



DECEMBER 2025

CPRG CLEAN POWER PLANNING NOFO,

# Illinois Finance Authority/Climate Bank

## NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant

**CSFA #** 560-03-3643

**Issued:** July 16, 2025

**Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis through December 31, 2025, subject to the availability of program funds**

The Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (ICB), issues this **NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)** to announce the opening of the second round of competition for grants under the Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Program.

This NOFO will **not** commit the State of Illinois or IFA/ICB to any contracts for any supplies or services or any grant or funding awards. All costs associated with responding to this NOFO are at the applicant's expense.

**This NOFO constitutes a Request for Proposals.** With this NOFO, IFA/ICB invited eligible entities to apply for funding under this program through [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal) in compliance with the terms of this NOFO by the indicated deadline. Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted or not legible files, may not be reviewed. Please submit a complete application via the AmpliFund system. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure all required materials are submitted. IFA/ICB will not notify applicants of missing components, and incomplete applications may be deemed ineligible for review or may negatively impact scoring and award decisions. The Project Narrative, described below, shall not exceed ten (10) total pages in length in Microsoft Word (.docx) or readable PDF format, and should be uploaded to the AmpliFund system. Submission via AmpliFund is the only acceptable method of delivery. Fax, mail, and courier delivery shall not be accepted, unless special accommodation is granted by the IFA/CB. Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted or not legible files, may not be reviewed.

**Proprietary information:** Any information obtained in response to this NOFO may be used by the IFA/ICB and the State of Illinois for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested



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party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if reasonable, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Any material within a response to this NOFO identified as confidential must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. The State may publicly post a summary of the responses received.

**Claire Brinley, IFA/ICB Program Manager**

**phone: 312-651-1319**

**email: [climatebank@il-fa.com](mailto:climatebank@il-fa.com)**

## UNIFORM NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

### Summary Information

	Data Field	
1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (ICB)
2.	Agency Contact:	Claire Brinley, <a href="mailto:climatebank@il-fa.com">climatebank@il-fa.com</a> , 312-651-1319
3.	Announcement Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	IFA-CPRG-04
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant Program
7.	CSFA Number:	560-03-3646
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant Program
9.	Assistance Listing (formerly CFDA Number):	Enter "not applicable" if Source of Funding does not include Federal or Federal pass-through funds
10.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	2
11.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$400,000
12.	Award Range	Up to \$200,000
13.	Source of Funding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding
14.	Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
15.	Indirect Costs Allowed Restrictions on Indirect Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction: US EPA

		General Terms and Conditions, Sec. 18; Assistance Amendment between IL Finance Authority and US EPA (limiting budget to 10% de minimus rate).
16.	Posted Date:	July 16, 2025
17.	Application Range:	Applications will be accepted until December 31, 2025, subject to availability of program funds.
18.	Technical Assistance Session:	Session Offered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Session Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Session was recorded and is available here: <a href="https://illinoisclimatebank.com/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/clean-energy-planning/v">https://illinoisclimatebank.com/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/clean-energy-planning/v</a>

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# NOFO

## A. Program Objectives

**NOFO Purpose:** Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (ICB), invites project proposals under Illinois' award for the Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG): Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant Program (Program). With this NOFO, IFA/ICB invites eligible entities interested in applying for funding under this program to file their application proposals in compliance with the terms of this NOFO.

IFA/ICB reserves the right to revise any part of this NOFO by issuing addendum(s) at any time. Issuance of this NOFO, or subsequent addendum(s), if any, does not constitute a commitment by IFA/ICB or the State of Illinois to fund any project. In addition, IFA/ICB may cancel this NOFO at any time, without incurring any liability from responders or potential responders.

**Illinois Small Utility Clean Power Planning Grant Overall Objectives:** In July 2024, Illinois was announced as one of the recipients of an award under the [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](#) program, created by the [Inflation Reduction Act](#). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) awarded \$430,251,378 to the State of Illinois to implement a variety of programs over the five-year grant period (2024-2029). The Small Utility Clean Energy Planning grants are one of these programs.

The Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant Program will support municipal electric utilities and cooperative electric utilities in aligning power generation planning and procurement with Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act <sup>1</sup>(CEJA's) goal of 100% carbon-free power by 2045. The program will

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.23893.html>

provide financial assistance to support the planning and implementation of clean energy strategies, including the transition away from fossil fuels, and to track resulting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions related to those strategies. This program is designed to ensure that small utilities can fully participate in Illinois' clean energy transition by building the capacity to plan, execute, and evaluate their progress toward CEJA-aligned goals.

