

Project Selection Protocol

Request for

Stakeholder Comments

The Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) Program Administrator and the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) (collectively, the Program Team) are requesting stakeholder comments on the proposed [Project Selection Protocol for Program Year 2025-2026](#) (PY8). The Project Selection Protocol is triggered when applications in the initial project submission window exceed the available annual funding for a given ILSFA sub-program. PY8 officially begins June 1, 2025, and the exact timelines for the project submission windows for PY8 will be announced in the coming weeks on the ILSFA website and through stakeholder emails and newsletters.

Specific questions on which feedback is sought are found below. Commenters need not respond to every question and should not feel limited by these questions when providing feedback on recommended changes to project prioritization and selection protocols. Comments are welcome from both stakeholders in ILSFA and 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 a non-public confidential version and a public redacted version. Independent of that designation, if the Program Team determines that a response contains confidential information that should not be disclosed, it reserves the right to provide its own redactions.

The draft Project Selection Protocol is posted at illinoisSFA.com/Announcements.

Responses are due by **Wednesday, November 20, 2024**, and should be sent to comments@illinoisSFA.com.

The draft is presented as a redline of changes from the PY7 protocol and replaces the Regional Environmental Justice Score with a Geographical Diversity Score to promote a proportional distribution of solar projects and funding across the state. This score is only

used to assess points in Prioritization Stage 1 and Prioritization Stage 2 of project selection for Community Solar and Non-Profits and Public Facilities.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY RANK AND SCORE

In past years, where projects have received points through the Regional Environmental Justice Score, only used if Project Selection was required, projects in the Chicagoland area were prioritized. The goal of adopting the Geographical Diversity Rank and Score is to shift the approach to a simpler prioritization that promotes both an environmental justice weighted geographical calculation and development in areas of the state that haven't shown significant increases in projects since the Regional Environmental Justice Score was adopted. This does not change the 25% Environmental Justice carveout of program funding nor the method projects obtain Environmental Justice.

The Geographical Diversity Rank is calculated at the regional level to represent the historical distribution of projects and encourage growth in previously underdeveloped regions. The Geographical Diversity Rank is determined as follows:

For each of the six state regions (Cook County, Northeast, Northwest, East Central, West Central, and Southern), the dollar amount of all prior program years' REC incentives awarded will be calculated, and the regions ranked in ascending order, with one being the lowest REC incentives awarded to six being the highest REC incentives awarded. The Geographical Diversity Score (Points) will be awarded to projects based on the projects' regional location and that region's rank, decreasing in point value as the rank increases.

Rank	Score (Points Value)
1	2.0
2	1.5
3	1.0
4	0.5
5 and 6	0.0

Additionally, existing language about the points awarded for Low-Income Distributed Generation and Non-Profit and Public Facilities projects, where 51% or greater participant savings is evident, has been added to the Environmental Justice Community Selection (Prioritization 1) stage and ILSFA Income-Eligible Community Selection (Prioritization 3) stage. This language already existed in the General Selection

(Prioritization 4) stage and doesn't represent a change in the protocol but is a clarification of scoring that has always been applied.

QUESTIONS :

1. Do you feel the existing Regional Environmental Justice score location criteria are working well to provide the benefits of solar to communities that you feel are qualified for ILSFA? If not, what communities are not being served?
2. Do you feel that the proposed implementation of the Geographical Diversity Score will help ILSFA reach communities that you define as underserved?
3. Do you have an alternative recommendation of location criteria that would capture the areas you define as underserved?
4. Are there other recommendations for adjusting the prioritizations or their point values to best ensure the selection of projects that best represent ILSFA priorities?