

Equitable Energy Future Grant Program Application 2025

Applicant & Eligibility Information (NOFO Section C)		
1. Applicant Name		
2. GATA #		
3. Business legal structure (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sole proprietorship <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership (limited partnership or limited liability partnership) <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Company (LLC) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative: For-Profit or Not-For-Profit (circle one) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
4. Does the applicant business/organization have a parent company/organization or subsidiaries? If yes, describe the structure and provide entity names	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5. Annual revenue of applicant business/organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1,000,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10,000,000	
6. Please indicate whether you are an Approved Vendor of either of the following programs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Solar for All Program (https://www.illinoisfa.com/for-vendors/) <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Shines (Adjustable Block Program) (https://illinoisshines.com/) <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
8. If you are applying as an independent contractor offering personal services, please indicate which equity eligible persons criteria you meet. (Refer to NOFO Section A)	<input type="checkbox"/> I have graduated from or am a current/former participant in one of the CEJA/FEJA Workforce (https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/workforce-training-programs.html) or CEJA/FEJA Contractor (https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/ceja-contractor-programs.html) programs (with exception of Craft Apprenticeship Program). <input type="checkbox"/> I am a graduate of or am currently enrolled in the foster care system. <input type="checkbox"/> I have been convicted of a crime and was incarcerated for that conviction. <input type="checkbox"/> My primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community. (https://energyequity.illinois.gov/resources/equity-investment-eligible-community-map.html). <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
9. Did you receive assistance from any of the following to complete this application? (Refer to NOFO Section H)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program (when in operation) <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program (when in operation) <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Development Center <input type="checkbox"/> APEX Accelerator (formerly Procurement Technical Assistance Centers) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	

Proposed Project & Outcome Information (NOFO Section A – Program Description and Performance Goals and Measures)		
10. What is the grant amount being requested per phase?	Phase 1	\$
	Phase 2	\$
11. Is this project an energy efficiency or renewable energy project? (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy	
12. What type of project is being proposed? (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential: <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation <input type="checkbox"/> New Build <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation <input type="checkbox"/> New Build <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
13. As detailed in the NOFO, grant funds were intended to accomplish any or all the goals to the left. Check all the accomplishments the proposed project will achieve. Ensure achievements selected here are described in more detail throughout this application (Refer to NOFO Section A)	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide benefits to low-income communities wherein at least 50% of projected energy produced or saved benefits low-income households or not-for profit organizations providing services to low-income households, affordable housing owners, or community-based businesses providing services to low-income households <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in equity investment eligible communities <input type="checkbox"/> Provide on-the-job training <input type="checkbox"/> Support contractors who are participating in or have demonstrated an intent to participate in the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program and Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program (when operational) <input type="checkbox"/> Employ a minimum of 51% of its workforce from graduates or current or former participants of the following CEJA and FEJA workforce programs <input type="checkbox"/> Provide avenues of employment for the workforce training efforts of the previously established programs created by FEJA, including the Solar Training Pipeline Program and the Multicultural Program	

<p>14. Provide a descriptive summary of the proposed project and include the current state of the project, project plan, length of the program, and estimated outcomes of energy and non-energy benefits. Include as many specifics as possible include data points. (up to 750 words).</p>		
<p>15. If you selected Residential Renovation and/or New Build in Question 12, please indicate how you intend to mitigate the risk of increased rental costs and/or displacement of current residents/community members. (e.g. Affordable Housing Covenants, Deed Restrictions, Community Benefit Agreements, First Right of Refusal etc.)</p>		
<p>16. List the address(es) where the proposed project will be located. If an address(es) have not been selected outline potential sites/geographies.</p>		
<p>17. Does the applicant own the project property/address?</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>18. Explain why this site location was chosen. (e.g. type of site, price, location in specific neighborhood, etc.) If a site has not been chosen, identify what factors will be considered when selecting a final site (up to 250 words).</p>		
<p>19. List the community(ies) the project will benefit as well as the community needs that the completed project will directly address. Include demographic, economic, and labor data, etc. as available to demonstrate community needs. (up to 750 words) <i>(Refer to NOFO Section A)</i></p>		
<p>20. Funding may be requested for one or both of the following project phases: 1) planning and feasibility phase; 2) pre-development construction phase. Please select the Phase(s) the applicant is applying for <i>(Refer to NOFO Section A – Program Description)</i></p>		
<p>21. Phase 1: Please select the planning and feasibility activities for which you are requesting funding (check all that apply). <i>(Refer to NOFO Section A)</i></p> <p><i>Be prepared to detail necessary costs in the budget template and budget narrative.</i></p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Phase 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 1 & 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project pro-forma/budget <input type="checkbox"/> Site acquisition planning <input type="checkbox"/> Sourcing project funding <input type="checkbox"/> Project grant writing <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>
<p>22. Phase 2: Please select the pre-development construction activities for which you are requesting funding (check all that apply) <i>(Refer to NOFO Section A)</i>.</p> <p><i>Be prepared to detail necessary costs in the budget template and budget narrative.</i></p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Market analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Property due diligence <input type="checkbox"/> Community outreach and engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture, design, or engineering services <input type="checkbox"/> Auditing, consulting, or developer services</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Selecting contractors/securing contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Application <i>(e.g. Funding, IPA, Utility, Credentialing etc.)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Purchasing and/or leasing of land <input type="checkbox"/> Permitting and/or zoning <input type="checkbox"/> Interconnection application costs and fees, studies, and expenses</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment and supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Employee training <input type="checkbox"/> Community outreach, marketing, and engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Staff and operations expenses <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>