**Subaward Objectives:** Administered by IFA/ICB, Illinois conducted a competitive selection process in May 2025 to award up to \$400,000 per year in federal funding through approximately 2 grants of up to \$200,000 each. These grants were made available on a competitive basis to municipal and cooperative electric utilities, supporting strategic clean energy planning, procurement, and implementation efforts.

The initial selection process did not fully allocate the available funding. Consequently, IFA/ICB will conduct a second competitive selection process through a rolling application window. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until available funds are exhausted or until December 31, 2025, whichever occurs first. If additional funds become available, IFA/ICB reserves the right to award more than the originally anticipated \$400,000 in total funding for this program year.

IFA/ICB will select projects that support all three core objectives:

1. Clean Energy Roadmap and Strategy Development,
2. Utility Capacity Building and Procurement Readiness, and
3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

These are the central pillars of the program, every selected project must demonstrate how it contributes to each. Projects that already have an already completed roadmap or clean energy strategy may use grant funding solely to support Objectives 2 and 3. Regardless of whether a roadmap is newly developed or already in place, applicants must demonstrate a clear commitment to aligning their procurement practices with the goals and mandates of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA). This includes identifying opportunities to transition away from fossil fuel-based contracts and developing procurement strategies that support Illinois' 100% carbon-free electricity target by 2045. If a roadmap or strategic plan is being developed under Objective 1, it must be completed within 12 months of contract execution.

The set of metrics and strategies described below will be used to effectively track whether investments achieve State and programmatic goals.

Illinois' investment decisions in selecting projects under this program are guided by CEJA and the Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant Plan published on the IFA/ICB's [website](#).

IFA/ICB will evaluate the objectives highlighted here, through the Program implementation and may amend them, as needed.

## Objective 1: Clean Energy Roadmap and Strategy Development

**Objective:** Support municipal and cooperative electric utilities in developing strategic power system and generation plans or roadmaps that align with CEJA's goal of 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045. This includes assessing current energy supply portfolios, identifying fossil fuel assets for potential retirement, replacement, and/or re-contracting, and outlining actionable procurement strategies. Funding may be used to hire consultants or subject matter experts to assist with planning, technical modeling, and regulatory analysis.

**Intended Outcomes:** Utilities will develop roadmaps or strategy documents for their service areas that define clear steps toward the transition away from the fossil fuel towards clean energy procurement. Roadmaps will also articulate how municipal and cooperative utilities align with CEJA goals.

**Metric:** Grant recipients will report on the completion of clean energy roadmap documents, the inclusion of fossil fuel transition scenarios, and whether the roadmap includes timelines, regulatory considerations, and procurement options aligned with CEJA goals.

All roadmaps or plans must be completed within twelve (12) months of the award.

## Objective 2: Utility Capacity Building and Procurement Readiness

**Objective:** Build internal readiness within small electric utilities to move from planning to implementation by supporting staff development, governance processes, and procurement expertise. This includes projects where a utility already has a clean energy roadmap or strategy in place and seeks support to begin implementing that plan. Funding may be used for staff time or to retain consultants who can assist with RFP development, financial modeling, or negotiation of clean energy contracts.

**Intended Outcomes:** Utilities will improve internal coordination and develop the technical and administrative capacity needed to execute clean energy procurement strategies identified in their roadmap or other clean energy strategy.

**Metrics:** Grant recipients will track technical support engagements, internal planning milestones, and procurement readiness indicators such as staff or board approvals, draft solicitations, or contract review processes. Metrics may include reporting on whether the utility is prepared to issue or negotiate a clean energy procurement RFP or has taken concrete steps to terminate a fossil fuel contract and replace it with a carbon-free energy source.

## Objective 3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

**Objective:** Support measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through the transition from fossil-based generation to carbon-free resources, consistent with CEJA's statewide emissions reduction targets. Utilities should consider both direct and indirect emissions from power supply portfolios and quantify the impact of planned procurement or transition strategies.

**Intended Outcomes:** Utilities will develop or implement strategies that directly contribute to emissions reductions by retiring fossil fuel generation or electricity procurement contracts, increasing renewable procurement or adding renewable generation, or reducing overall system emissions.

**Metric:** Grant recipients will report on estimated or actual GHG emissions reductions resulting from the planning or procurement strategies supported by the grant. Metrics may include modeled emissions savings, identified emissions baselines, and projected reductions from roadmap implementation.

