

# Advisory Committee Meeting Transcript

September 24, 2024, 8:04PM

## □ Jennifer Brown started transcription



Welcome (Jennifer Brown)

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the ILSFA Advisory Committee meeting. I'm so excited to have you all here today.

Today is September 24. It is 3:00 PM, and we are kicking off our program year seven Advisory Committee meeting.

In addition to just welcoming you, I will provide you with a couple of housekeeping items.

And that would be that, of course, as you are just listening in on today's presentation, you keep yourself on mute, but there will be many opportunities for you to engage with today's meeting.

We want to hear from you, the advisory committee members, so there'll be plenty of opportunities for you to come off of mute, or we also have some opportunities for you to.

Please engage in the comments section with the poll questions that will pop up in the comments, and you'll get a chance to fill in some information there.

Today's purpose is more information gathering and less business. We want to hear from you.

We want to curate this space. This advisory committee space mutually benefits the members, the program administrator, and the IPA.

Introductions:

We will do round table-styled introductions.

I would love everyone in the room to get off mute and share your camera. Please share your name, the organization you're with, and what kind of organization you work for.

I will start it off. My name is Jennifer Brown. I am the Sr. Manager of Strategic Partnerships for the ILSFA program, and I would like to take this Committee to the next level.

We are excited about the great things we have in store and those yet to come.

I also want to popcorn it over to one of my partners in one of my newest partners in crime. One of our partners from Encolor is an organization that will work closely with me as we develop a space for the Advisory Committee. I want to introduce Patrice McFarlin, with Encolor.

Patrice McFarlin (Encolor)

I am Patrice McFarlane with Encolor, and what we do add in color is we work to drive equity in a real, operational way, not just in talk, but make sure to work with like-minded partners such as Elevate and the IPA to make sure that we are driving equity and change from a community approach. I am excited to be here. As a native of Detroit, which also has many disadvantaged communities, I understand there's so much power in people and collective decisions and recommendations to ensure we are looking at how we can be more equitable, more just, and more deliberate. And the programs, outcomes, and impact we hope to generate and gain together. I am excited to support the work that Jennifer is doing and ultimately provide you all with the space to shape and inform the program moving forward. So, with that, I will turn it over to Catherine.

Katherine Ambrose (IPA)

My name is Katherine Ambrose. I am pleased to join the Advisory Committee. I am a program associate with the Illinois Power Agency, Illinois Solar for All program. I will pass it over to one of my fellows as a program associate, David Dworkin.

Dworkin, David (IPA)

Hi, I'm David Dworkin. I am an Illinois Solar for All program associate and work at the Illinois Power Agency. I'm glad to be here. I thank you guys for your advice. Now, I will pass it over to Jen Schmidt.

Schmidt, Jennifer M. (IPA)

Thanks. My name is Jen Schmidt. I'm the senior program manager of Illinois Solar for All with the Illinois Power Agency. I am the primary person at the IPA responsible for Illinois Solar for All. I'm excited to have Jennifer working with us on this Committee and Encolor's facilitation. They worked with us a little bit last year, and we were delighted with how they facilitated some of our conversations and thought that might be useful here as well. We look forward to engaging you all and seeing how we can improve the program. And I will popcorn it to Adrienne.

Clewis, Adrienne (IPA)

Hi everyone. My name is Adrian Clewis. I am a Rice Fellow working on the Illinois Solar for All program with the IPA. I'm excited to hear you guys present today. I'm going to pass this over to Ashley Butler.

Butler, Ashley (IPA)

Hello, everyone. My name is Ashley Butler. I am a program associate with the IPA. I am happy to be here today. I will pass it on to Carol Garth.

Garth, Carol L (Ameren)

Hi, thank you. I'm Carol Garth. I work for Ameren, Illinois. I'm part of the power supply acquisitions team and lead the Renewable energy group, so I have much involvement with the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All programs. I'm going to pass it over to Chris Bell.

