

Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Responses to Applicant Questions

Notice of Funding Opportunity

[IFA-CPRG-02](#)

May 19, 2025 – May 23, 2025

Question: Can you define what is a small utility?

Response: Eligible applicants would be municipal or cooperative electric utilities located within Illinois.

May 12, 2025 – May 16, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

May 5, 2025 – May 9, 2025

Question: Could this grant be used to initiate new municipal planning for public power (EG Building out a smart grid locally, or building publicly owned solar/wind farms and the necessary publicly owned infrastructure to deliver that power).

Response: The grant will have to meet the three core objectives: the development of the clean energy road map and strategy, utility capacity building and procurement readiness, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Applicants must also demonstrate to us how these objectives through eligible activities will align with the goal of achieving carbon-free power by 2045. If the application can demonstrate those goals, and if it does not include non-eligible activities, then it will be considered.

Question: Does the IFA or the groups running these webinars have availability to meet with nonprofits before submitting to answer specific questions/help think through specific types of outreach?

Response: No. Unfortunately, State law associated with Illinois grants is designed to ensure all grantees have the same information, so we are not allowed to meet with applicants or provide individual technical assistance.

Question: When can applicants expect to hear if they have been selected and how soon is work expected to start?

Response: IFA/CB will get responses back to applicants within a month after they close, and work will start quickly after. Project start date will vary by grant.



Question: What is the timeline of the Climate Bank in terms of opening additional funding opportunities? Are these all the NOFOs the Climate Bank will be releasing this year?

Response: For the Solar for All programs, these are the only two grant programs opening this year. IFA/CB does have a number of Solar for All financing (loan) programs that we're working to get out by the end of the year, but they won't involve NOFOs. For CPRG, IFA/CB is working on a number of programs that were outlined within the initial workplan application that went to U.S. EPA. There will be additional NOFOs for new programs under CRPRG. We are working diligently to get those programs up and running. There are also a number of other programs that IFA/CB works on, including the 40101(d) Grid Resilience grants. Another NOFO under that program will open soon. IFA/CB will continue to have webinars as other NOFOs/programs open.

Question: Will these grants open up again in the near future? Or are they only being funded for this FY?

Response: If we do not receive enough qualified applications from these programs during this application window, IFA/CB reserves the right to open a later application window later this year, no earlier than June. Each of these grants has multi-year funding at this time, so we plan to open NOFOs yearly each spring for the next 5 years. However, if there is a lack of interest or we receive feedback on the program, IF/CB may change its plans for future rounds of funding.

Question: For educational/ school districts, which grant opportunities would be appropriate for them to apply for? Additionally, would houses of worship be eligible for these grants and if so, which ones?

Response: Only units of local government with permitting power are eligible for the SolarAPP+ Adoption grants. Houses of worship would be eligible for the Residential Solar Outreach grants. Educational school districts are eligible to apply for both, but they may not be the best fit for these programs. For Climate Pollution Reduction Grants programs, the Stretch Code Adoption Grants are intended for units of local government. The Small Utility Clean Energy Planning grant is intended for municipal or electric utilities. We don't think either of these entities are the intended audience for these grants, but if you disagree, you are free to apply.

April 28, 2025 – May 2, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.



The last day for question submission is May 30th at 5:00 PM CT.