## B. Funding Information

This award is utilizing federal funds. This NOFO is soliciting projects for the first year of the program only. The total target funding distribution for the first year of the program is \$400,000 and all the funds are currently available through the rolling application process. The ultimate allocation may differ from this target based on the finalized awarded projects budgets.

- Expected amounts of individual awards: up to \$200,000 per project.
- Anticipated start dates and periods of performance for new awards: Fall/Winter 2025, 1-4 years
- Type of financial assistance instrument that may be awarded to successful applications: Grant.
- Cost match requirement: None.
- Indirect costs allowed: Based on applicant's annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (see below for further information).

New rounds of funding will be available at least annually under separate NOFOs. Depending on demand, additional funding cycles may be introduced within a given year, and the grant application period may be extended beyond 30 days based on interest and resource availability.

## C. Eligibility Information

Proposed projects must meet the grant requirements described below.

### Eligible Entities

Only municipal and cooperative electric utilities in Illinois are eligible to apply. Applicants included in the SAM.gov Exclusion List and Illinois Stop Payment List will not be eligible for an award.

### Geographic Priority

Priority will be given to eligible entities that meet the following criteria:

- a. One or more census tracts designated as [Equity Investment Eligible Communities](#) under CEJA. These include the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program areas ([R3 Areas](#) map), which include areas where residents have historically been excluded from economic opportunities, as evidenced by rates of child poverty, unemployment, gun injuries, and incarceration, among other factors.

### Eligible Activities

#### Eligible Activities

Subawards to eligible entities under this award can be used for projects that demonstrate a clear strategy to support clean energy transition planning, aligned with statewide CEJA goals, and facilitate the retirement, replacement, or re-contracting of fossil fuel-based electricity sources. Eligible activities may include the following:

- **Conducting Technical and Financial Assessments:** Funding may be used for staff time or consultants to perform comprehensive analyses evaluating renewable energy options, determining cost-effectiveness, and assessing system compatibility and infrastructure readiness for municipal and cooperative electric utilities.
- **Hiring External Consultants or Technical Experts:** Funds may be used for contracting with subject matter experts to assist with roadmap development, feasibility modeling, power procurement negotiations, energy contracting, regulatory analysis, and infrastructure planning.
- **Clean Energy Procurement Strategy Development:** Funds may support the creation of long-term procurement strategies, including staff or consultant-led planning documents that evaluate load growth, infrastructure requirements, and generation mix scenarios consistent with CEJA's carbon-free targets.
- **Securing Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or Clean Power:** Funds may support staff time or external support for designing and executing clean power procurement strategies, negotiating PPAs, or structuring other carbon-free energy supply agreements.
- **Emissions Baseline and Reduction Modeling:** Funds may be used to establish current GHG emissions baselines and to model future emissions scenarios based on proposed clean energy roadmaps or procurement actions. Funds can cover internal staff work, modeling tools, or consultant support.
- **Roadmap Development and Reporting:** Funding can support creating final roadmap documents with milestones, timelines, and implementation strategies that demonstrate clear alignment with CEJA goals and include actionable next steps.
- **GHG Emissions Tracking Tools and Resources:** Funding may be used to acquire or implement software, tools, or data services to monitor and report greenhouse gas emissions reductions over time. This includes resources needed to track progress from the established baseline through implementation of the roadmap or procurement plan.

**Non-eligible activities:** A subaward to an eligible entity under this grant Program **may not** be used for:

- Activities that do not support municipal and cooperative electric utility alignment with CEJA goals or contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from procured energy sources;
- Equipment purchases or rental;
- Activities that support measures, activities or projects outside the boundaries of the ten EPA regions;
- Costs of acquiring “intangible property,” as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#); or
- Lobbying activities or union organizing.



## Indirect Costs Rate

To charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs:

**Federally Negotiated Rate.** Organizations that receive direct federal funding, may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The organization must provide a copy of the federally negotiated NICRA.

**State Negotiated Rate.** The organization may negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have a Federally Negotiated Rate. If an organization has not previously established an indirect cost rate, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted through State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system no later than three months after receipt of a Notice of State Award (NOSA). If an organization previously established an indirect cost rate, the organization must annually submit a new indirect cost proposal through CARS within six months after the close of the grantee's fiscal year.

**De Minimis Rate.** An organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with the Federal Government or the State of Illinois is eligible to elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC)<sup>2</sup>. Once established, the De Minimis Rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the De Minimis Rate.

All grantees must complete an indirect cost rate negotiation or elect the De Minimis Rate to claim indirect costs. Indirect costs claimed without a negotiated rate or a De Minimis Rate election on record in the State of Illinois centralized indirect cost rate system may be subject to disallowance.