Bell, Christopher (Ameren)

Hi, my name is Christopher Bell. I work for Ameren with Carroll, primarily with the Illinois Shines, related to contracts and invoicing.

Vee Likes (Kenwood Oakland-KOKO)

My name is Vee, and I am with KOKO. We are one of the recipients of an Illinois Solar for All Grassroots Educators subcontract.

Rev. Laurie Fields (Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, IL)

I'm Reverend Lori Fields. I'm a Presbyterian Pastor at the Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, IL, about 6 hours from Chicago. I also teach in the GED program at our local Community College, so I'm interested in workforce development and representing the state's southern part.

Yvonne Long (Hawk-Attollo)

Hello, my name is Yvonne Long. I'm with Hawk-Attollo, and we primarily specialize in working with nonprofit exempt organizations with solar behind the meter and community solar. By night, I also have the fun job of being a GD instructor for the Peoria Park district.

Icebreaker

Now that we have the introductions out of the way, let's do a quick icebreaker. We're going to do this in the comments. What I'd like to know is, what is your why? The reason that drives you to participate in something is critical. When you were first approached about being a part of this Committee, what made you say yes? Go ahead and pop it in the comments.

Program Updates:

Home Repairs:

The Home Repairs initiative is a pilot program in its second year. We connect with homeowners interested in receiving solar panels on their homes through the ILSFA program but need some help with their homes' structure. The Home Repairs program partners with organizations that can provide them with funding. The Home Repairs website should be available for viewing today. If someone is interested in the home repairs program, they can go to that website and upload their information, and someone from our team will be able to reach out.

Bright Neighborhoods:

The other pilot we have is the Bright Neighborhoods residential pilot.

We have just closed that RFP window and are working on selections to announce the approved vendors participating in the program information soon.

Grassroots Educators:

We have 10 GEs in the program, and they're working throughout the state. They are what I like to call our ILSFA cheerleaders. They're the ones who are going out and spreading the good word about the solar program. Their various respective communities.

That is a high-level update on what's going on with some of the ILSFA programs.

Advisory Committee Objective/Goal/Purpose:

The governing document of our Committee states that we were created to discuss and advise the IPA on any updates for the ILFA program. The goal is to increase participation in the program by providing relevant experience and expertise that you guys have. So, we're looking at the ongoing program development and improvements to provide information directly to the IPA.

We want to foster meaningful and informed conversations within this space. You are the stakeholders who will engage in meaningful dialogue to inform the ILSFA program. We also want to provide information and education regarding participation in the program. We aim to push information and education to ensure you're well-informed and educated on the program.

We also want to encourage your feedback. What are you experiencing? What are you seeing? You guys are our eyes on the ground. We want to provide this space for you to share your feedback. Lastly, we want to develop and propose incremental improvements and recommendations to IPA for the ILSFA program.

As you can see, the IPA was well-represented in this meeting because they really wanted to hear from you. Thank you so much to the IPA staff for your attendance today.

Let's get back to the purpose. Let's get to the point where we are informing the IPA of what we're seeing on the ground and providing you with the education you need to make an informed and intelligent decision with regard to recommendations.

This is where we get a chance to hear from you.

#### Meeting Cadence

The Advisory Committee has historically met once per quarter.

Which schedule would you be most likely to attend? Monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly schedule. Put your response in the comments.

#### Meeting Time

Your answer to the last question may inform this next question. The more often we meet, the easier it is to be effective in a shorter meeting time. For example, if we meet monthly, the meetings last one hour; however, a 90-minute or two-hour meeting is most effective if we meet quarterly. Which would you prefer, one-hour, 90-minute, or two-hour meetings? Go ahead and drop your response in the comments.

#### Vee Likes (KOKO)

Jennifer monthly is not my vote because of the challenges to my time. This is an amazing meeting, and quarterly meetings come up pretty quickly. I'm ok with an hour and a half to 90 minutes quarterly. I believe it was like that before, but quarterly definitely fits well within my already fairly challenged schedule. That's just for me personally.

