

**State of Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Summary Information**

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Aaron McEvoy (aaron.mcevoy@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY24-1
Funding Opportunity Title	Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program
CSFA Number	420-35-3055
CSFA Popular Name	Community Solar Grant Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	40
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$8,500,000
Award Range	\$50000 - \$1000000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	Yes
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	03/05/2024
Application Date Range	03/05/2024 - 07/01/2024 : 5:00PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3055-2697.html
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 03/14/2024 : 1:00PM Registration link : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBxQxIAueOE

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program NOFO ID: 3055-2697

For information about grants please visit <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/granteeresources.html>.

A. Program Description

Notice of Funding Opportunity Intent

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the “Department” or “DCEO”) is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) to provide awards from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 per application to support the pre-development and development of community solar projects that promote community ownership and energy sovereignty.

Program Description

The Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program, established by Public Act 102-0662, is intended to provide grants to plan, develop, and execute community solar projects. The grant program provides upfront capital to support the development of community solar projects and provides seed capital and pre-development funding to support community ownership of renewable energy projects.

The Department will prioritize funding for projects that best demonstrate the ability and intent to create community ownership and other local community benefits, including local community wealth building via community renewable generation projects. Grants shall be prioritized to applicants for whom:

- The proposed project is located in and support an equity investment eligible community or communities; and
- The proposed project provides additional benefits for participating low-income households.

*Equity investment eligible communities are defined as geographic areas throughout Illinois which would most benefit from equitable investments by the State designed to combat discrimination. Specifically, the eligible communities are defined as the following areas¹:

- Restore Reinvest Renew (R3) Areas as established pursuant to Section 10-40 of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, where residents have historically been excluded from economic opportunities, including opportunities in the energy sector; and
- Environmental Justice Communities, as defined by the Illinois Power Agency pursuant to the Illinois Power Agency Act, where residents have historically been subject to disproportionate burdens of pollution, including pollution from the energy sector.

A key goal of this grant opportunity is to overcome barriers to project, community, and business development caused by a lack of capital in low-income communities and among historically disadvantaged populations. This program will therefore provide upfront funding and seed capital to support project pre-development work and may also be awarded to support the development of programs and entities to assist in the long-term governance, management, and maintenance of community solar projects, such as community solar cooperatives. The amount of a grant shall be based on a project’s size and scope.

¹ Map of Restore Reinvest Renew and Environmental Justice Communities - CEJA Grantee Map (<https://univofillinois.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=358664c3554a4d6f8ec5125383903ebc¢er=-88.6797;39.4912&level=6&hiddenLayers=de40fbeb4874bcd9cebe57d5eff93fd;5aeaa93ae13544aebaa64e382f43a292;05f60b6c60e640caa01b6dfc99c73269;72901084297a4bdb81c9030d9b1c1e67;16e7695a41c94d12b647101445457ada;76c1b587ba7940feb92b5d3b993445cf;87b44f3561794bd58800fe7629ab9108>)

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Grant funds may be used to support a wide array of activities to support the development of community solar projects, including:

- Early stage project planning
- Project team organization
- Site identification
- Organizing a project business model and securing financing
- Procurement and contracting
- Customer outreach and enrollment
- Preliminary site assessments
- Development of cooperative or community ownership model
- Development of project models that allocate benefits to equity investment eligible communities

A significant portion of the grant value may be allocated upfront based on project scope and meeting grant agreement milestones in advance of other incentives, to ensure businesses and organizations have the capital needed to plan, develop, and execute a project.

Funding may be requested for activities within one or both of the following project phases:

- 1) planning and feasibility phase, which may include:
 - a. Early Stage Project Planning
 - b. Project Team Organization
 - c. Site Identification
 - d. Organizing a project business model
 - e. Customer outreach
 - f. Preliminary site assessments
 - g. Development of cooperative or community ownership project models that allocate benefits to equity eligible communities. and
- 2) pre-development construction phase, which may include:
 - a. Procurement and contracting
 - b. Securing financing
 - c. Site control
 - d. Customer outreach and enrollment
 - e. Permitting and zoning
 - f. Interconnection application costs and fees, studies, and expenses
 - g. Equipment and supplies
 - h. Staff and operation expenses.