## D. Application Submission Information

### Contact to Request Application Package and Accommodations

The full application is available through the [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal). If any assistance is needed in accessing application materials or submitting application due to limited Internet access or other limitations, the potential applicant should email [climatebank@il-fa.com](mailto:climatebank@il-fa.com) or schedule time with the Illinois Climate Bank AmpliFund Support Desk. Support sessions can be scheduled using this [link](#).

### Submission Approach

This NOFO is a competitive process to solicit project applications from interested entities to meet the funding objectives of this program. This process has been designed to reduce the burden on entities seeking to apply for funding and ensure alignment on funding objectives with respondents. . The

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<sup>2</sup> MTDC is defined at [2 CFR 200.1](#).

competitive selection has been structured in phases, and the program is currently in the rolling application phase, during which applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

1. **Initial application window.** The initial application process will provide respondents with an accessible, easy-to-navigate method for outlining their proposed project to IFA for selection.
2. **Candidate selection.** IFA will evaluate projects submitted under the application process on their likelihood and ability to meet all program objectives, as described further in Section E below. Based on the review of applications, projects will be identified for funding and award.
3. **Competitive, rolling application windows.** After the initial application deadline, the IFA reserves the option to open a competitive, rolling application window for project selection.

### Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), SAM.gov & GATA registration

To submit an application, the applicant must register and pre-qualify through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal). Registration and pre-qualification are required annually. Selected applicants must also register with the federal SAM.gov and must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) assigned in SAM.gov. Applicants included in the SAM.gov Exclusion List and in the Illinois Stop Payment List will not be eligible for an award. The Grantee Portal alerts the entity of “qualified” status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., missing UEI Unique Entity Identifier assigned in SAM.gov, not in good standing with the Secretary of State). Inclusion on the SAM.gov Exclusion List cannot be remediated.

### Application Content and Format

**NOTE:** Applicants selected for funding under this Program will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (FAIN 00E03862) and US EPA’s [General Terms and Conditions](#), as they apply to subgrantees.

### Mandatory Forms & Attachments

All project submissions must include the following mandatory forms and attachments:

- a. Uniform State Grant Application (accessible through the Grantee Portal);
- b. Project Narrative (as described below);
- c. Budget using the [Uniform Budget Template](#);
- d. Timeline & Deliverables (reference in this NOFO as Attachment A, available at the ICB/IFA website [here](#)).

### Project Narrative

The applicant must submit a Project Narrative, in Microsoft Word or a readable PDF format, of up to 10 pages in 11- or 12-point font. The narrative must describe the proposed project in sufficient detail and must align with the information provided in Attachment A. It should include the following information:

**Applicant's information and qualifications:**

- a. Lead applicant's name, type, and contact person (name, title, phone, email and address).
- b. A brief description of the applicant's background and any relevant experience, including experience with utility planning, clean energy procurement, and federal or state grants.
- c. Indicate if the applicant has been debarred or is a suspended entity.
- d. If more than one entity is involved in the proposed project, describe each entity involved and provide name and contact information for each entity's project lead.

**Project Description:**

- a. **Project Location:** Indicate the service area of the utility or cooperative proposing to undertake clean energy planning and whether the service area includes one or more Census tracts designated as EIEC or R3 Areas ([R3 Areas](#) map), if applicable.
- b. **Project Description.** Provide a detailed narrative of the proposed project, outlining the activities to be undertaken and how those activities will lead to greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and align with CEJA goals. This should include clean energy roadmap development, emissions modeling, capacity-building activities, procurement planning, and implementation. Describe how the activities will build internal readiness for clean energy transitions, identify and replace fossil fuel power contracts, and develop strategies aligned with CEJA targets.

The project narrative should be supported by completed Attachment A which outlines a clear breakdown of project tasks and expected completion timelines.

- c. **Funding Objectives:** Describe how the proposed project addresses all three Program Objectives outlined in Section A above: (1) Clean Energy Roadmap and Strategy Development, (2) Utility Capacity Building and Procurement Readiness, and (3) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction. The applicant should indicate whether a clean energy strategy or roadmap has already been developed. If so, the narrative should explain how the proposed project will focus on implementing that plan and advancing Objectives 2 and 3, including how grant funds will be used to build internal capacity, support procurement activities, and track GHG emissions reductions using appropriate tools or methods. Applicants must also describe how their planned procurement practices reflect a commitment to CEJA-aligned goals, including any recent or future procurement decisions that move the utility closer to carbon-free electricity source. In all cases, the applicant must identify the specific metrics they will track and describe how progress on those metrics will be measured throughout the project.