#### Jennifer Brown

Yes, yes. Thank you for sharing Ms. Vee. Would anyone else like to jump off of mute and share with the group?

#### Garth, Carol L (Ameren)

Hi, this is Carol. I would be more comfortable with a monthly meeting lasting 60 minutes than a quarterly meeting lasting 90 minutes to 2 hours.

But I am flexible and will attend whatever you decide.

#### Jennifer Brown

Carol, is there any are are there any particular reasons why monthly just seems to make more sense to you for your schedule? We'd love to hear.

#### Garth, Carol L (Ameren)

I think maybe it might be more productive if it was monthly just from and not to go against Ms. Vee, but you know, quarterly seems you forget about it. From my perspective, it's hard to remember exactly when the meeting is coming up, especially when it is quarterly or what took place in the meeting because it was three months ago. But like I said.

We are flexible at Ameren and can make whatever we decide to do work.

#### Jennifer Brown

Thank you for sharing, Carol. Anyone else have any other thoughts? We love the comments.

Yvonne put in the comments, "What Carol said."

#### Rev. Laurie Fields

Yeah. I think. The only concern I would have about a longer quarterly meeting is that we structure so that people stay engaged.

90 minutes is a long time to stay engaged on a virtual call.

I've seen it done well, but it would be a concern for me personally my quarterly schedule would be easier just because my schedule is so packed, and I'd rather set aside a couple of hours once every three months. Works better for me, but I will do my best to attend whatever.

Jennifer Brown

That's fair. That is fair. Well, thank you so much for sharing your input.

Like I said earlier, we're trying to curate the space to work for all parties involved. Now let's go ahead and take a look at the structure of the Advisory Committee.

We've been meeting as well as the communication piece, and remember today is today's purpose as we're kicking this program year off. We intend to gather information from you to curate this year's meetings to meet all the needs.

So the advisory Committee was created with 5 subcommittees.

The residential sub-committee which focuses on the residential program.

The energy efficiency

Job training

Outreach and education

Energy sovereignty

The purpose of the subcommittees was for each subcommittee to conduct the necessary work during their meetings and then report back to the main quarterly meetings. So there would be work that would take place throughout the the months leading up to and then when we would have that main quarterly meeting, each subcommittee should have been able to provide an update. The question at hand is has this been working?

Do we need to continue on this same path or make some adjustments. We wanted to have you guys weigh in on it too.

My first question for you regarding that is did you participate though for those of you that are here today, did you participate in one of the subcommittees? And what was your experience? So let's start there.

You can put your comments in the comment in the comment box or you can go ahead if it's too long and you don't feel like typing it, go ahead and just come off of mute and share it.

Garth, Carol

I wanted to ask you about that. I had that on my list to question today.

So I'm part of the residential subcommittee and the the IHEAP Committee, but for some reason, I had them on my calendar, but I don't think that those subcommittees happened unless I just missed them, but I thought there was supposed to be a residential one like July 16. And then there was one supposed to be in on June 25. But unless I just missed the the registration and the announcement, I'm just not sure what happened or if those did not take place.

Jennifer Brown

Yeah. And Carol, I'm. I'm not able to confirm. I'm. I'm gonna look real quick and see what I have on the website. So I'm not able to confirm without looking.

Garth, Carol L

And I'm working from home today, so I just was going back through my calendar looking at some of the dates that I was expecting to have a meeting and did not.

Jennifer Brown

Yeah. So let me look and see. I can confirm for you guys which subcommittee meetings actually happened, and so give me just one second. While I look for that, Carol. So Carol, would you say that you participated in any at all or none?

Garth, Carol L

I don't think that I participated in any this year.

Jennifer Brown  
OK. Gotcha.

Vee Likes

I felt like I was like Carol. I felt like I was involved in the job, but I don't.  
I actually do the vast amount of fundraising from our organization.  
So it's certainly gonna pass me, but I just don't remember it actually having proof of life.