Applicants may apply for:

1. Phase 1 only
2. Phase 2 only
3. Both Phase 1 and Phase 2

The Department will review Phase 1 performance metrics before allocating funding for Phase 2 activities. Phase 1 feasibility studies including applicant plans for full funding of project will be required prior to Phase 2. If an applicant only applies for Phase 2, documentation of the prior planning and feasibility must be provided as supporting documents in the initial application. Lists of activities for the different phases can also be found in the Program Application. Grantees applying for both phases will require grant manager approval prior to accessing Phase 2 funding.

Grants shall be designed to coordinate with and supplement existing incentive programs, such as the Adjustable Block program, the Illinois Solar for All Program, the community renewable generation projects, and renewable energy procurements as described in the Illinois Power Agency Act.

Program History

The Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program is part of a larger strategy to grow and diversify the clean energy workforce in Illinois, as specified by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA, Public

Act 102-0662). CEJA establishes various new programs and expands existing programs aimed at accelerating the adoption of clean energy sources, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency efforts. The manufacturing, construction, and maintenance activities required to meet these regulations, incentives, and goals will require significant expansion of businesses and well-trained workers. Historically, these workforce investments have not benefited underserved communities in Illinois. The Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program is one of several programs created by CEJA to rectify these historical inequities by expanding community solar opportunities in equity investment eligible communities. The Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program is one of two components of the Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program established in Section 5-60 of Public Act 102-0662.

Performance Goals and Measures

Successful applicants will submit Periodic Performance reports to document milestones achieved and other relevant outputs and outcomes of the grant. Reporting will be required during project and after all funds have been expended to confirm metrics. Grant metrics are expected to be completed within four years of initial grant award. Grant may be extended for reporting purposes.

Phase 1 metrics may include:

- Planning/development activities completed
- Pre-construction site readiness
- Estimated energy to be saved or produced, projected reduction in utility energy cost, and the beneficiaries of the savings
- Projected number of households to be served by the community solar project(s)
- Any leveraged funding sources or incentive programs that the applicant has applied to or plans to apply to for the project.
- Planned use of CEJA trained workforce contractors or CEJA Pre-apprenticeship or Apprenticeship workforce participants

Phase 2 metrics may include:

- Planning/development activities used or adapted for Phase 2
- Community solar project(s) started in preferred communities.
- Community solar project(s) successfully completed
- Installed capacity of completed community solar project(s)
- Number of households served by the community solar project(s)
- Description and amount of any leveraged funding the applicant received for the project
- Number of workers recruited from a FEJA or CEJA workforce program
- Number of contractors recruited from a CEJA contractor program

The Department will review Phase 1 performance metrics to determine whether the grantee may receive funding for Phase 2 activities.

Other Information

NA

B. Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state Energy Transition funds appropriated by PA 103-0006. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$8.5 million. Awards will range from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000. The Department expects to make up to 40 awards for though this NOFO.

Anticipated start date for awards will be determined after application review. The period of performance is expected to be up to four years from start of the award.

Grantees may receive upfront funding for program activities, which will be negotiated at the time of the grant agreement.

Applicants must submit a project narrative that describes in detail how the award will be executed. The project narrative should include enough information for DCEO to understand the scope of the project, the budget, including a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with each budget line and any additional necessary detail to enable DCEO to manage the grant agreement activity against planned project performance. The Project Narrative must include evidence of capacity, quality and need as defined in Section E.1.

The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Department to make an award.

C. Eligibility Information

An entity must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>, at the time of grant application. The portal will verify that the entity:

- Has a valid FEIN number (<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/taxpayer-identification-numbers-tin#:~:text=You%20can%20use%20the%20IRS%27s,for%20Individual%20Taxpayer%20Identification%20Number>);
- Has a current SAM.gov registration (<https://sam.gov>), SAM.gov registrations must be marked as “public” to allow the GATA Grantee Portal to expedite the review of the federal information;
- Has a valid UEI number (<https://sam.gov>);
- Is not on the Federal Excluded Parties List (verified at <https://sam.gov>);
- Is in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable (https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/business_services/corp.html);
- Is not on the Illinois Stop Payment list (verified once entity is registered in GATA Grantee Portal); and
- Is not on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list (<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/oig/Pages/SanctionsList.aspx>).

Entities on the Illinois Stop Payment List and/or the Federal Excluded Parties List at time of application submission will not be considered for an award.

An automated email notification to the entity alerts them of “qualified” status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., not in good standing with the Secretary of State). A federal Debarred and Suspended status cannot be remediated.