- d. **Barriers and Readiness:** Identify any barriers to undertaking clean energy planning and implementation (e.g., staffing, data access, technical analysis, etc.) and explain how the project will overcome these barriers. Describe the current status of power supply planning and contract timelines.
- e. **Project timeline:** Applicants must provide a high-level project timeline outlining major tasks, milestones, and expected completion dates using the template provided in Attachment A. Clean energy roadmaps developed under objective 1 shall take no longer than 12 months to complete.
- f. **Project costs breakdown.** Respondents should fill out the budget in their application response through the [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal) and the quarterly cost breakdown in Attachment A. All expenditure must be allowable, allocatable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles. For more information, see [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](#) - Cost Principles as well as applicable provisions of [2 CFR Part 1500](#).
- g. **Performance measurement.** Grantees will be responsible for ensuring all reporting requirements associated with the federal funding are met. This includes providing timely and accurate reporting to the Climate Bank in compliance with all federal and programmatic obligations. The Climate Bank will ensure that reporting processes are adjusted as necessary to meet updated or additional requirements issued by U.S. EPA. Reporting will include, but is not limited to, project financial and activity report, and assistance in developing sample project case studies.

Reporting will include semi-annual reports to assist the Illinois Climate Bank in showing progress on achieving this program's purpose. These semi-annual progress reports will be due to US EPA within 30 calendar days of the end of the semi-annual reporting period. Consequently, to allow time to compile reports from multiple grantees, reports may be due to the Climate Bank within as few as 10 days of the end of the semi-annual reporting period, which run from October 1 to March 31 and from April 1 to September 30 of each year. Grant recipients will track the impact of the small utility clean energy planning program through the metrics identified in the funding opportunity and as may additionally be requested by IFA/ICB.

- h. **Funding Compliance Requirements.** In responding to this NOFO, applicants must acknowledge compliance with the requirements related to this US EPA subaward:
  - i. **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and other Federal statutes and regulations** prohibiting discrimination in Federal financial assistance programs apply, including provisions protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, and the environment per [200 CFR 200.300\(a\)](#), as well as regulations, including [2 CFR](#)

- [200.300\(b\)](#) prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- ii. **Consultant Cap.** Grant funds available for salary paid to individual consultants is limited to the maximum daily rate for Level IV of the Executive Schedule.<sup>3</sup>
  - iii. **Management Fees.** Management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and approved indirect rates are not allowable.<sup>4</sup>
  - iv. **Foreign Work and Materials.** IFA must obtain written consent from US EPA prior to awarding a subaward that will be performed in a foreign country. Alert the IFA in the proposal if any portion of the project will be performed in a foreign country.<sup>5</sup>
  - v. **Reporting Executive Compensation.** Certain subrecipients receiving federal funding may be required to report executive compensation. For more information, refer to [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), section 15.3 and 15.4.<sup>6</sup>
  - vi. **Conflicts of Interest.** Applicants must have systems in place to address, resolve, and disclose conflicts of interest and must disclose conflicts of interest to IFA, as described in [US EPA's Conflicts of Interest policy](#).<sup>7</sup>
  - vii. **Utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.** US EPA requires that subrecipients make good faith efforts to utilize Disadvantaged Business Enterprises when procuring services and supplies, and retain documentation of doing so. The specific six good faith efforts can be found at [40 CFR Section 33.301\(a\)-\(f\)](#).
  - viii. **Other Ineligible Activities.** Certify that the requested funding will not be used to encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned, or pending legislation or directly or indirectly support or oppose union organizing.<sup>8</sup>
  - ix. **Refreshments.** IFA has not received advance permission from US EPA to fund light refreshments or meals served at meetings, training workshops, or outreach events. Thus, applicants may not use funds from this grant for these purposes.<sup>9</sup>
  - x. **Procurement Standards.** The procurement standards in [2 CFR Part 200](#), including those requiring competition when the subrecipient acquires goods and services from contractors (including consultants), and Domestic preferences for procurements at [2 CFR 200.322](#) will apply to grant awardees.

## E. Review and Selection Criteria

<sup>3</sup> For more information, see [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Section 8.7.

<sup>4</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 9.

<sup>5</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Section 8.11.

<sup>6</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 15.3, 15.4.

<sup>7</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 23.2.

<sup>8</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 13 (union organizing) and Sec. 45 (lobbying).