23. For energy efficiency projects, please describe the estimated annual and/or overall energy savings (kWh, therms) of the project. In the description, provide how these estimates were determined. Please submit any available documentation showing how these estimates were determined.		<input type="checkbox"/> N/A - The project does not have energy efficiency benefits.	
24. For renewable energy projects, please estimated capacity (MW) and the amount (MW) produced that will benefit low-income residents, non-profits, and organizations/facilities that service disadvantaged/target populations. In the description, provide how these estimates were determined. Please submit any available documentation showing how these estimates were determined.		<input type="checkbox"/> N/A - The project does not have a renewable energy scope of work	
25. Does the project include the sale of energy production?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
25a. If yes, please describe how the applicant will sell the energy produced or conserved for customers, including its connectedness to the grid and/or customers; and ability to remain commercially viable upon project completion. (up to 500 words)			
26. Does the project include battery storage?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Funding Resources & Partnership Information (NOFO Section C, Subsection 1 & 2)			
<p>27. The Department encourages grantees to leverage other funding sources to improve the cost effectiveness of grant funds.</p> <p>Specify any of the following incentive or grant programs you have applied to or plan to apply to for this project, if any. For "CEJA Programs" and/or "Other Illinois Finance Authority/Illinois Climate Bank" please specify the program in Question 27.</p> <p>Please provide documentation of application and/or timeline for application in an attachment with other application materials <i>(if applicable)</i></p>	Incentive or Grant Program Name	Applied	Plan to Apply
	CEJA Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Equitable Energy Upgrade Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Illinois Solar For All	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Illinois Shines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Community Development Block Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Private Activity Bonds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	State Small Business Credit Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Small Business Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)/Illinois Climate Bank (CB)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Clean Energy Jobs & Justice Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Public Utility Energy Efficiency Program Incentives & Funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utility Energy Efficiency Rebate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
28. List and describe any established or planned funding sources for this project. When possible, include the requested funding/financing amount and anticipated use of the funds. This may include federal, state, or local grant programs, tax incentives, loans or other financing options among others. For additional resources click here: https://uofi.app.box.com/v/cleanenergyfunding (up to 500 words)			

29. Provide a detailed description of the anticipated non-energy benefits/impact of Phase 1 and Phase 2, as well as the completed project (post-construction). Include information about the impact on individuals, community, and the workforce (as applicable) (e.g. individual savings, community wealth building, temporary or permanent job creation etc.) (up to 750 words) <i>(see NOFO Section D.2)</i>									
30. Provide a summary of how the costs outlined in the budget were determined. (e.g. was it based on engineer's estimates, why was one contractor chosen over another, was there a bidding process, what research was conducted etc.). If additional documentation would provide insight into these calculations that can be submitted with this application. (Up to 500 words)									
31. Is the applicant partnering with or subcontracting other businesses or entities on this application? If "Yes", please list the names of vendors, contractors, collaborators below along with their experience working on similar/same type of projects.								<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Staff Capacity & Clean Energy Workforce Development (NOFO Section A and Section D, Subsection 2)									
32. List staff members who will be assigned to this project, their roles, and percentage of time they will spend on the project. Attach brief bios of all key staff members as well as job descriptions for unoccupied roles along with submission of this application. (up to 750 words).									
33. How many permanent and/or temporary jobs will be created, if any, from this project? <i>"Total project" includes all jobs created in Phase 1: Planning and Feasibility through Phase 4: Implementation</i>									
Phase 1	Temporary		Phase 2	Temporary		Total Project	Temporary		
	Permanent			Permanent			Permanent		
34. Do you plan to hire CEJA or FEJA workforce program graduates as contractors, apprentices, or employees for the project?									<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
34a. If yes, what percentage of the workforce for the project will come from these programs or will meet other equity eligible persons criteria ¹ ?								%	
35. Do you plan to provide hands-on training opportunities for CEJA/FEJA workforce program participants or on-the-job training opportunities for CEJA/FEJA workforce program graduates?								<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
35a. If yes, what activities or skills will the hands-on and/or on-the-job training provide?									
36. Provide the applicant's plan to engage with the local workforce (e.g. contractors, workers etc.) beyond CEJA/FEJA participants or graduates. This may include other State of Illinois workforce programs, utility programs, weatherization/energy efficiency programs among others in your project activities. (up to 500 words).									

Supplemental Documentation (NOFO Section D)

Required:

- ☐ Uniform Grant Application, Uniform Budget Template, Conflict of Interest Disclosure, Mandatory Disclosures
- ☐ Illinois Power Agency (IPA) Certification (for EECs) or provide Attestation Form (Certification of Qualification for Equity Eligible Contractor Status) (if applicable) or the CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan that demonstrates that equity building criteria is met.
- ☐ Equitable Energy Future Grant Project Timeline
- ☐ CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)
- ☐ Property ownership document OR document demonstrating applicant's authority to make site improvements. (If applicable for Phase 1, Required for Phase 2)
- ☐ Letter(s) of support from community leaders and stakeholders documenting their support for the project and the community needs it will address AND if applicable from partner CEJA or FEJA workforce program grantees or other workforce programs about how your project will help grow clean energy workforce and contractors
- ☐ Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with collaborating organizations, or contracts for pre-develop activities with professional service providers, vendors, etc.

Required Phase 2 Only Projects:

- ☐ Design or construction documents that provide details of the project, if available (examples: building preliminary schematics, energy audit report, site map).
- ☐ Quotes used for budget estimates, if available (examples: preconstruction/construction budget, operating budget, contractor proposals/estimates). These documents may be provided after Phase 1 activities are complete.
- ☐ Documentation showing Phase 1 progress, anticipated outcomes, results of Phase 1 activities.