Jennifer Brown

I love the way you said that! It looks like there was an educational meeting. If there was an educational subcommittee meeting and as well as an Energy Sovereignty Subcommittee meeting.  
But these are in 2023. There was a lighthead subcommittee meeting in 2024 in April, so it as I mentioned earlier, I don't think we had very many  
of the subcommittee meetings. So I understand that you guys don't have a lot of purview because you haven't participated in many of them. And so just to kind of share where some of our thought process is, we just wanted to see if having the breakout group made sense as we are still trying to get our group going. And so we just wanted to kind of get some.  
Some 'cause we can continue in the same pattern in which, but we would actually have the meetings and breakout in small groups to allow the subcommittees those spaces to continue to be able to dialogue in those smaller groups.

But we also noticed that the the bigger group is not that big either.  
So we're we're just trying to make sure that we're not taking a fourth and breaking it into a fourth and then breaking that into a fourth as well, if that makes sense.

So I just wanted to kind of hear from you guys from from from the idea of having a space to to really do a deep dive. If we have a topic that is more specific to your subcommittee, would you rather have that space where we just do maybe breakout sessions here in the big meeting? Or does it make more sense to those of you that are participating or would participate in those subcommittees for us to do it on a separate day where you guys can just kind of dig in and then come back and report to the big group. Definitely want to hear your thoughts on that.

Carol, even though you haven't been able to participate in one of the subcommittee meetings, how do you feel about that?

Garth, Carol L

I did participate in several last year in 2023. And not personally.  
I just I don't feel like this group is large enough to break it into smaller groups and be effective, but you know I am here, you know, just to basically keep up with program updates and you know, be able to provide our customers with you know the best service and options.  
That we can, but I just don't feel like this group is large enough to break into smaller groups and be effective.

Jennifer Brown

Duly noted, Carol. Thank you for your thoughts.

Rev. Laurie Fields

Like you said earlier, not everyone could be here today.  
How many people are supposed to be on the the advisory committee total? Do you have that number handy?

Jennifer Brown 37:20

Yes, I have 17 on the list. I have not heard back from 17.

However, what I am going to do following this meeting is reach out to everyone of you guys. So even though you are here today, you're still going to hear from me because I'd love to have a one-on-one with each one of you. And then those that are not here today, I'm going to request a 1:1 meeting. Just so that I can get a sense of whether or not this still fits into their schedule. There's some who just haven't responded to even previous meeting requests. So we just wanted to kind of take the time to dig deep and make sure that we have an opportunity to communicate with each member individually so that we have a real solid list to move forward with after today's meeting. So that is one of the things that we will do. Reverend Lori, so thank you for asking.

Vee Likes

What Carol said Reverend Laurie. I actually sit on a group that meets now quarterly with a bigger group. And our subcommittees actually meet in breakout sessions. During this a 90 minute meeting, and we come back and everybody reports out, and folks seem to embrace that process and the participation rate continues to be very high.

Jennifer Brown

OK. Thank you for sharing that, Ms. Vee. That's one of the things that we we discussed for sure. Any other thoughts from anyone else on the team on the Committee?

OK, wonderful. So with that being said.

It sounds like you all appreciate the opportunity. Now, if I'm hearing you correctly, it sounds like what you're saying is you appreciate the opportunity for the subcommittee work, but you want that space to be well curated. It probably sounds like from what Miss V said that it would be you guys would be open for it to take place and as a breakout space.

In this meeting versus it being a separate meeting and that is of course if we decide to go quarterly, we could extend it to the 90 minutes, we can go ahead and have that space for the breakout and then come back and do the updates so. Sounds like that's what I'm hearing. But you guys can go ahead in the comments just so that I have some documentation as I move forward with these recommendations.

Thank you so much for providing your feedback 'cause, it's really helping us. We did not want to make all the decisions without your per view.