Pursuant to the policy of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller, to receive grant funds from the State of Illinois, a grantee must be considered a regarded entity by the IRS for federal income tax purposes. Disregarded entities will not be eligible to receive grant funds.

1. Eligible Applicants include:

- A. Community-based organizations defined by the National Community-Based Organization Network (NCBON) in the Illinois Power Agency’s 2022 Long Term Plan (<https://ipa.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/ipa/documents/2022-long-term-plan-23-august.pdf>) as organizations in which:
 - a. The majority of the governing body and staff consists of local residents,
 - b. The main operating offices are in the community,
 - c. Priority issue areas are identified and defined by residents,
 - d. Solutions to address priority issues are developed with residents, and
 - e. Program design, implementation, and evaluation components have residents intimately involved, in leadership positions.
- B. A public entity may qualify as a community-based organization, but only if the public entity meets the following requirements:

- a. The public entity must represent a municipality or county (or school district, park district, etc.) Priority given to proposed projects located in and supporting an equity investment eligible community or communities; and benefiting participating low-income households.
 - b. The public entity must certify that no local community-based organizations exist that are capable of filling this role.
 - c. The public entity must provide the same showing of robust community engagement as a non-public entity would be required to show.
- C. Technical service providers as defined in the CEJA Section 5-60 (e) (4) working in direct partnership with community-based organizations (as defined above).
- a. The entity must demonstrate robust community engagement and support
 - b. A technical service provider can be a solar supplier or installer or business involved in the field of solar energy.

All applicants must demonstrate their ability and intent to create community and other local community benefits through their proposed project. They should have proof of a historical or future, and persisting, long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located (especially those within Environmental Justice (EJ) and/or R3 communities and/or serving EJ and/or R3 communities) and must demonstrate how the project will benefit that community.

The Department complies with all applicable provisions of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment and equal employment opportunity including, but not limited to: The Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq.), The Public Works Employment Discrimination Act (775 ILCS 10/1 et seq.), The United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended) (42 USC 2000a-and 2000H-6), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.), and The Age Discrimination Act (42 USC 6101 et seq.).

2. Cost Sharing or Matching.

Cost sharing or matching is not required, but applicants for this opportunity are strongly encouraged to leverage funding from existing incentive programs as well, including the Adjustable Block Program, the Illinois Solar for All Program, the community renewable generation projects, and renewable energy procurements.

3. Indirect Cost Rate.

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

- a) 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 NICRA.
- b) 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 to nine months after the close of the grantee's fiscal year, depending on the grantee's audit type requirements.
- c) De Minimis Rate. An organization may elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC). 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.

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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.

Grantees have discretion and can elect to waive payment for indirect costs. Grantees that elect to waive payments for indirect costs cannot be reimbursed for indirect costs. The organization must record an election to "Waive Indirect Costs" into the State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system.

State Universities may request an indirect cost rate of 10% due to the State of Illinois' continuous funding of a portion of facility and administrative costs.

4. Other, if applicable.

Applicants may submit multiple applications for this opportunity, but a maximum per applicant is \$1,000,000 total.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package.

Grant application forms are available at the web link provided in the "Grant Application Link" field of this announcement or by contacting the Program Manager:

Aaron McEvoy
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
607 East Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Email: aaron.mcevoy@illinois.gov

2. Content and Form of Application Submission.

A standard application package must be submitted to and reviewed by DCEO. Each package must contain the following items:

- Uniform Grant Application in fillable PDF format. Signature page must be printed, signed, scanned and submitted with application.
- Uniform Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project. The entire budget with all worksheets included even if the worksheets are not relevant to the grant opportunity must be submitted with the application materials. Signature page must be printed, signed, scanned and submitted with application.
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Mandatory Disclosures

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the **submission of the following other programmatic specific items as part of the program application that can be found on the website where you accessed the application document:**

Applicants may apply Phase 1 only, Phase 2 only or Phase 1 and Phase 2.

- Project application utilizing the template provided.

