregator Approved Vendor Type

- In previous Program Years, ILSFA had an entity type called “Aggregator” that relied heavily on other entities (Designees and subcontractors) to sell, develop, and manage solar projects. Going forward, “Aggregators” will not be differentiated from other Approved Vendors, and rather will be designated as subtype only on the Approve Vendor Application.
- All Approved Vendors may use Designees and/or subcontractors, but the Approved Vendor is always ultimately responsible for compliance with Program requirements, including by any entity acting on its behalf.

DOE Clean Energy Connector Tool

- Connects LIHEAP (income-eligible) households with Community Solar projects
- Streamlines customer acquisition for Community Solar projects
- Soft rollout in Illinois – looking for nearly fully subscribed project, customer turnover
- Participating in the Connector requires subscription managers to be registered as an Approved Vendor or
- Projects using the Connector must offer a minimum of 50% savings to households, adhere to ILSFA Consumer Protections and Connector requirements, and must utilize a single-billing option offered by utilities

Visit the website for more information:

<https://connector.nrel.gov>



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