So the other topic of conversation today is regarding discussion around meeting topics. There are some areas in which may be a pressing issues for the ILSFA program and I we would be able to gather those those pressing issues and provide you with those issues and we would need your feedback on this particular area. But we want to be able to provide you with enough education so that you'll be able to intelligently be able to provide an informed purview or informed recommendation. One of the things that I want to stop and just do a caveat here is with regard to us being able to provide that information or that education for you.

One of the things that we were saying is maybe we should provide the education within this meeting space so that you can make the information. But then there was also the idea the school of thought that we could provide you with some educational pieces prior to the meeting.

You can have your time to read over the documents so that you can familiarize yourself with whatever the conversation is going to be, and then when you come into the meeting then you're able to be able to intelligently speak with on the topic.

I wanted to find out from you all or if we gave you some pre work, if you will, provided you with some educational pieces regarding the upcoming topic. Would you guys be open to to if I provided it like five days before you had an opportunity to review it and then come into the meeting informed to be able to make recommendations?

OK, Yvonne says that she appreciates being able to have the space of the subcommittees. Thank you for sharing that.

Yes, we agree with you, Reverend Lori, that having five days to be able to, to work it into your schedule. We recognize your busy schedules and appreciate that. So thank you for sharing that.

Rev. Laurie Fields

Well, and part of it for me is that my work week is Sunday through Thursday. So if the meetings on Monday and something comes out on Friday, I'm not going to have time, you know, so we all, some of us work different schedules and that, you know.

Jennifer Brown

Mm hmm. Sure. Sure. Good point. Very good point. So 5 days kinda covers the whole gamut regardless of what your schedule is. You guys are really helping.

Yvonne Long- Hawk-Attollo

OK. Thank you. When you're talking about material that you would send out in advance for review and what format are you? Are you thinking about what? What would that possibly look like?

Jennifer Brown 45:42

It it could, it could possibly be a pdf, it could be just some information in a e-mail, it just really depends on what the topic is that we need for you to review. This is kind of just a thought to be honest with you. We're just kind of still thinking through what this would look like. So that we're not just giving you all the information right here in the meeting and you haven't had a chance to review it to, you know, to think through it to maybe even dialogue with some of your colleagues about it. And then that way you can come to the meeting informed. So we were just thinking about what would that look like if we sent something to you prior for you to review. So it may be a link for you to review it, maybe a document for you to review, but nothing major. That wouldn't be like a whole 20 pages or anything, just something simple enough to kind of give you some purview and education.

Yvonne Long- Hawk-Attollo 46:48

Do you like? I I was just gonna comment that the thoughtfulness of that approach is appreciated, particularly to be able to digest and then even to to seek additional input that could be valuable to add to the conversation later.

Jennifer Brown 47:11

Wonderful. Great. Thank you so much. We're glad to hear that. Go ahead, Reverend Lori.

Rev. Laurie Fields

I was also gonna say one of the things that I have found helpful in other contexts where especially when we only meet if we were only to meet quarterly is to get just a review summary. I don't know that we necessarily take and review minutes as an advisory committee.

At least I don't remember doing that. Maybe I'm blocking that part out, but but a summary of what we talked about last time to go out a couple that you know that five days before. Just to help remember, OK.

This is where we were and this is what we're looking for.

Doesn't need to be long, you know. Half a page might be plenty, but just a short reminder is helpful to jog memories, I think.

Jennifer Brown



Yes, that's a. That's a very good point. We talked about and we've kind of like thrown out the idea of having a note taker for the meeting.

All you know, even though we record these meetings, we still thought that it might be helpful for one of the Members to be a note taker. Or for us to kind of like, establish a note taker. So that is an idea that is kind of on the table.

Yeah, Yvonne says. She likes the summary suggestion as well, OK.