<sup>9</sup> See [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec 35.

**Minimum Requirements:** To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be located in Illinois, be submitted by an eligible municipal or cooperative electric utility, and propose eligible activities as described in Section C.

**Selection Criteria:** Applications will be reviewed competitively. IFA/ICB will evaluate projects for selection based on the following criteria, at a minimum:

- **Feasibility and Readiness:** The extent to which the applicant demonstrates readiness to undertake planning activities, including the ability to evaluate, re-contract, or transition away from fossil fuel-based power sources toward clean energy alternatives. Applicants should also demonstrate they have the capacity or partnerships in place to complete the proposed work.
- **Quality and Clarity of Proposed Activities:** A clear, detailed, and structured plan of activities that are designed to accomplish the program’s objectives.
- **Clean Energy Roadmap and Strategy Development:** The degree to which the proposed project supports the development of a utility roadmap or strategic planning document that aligns with CEJA’s carbon-free goals. This includes assessments of current portfolios, fossil fuel transition planning, and actionable procurement strategies. For applicants with a completed roadmap, scoring will consider how well the existing plan aligns with CEJA objectives, incorporates fossil fuel transition strategies, and includes clear, actionable procurement pathways. Additional points may be awarded for evidence of stakeholder engagement, regulatory alignment, or prior governance approvals.
- **Utility Capacity Building and Procurement Readiness:** The extent to which the proposed project builds technical and administrative capacity to move from planning to implementation, including internal staff development, governance processes, and readiness to issue clean energy procurement RFPs. This includes projects where a utility already has a clean energy roadmap or plan in place and seeks support to begin implementation.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction:** The degree to which the proposed project will lead to measurable GHG reductions, including emissions baseline, modeled scenarios, and planned procurement actions.

**Project Benefits assessment:** A successful project must score at least 30 points out of a maximum of 50 points. The selection criteria will be evaluated as follows:

Program Objectives Category	Maximum Points	Poor	Fair	Strong
Feasibility and Readiness	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
Quality and Clarity of Proposed Activities	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
Clean Energy Roadmap and Strategy Development	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
Utility Capacity Building and Procurement Readiness	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>50</b>			

Each category will be evaluated in the Poor, Fair, or Strong bracket based on the description of the benefits in the project application and the likelihood of the applicant’s ability to achieve them as a consequence of the proposed project activities and to successfully measure these benefits.

IFA/ICB may exercise discretionary prioritization in awarding grants based on geographic considerations, as well as other priority factors outlined in Section C.

## F. Award Administration Information

### Schedule

IFA/ICB reserves the right to deviate from this schedule at any time and without notice.

#### Activity/Event

Public Notice of Round 1 NOFO:	May 1, 2025
Public Notice of Rolling Applications:	July 16, 2025
Deadline for Receipt of Rolling Applications:	December 31, 2025

### Anticipated Announcement and Award Notices

Applicants will be notified of the IFA selection decision within 30 days after the deadline for application submission.

Projects may require review and approval from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**NOTE:** Any notice of selection is not authorization to begin performance of the project or incur costs. Costs incurred before entering into a subaward agreement with the IFA/ICB will not be recoverable.

### Reporting

The awarded projects will be required to report project metrics as indicated above semiannually. IFA/ICB may post these reports on the IFA’s public website. In addition, the applicant will be required to submit project management reports quarterly or semi-annually throughout the life of the project as indicated above.



DECEMBER 2025

CPRG CLEAN POWER PLANNING NOFO,

## State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Contacts for questions and assistance:

Claire Brinley, IFA/ICB Program Manager

phone: 312-651-1319

email: [climatebank@il-fa.com](mailto:climatebank@il-fa.com)

## Other Information

**No Funding Commitment.** The State is not obligated to make any award as a result of this NOFO. This NOFO will **not** commit the State of Illinois or IFA/ICB to any contracts for any supplies or services or any grant of funding awards. All costs associated with responding to this NOFO are at the applicant's expense.

**Confidential and Proprietary Information:** Any information obtained in response to this NOFO may be used by the IFA/ICB and the State of Illinois for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if reasonable, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Any material within a response to this NOFO identified as confidential must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. The State may publicly post a summary of the responses received.

**Appeal Process:** IFA/ICB will follow the appeal process under 44 ILL. Adm. Code 7000.350. IFA/ICB intend to give the applicants that were not selected in this round of solicitation sufficient opportunities to develop their application further and resubmit their projects in the future rounds of project solicitations as they open.