

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

Notice of Funding Opportunity

[IFA-CPRG-06](#)

March 30, 2026 – April 3, 2026

Question: I know that applications are due April 17th. For any grantees that apply and may be selected, is there any estimated time frame on funding availability? Would we be looking at a late summer/fall type of time frame?

Answer: It probably will be late Q2/early Q3 when we notify folks of being awarded. Then we will start the grant and the grant period will go until September 2029.

March 23, 2026 – March 27, 2026

There were no questions submitted this week.

March 16, 2026 – March 20, 2026

There were no questions submitted this week.

March 9, 2026 – March 13, 2026

There were no questions submitted this week.

March 2, 2026 – March 6, 2026

There were no questions submitted this week.

February 23, 2026 – February 27, 2026

There were no questions submitted this week.

February 17, 2026 – February 20, 2026

Question: If you're a municipality that belongs to a joint action agency, and the joint action agency is doing the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for your municipality as part of the collective group, can the grant be used to conduct studies? We have a certain amount of power that we can generate ourselves through member directed resources, would the grant allow you to do a study to determine if it should be solar, battery, a wind turbine, etc.?

Answer: We recommend referring to the [CRGA](#), that outlines who is statutorily now required to do integrated resource planning. If you have an action agency doing it on your behalf, then the municipality



can adopt another IRP. Your question about what's included in an IRP that can also be referenced in the new legislative language about what should be included and excluded in those IRPs.

But yes, feasibility studies are part of the Small Utility Clean Energy Planning funding, so long as you are confirming your alignment with the overall CEJA goals. We can fund activities that go above the CRGA required IRP work and can look at things like solar, wind, battery, etc. I encourage you to get familiar with that legislation and its requirements. If you are unsure of any eligible activities please reference our [NOFO](#) to learn more about the things we would be willing to fund in support of IRPs.

Question: When would awards be expected for the Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grants?

Answer: Applications will be due April 17th; notifications of awards will be announced within 45 days of the April 17th deadline. Applications go through a competitive review process, how we look at applications that come in is outlined in the [NOFO](#).

February 9, 2026 – February 13, 2026

Question: Can you please advise the maximum allowable length for the project narrative? Page 1 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) available online at illinoisclimatebank.com states "The Project Narrative, described below, shall not exceed ten (10) total pages in length," however, page 12 states "The narrative should be no longer than one-half page."

Response: Thanks for reaching out, and we apologize for the error. Half a page is the correct length, and the Project Narrative is optional. We have updated and reuploaded the NOFO.

February 2, 2026 – February 6, 2026

There were no questions submitted this week.

The last day to submit questions for IFA-CPRG-06 is April 10th, 2026, at 5:00 PM CT.



Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Small Utility Clean Energy Planning

Responses to Applicant Questions

Notice of Funding Opportunity

[IFA-CPRG-04](#)

December 15, 2025 – December 19, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

December 8, 2025 – December 12, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

December 1, 2025 – December 5, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

November 24, 2025 – November 26, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

November 17, 2025 – November 21, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

November 10, 2025 – November 14, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

November 3, 2025 – November 7, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

October 27, 2025 – October 31, 2025

Question: Since submissions are taken through the end of the year, we didn't know if applying would be something that we should consider given there are a few months left.

Response: There is still funding available for this opportunity, and we encourage eligible applicants to apply. The application will remain open on a rolling basis until either December 31, 2025, or until the funds are exhausted. Applications will be evaluated and awarded as they come in. If you're curious, you can check the State Catalog of Financial Assistance for any active awards under this NOFO: [CSFA](#)

IFA also plans to re-open the funding opportunity every year for the next five years.

October 20, 2025 – October 24, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

October 13, 2025 – October 17, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

October 6, 2025 – October 10, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

September 29, 2025 – October 3, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

September 22, 2025 – September 26, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

September 15, 2025 – September 19, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

September 8, 2025 – September 12, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

September 2, 2025 – September 5, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

August 25, 2025 – August 29, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

August 18, 2025 – August 22, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

August 11, 2025 – August 15, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

August 4, 2025 – August 8, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

July 28, 2025 – August 1, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.



July 21, 2025 – July 25, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

July 16, 2025 – July 18, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

The last day to submit questions for IFA-CPRG-04 is December 19, 2025, at 5:00 PM CT or when funding is expended, whichever comes first.



Responses to Applicant Questions

Notice of Funding Opportunity

[IFA-CPRG-02](#)

May 26, 2025 – May 30, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.

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 to submit questions for IFA-CPRG-02 is May 30th, 2025, at 5:00 PM CT.