So we'll we'll definitely note that as well. So that way so after a part of the follow up in at that, that's where we're going next, a part of our follow up is that we send out the recording. We send out the transcripts and the recording and transcripts are also available on the website. The slides will be available on the website. The agenda will be available on the website, but I do like the idea of also having a quick read because obviously. The slides and the transcripts will be a little bit longer, so something that's very concise that just kind of covers the main bullet points as a summary, can definitely be something that we can add to what we're doing. We're sending out as a part of the follow up communication.

And then to your point, Reverend Lori is to also send that summary. When we send the next piece of information or educational information for the meeting. So we definitely can do that. So in our last few minutes and look at how fast that hour went, it's just unbelievable in our last few minutes, if you all have anything that just pops off the top of your head.

Is as far as topics that you would like to see us cover. We are definitely open to adding it to to our list of because what I'd like to do is just kind of create a schedule of, you know, these are our meeting dates and these are our. Topics and just kind of like put them out there for you so that you'll have the meeting dates moving forward, I know.

That we, you know, the meeting dates will come out.

You know, with a little bit shorter notice, but moving forward I want for you guys to have the information well in advance, already scheduled out. And so if you have any of those topics that you would like for us to take into consideration, please do just drop it.

In the comments or you can pop off a mute and share it right here in the meeting.

Well.

The areas that we didn't talk about last year, you're you were just thinking, why is this happening in within ails program?

This doesn't make sense.

Why? Why is, you know, things that you're seeing from the field that you want us to to pay attention to or put our focus on.

And I'll add as well because the makeup of our group is so diverse. We have people from represented on just on this meeting from Ameren, Grassroots educators, nonprofit CA as like the the the group is so diverse that it really does provide us with the information and the.

Intel that we need from across the board so.

The being able to receive what from you?

What you're seeing in the field and what might be affecting the program is hugely helpful as well.

So any comments that you want to share with us?

Regarding future topics.

Yvonne Long- Hawk-Attollo

This is Yvonne. I very interested in, in, in more depth in connection to energy sovereignty myself. Not just best practices, but maybe even some things that that have been tried that that weren't necessarily working well and and you know it just gives thought to what could be done differently.

But energy sovereignty is is a is specifically in my area.

Jennifer Brown

OK. Very good. Thank you so much for sharing. And so we'll dig more into that because obviously there is an energy sovereignty breakout group and so there might be particular areas to cover within that breakout group space. Any other thoughts?

Vee Likes

Also giving the real importance of jobs. Particularly in spurring economic development within particularly the communities served by our organization, but real meaningful opportunities to look at real job training programs, real job programs that actually are like dual partnerships with the hiring entities because of how they say, He's a wonderful policies. But right now they're struggling to fulfill their promise to the community. So one of the ways to continue to keep our community to embrace solar is to ensure that some of the opportunities supposedly are the investments supposedly to be made in communities of color, like those served by. KOKO, or actually real life? It's just some white pineapple. I'm sorry.

Jennifer Brown

Yes, no problem. Miss Vee signed up for the Job Training subcommittee? Correct.

Vee Likes

I did if I have not, I will.

Jennifer Brown

OK. So that's where your heart is. That's right. OK. Well, we'll work on that. We'll make sure that everyone is in the subcommittee that they desire to, because obviously that's what your passion is. And like Yvonne said, her passion is energy sovereignty. So, Reverend Lorie, go ahead.

Rev. Laurie Fields

A similar concern to what was just shared is I know, especially down here, we are having real issues with the financing part and projects getting financed both for residential and for nonprofit. I'll just share my church. Just put up solar panels in the last six weeks, we dropped doing solar for all because it was impossible for us to make it work financially through there. We did an Illinois shines. And that was enough financial benefit. It and I tried over and over. And so that's just something I hope I want to make sure that elevate is aware of, that there are real struggles and people who are really trying to use the program so that it can impact the communities like the communities of. Color and the rural communities that are supposed to benefit from this, and there's some real issues in terms of the financing for those programs right now.

Jennifer Brown

Wow, thank you so much for sharing. We definitely want to circle back with you on that, Reverend so that we can kind of understand exactly where some of the struggles were with your organization. So I may I will connect with you even offline from here just so.

Rev. Laurie Fields

Yeah. OK. Yeah, that's fine. And I just, you know, in terms of if concerns about the program, I also am very interested in the job training, I know.

I believe there's supposed to be a hub that goes in in Carbondale, but that Grant has not been assigned to anyone yet, and I know the group.

There's been a group that's applied. Think twice now and so that's also a concern of mine that again, you know, we're supposed to be one of the communities that benefits. We're a former coal community and are really struggling with economically with the lack of coal with coal mine coal mines. I know that's one of the things behind this program from the beginning was to help those communities.

And so anyway, that that's another concern of mine in terms of what can be done to make sure that that grant is actually given to somebody in Carbondale. So we actually have a program down here that's working.

We do have an apprenticeship program, but it's done by a contractor who has started his own program because he wanted to do training.

But it's it's. I don't think it's through solar for all at all. I think it's just something he's done because he believes in the promise of solar and he wants to provide jobs and he wants to train people for them. So anyway, I'll stop talking. I've talked to discussion.

Jennifer Brown

You're fine.

Rev. Laurie Fields

We can talk. We can talk offline. I'm happy to talk more.

Jennifer Brown 57:04

We will. We will. I'll reach out to you for sure. It looks like we are at. We are at our time.

Vee Likes

I have to drop off. I have another, but thank you so much for this very very much. It's energizing. Thank you.

Jennifer Brown 57:27

Absolutely, absolutely. Thank you so much for joining our next just. So you all know is that I'll follow up with you all so that I can get those one-on-one appointments if someone from the IPA can respond to Carol's, I think his question was about upcoming funding, I didn't get a chance to look at it, but I wanna go ahead and let everyone go. So the transcripts agenda.

The recording all of that will be available on the website, but you will hear from me. The the feedback on what you have shared today and where our next meeting will be, what our cadence will be, you'll hear from me by the by October 15. So that we can go ahead and get everything set on our calendar. So I just want to say thank you so much, Jen. Go ahead.

Schmidt, Jennifer M.

I can answer Carol's question. Really, really quick about the USC PA money. So the Illinois Finance Authority is the entity that's responsible for the greenhouse Gas Reduction fund, solar for all funding. They the initial proposal was for, I think 450 million, which was the initial cap on for Illinois. Then it was reduced to 250. I think. And then finally, we were awarded 156. So the IFA has to figure out how they are and work it out with the US EPA of how they are tweaking their proposal to adjust to the reduced funding. But how it will be interacting with Illinois solar for all?

Not sure to what extent each of these different buckets will be.

Funded in the end, but the proposal included direct benefits.

Additional incentives for community Solar Illinois solar for all community solar. There were supports for if I remember correctly, capacity building for small and emerging businesses or mwbes. I'm not sure about that. I could be misstating that. And then there were also. Finance, support or products that would be. Like bridge loans that would provide the upfront financing for these projects, since we can't. Give the incentives until the projects are built.

Garth, Carol L

OK. Thank you. I just yeah, was wanting to follow up on that and if any.

Schmidt, Jennifer M.

Sure.

Garth, Carol L

Alright, I appreciate it.

Schmidt, Jennifer M.

Yeah, we don't have anything final yet from the IFA, I think. I'm not sure that they're completed. I think they're still in talks with the US EPA.

Garth, Carol L

Right, I thought it was. Yeah, I thought it was supposed to be like late September or, you know, sometime this fall. So, OK, thank you. Appreciate the update.

Schmidt, Jennifer M.

Sure. Wish I had more.

Jennifer Brown

Awesome. Awesome. Thank you for you guys for for hanging out with us a few minutes extra. I apologize for taking us over time, but thank you for today's meeting. We will, as I said, follow up with each of you for an opportunity to chat with you one-on-one. Thank you again.

I hope you have a wonderful evening and see you for now.

Jennifer Brown stopped transcription