The Project application includes the following information:

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- Applicant information – Information about the applicant, including:
 - legal structure (e.g. S corp, sole prop, co-op, etc.),
 - description of parent companies or subsidiaries,
 - annual revenue,
 - number of employees,
 - Governing Body List and address
 - connection to the community where the project will be located, and
 - any partner businesses/entities who will be contributing to the project.
- Location and need – Information about the project location site(s), including ownership and the community needs the project will address.
- Project description and activities -- Detailed information about the renewable energy and/or energy efficiency elements of the project and the activities for which applicant is requesting funding.
- Project partners – The partner business or not-for-profit entity that receives the benefit of the completed project. All applicants must demonstrate proof of a historical or future, and persisting, long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located (especially those within environmental justice (EJ) and/or Restore Reinvest Renew(R3) communities and/or serving EJ and/or R3 communities) and must demonstrate how the project will benefit that community.
- Project outcomes – Estimated energy saved or produced, projected reduction in utility energy cost, and the beneficiaries of the savings.
- Any leveraged funding sources or incentive programs that the applicant has applied to or plans to apply to for the project.
- Estimated total number of months required to complete the project.
- Staffing – Key staff assigned to the project and their roles.
- Workforce development -- Description of how the project will promote workforce equity and quality jobs through any of the following:
 - On-the-job training for CEJA or Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) training program current participants, former participants, or graduates.
 - Employment of contractors who are equity eligible contractors/persons:
 - Graduates or current or former participants in the CEJA or FEJA training programs; or
 - Persons who participate in similar workforce or contractor programs that serve underrepresented populations in Illinois; or
 - Persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system; or
 - Persons who were formerly incarcerated; or
 - Persons whose primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community.
 - Number of permanent or temporary jobs that will be created.

Property ownership document OR document demonstrating applicant's authority to make site improvements.

Attachments: Letter(s) of support from local leadership, stakeholders, documentation demonstrating existing funding or awards; project documentation (such as planning documents, budget estimates, etc.)

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- Attestation Form for Public Entity certifying that no local community-based organizations exist that are capable of filling the role as lead applicant (if applicable)

3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM).

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to:

- (i) Be registered in SAM. To establish a SAM registration, go to www.SAM.gov and/or utilize this instructional link: [How to Register in SAM from the www.grants.illinois.gov Resource Links tab](#). SAM.gov registrations must be “public.”
- (ii) Provide a valid UEI number in the GATA Grantee Portal registration.
- (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency. The Department will not make a Federal pass-through or State award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Department is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the Department may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal pass-through or State award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal pass-through or State award to another applicant.

4. Submission Dates and Times.

Applications submitted will be accepted on a first come first served basis and will be scored on a rolling basis with the first review window occurring during the last ten days of the 2nd month after posting, Applications received after the first review window will then be accepted up to the 20th of the following month and will be reviewed during the second review period. This application acceptance and review process will continue, until the application submission deadline of July 1, 2024 with final review window for this NOFO occurring in August 2024. The final date to accept applications is July 1, 2024 at 5pm CST.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/653f491aff4143e9b0f06e2248d5e74a>

The Department is under no obligation to review applications that do not comply with the above requirements. Failure to meet the application deadline may result in the Department returning application without review or may preclude the Department from making the award.

5. Intergovernmental Review, if applicable.

N/A

6. Funding Restrictions.

This opportunity does not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs. Other restrictions can be found in Sections B. and C.3.

7. Other Submission Requirements.

Documents stored in Google Docs or other cloud-based servers are not allowed.

Applicants may confirm receipt of the application and documents by contacting the program contact listed in this NOFO.

E. Application Review Information

1. Criteria.

Grant proposals will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Each proposal will be scored on a percentage scale. The Department shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal: Need, Capacity, Quality, and Cost Effectiveness.

Documentation of Need (10%)	
The project's location is within or serving equity investment eligible communities or underserved communities.	5%
Plan describes the community needs and how this project will address the needs.	5%
Applicant Qualifications and Capacity (25%)	
Applicant's capacity to execute the project and the qualifications of those assigned to the project and/or plan to hire or contract with other partners to execute the project.	15%
Applicant's historical or future long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located or the community that will be served by the project.	10%
Project Quality (45%)	
Quality of plan to generate energy and create community ownership through community solar project.	10%
Quality of plan to execute project through activities related to project feasibility, project conception, project planning, project development, and implementation.	5%
Anticipated outcomes of the project in terms of households served, reduction in utility energy costs, and non-energy benefits for target communities.	5%
Quality of plan for how the energy and cost savings will benefit equity investment eligible communities, low-income households, not-for-profit organizations serving equity investment eligible communities, etc.	15%
Quality of plan to support clean energy workforce and contractor development by hiring equity eligible contractors, including CEJA or FEJA workforce program graduates and/or contractor participants to work on the project and/or offer on-the-job training opportunities to CEJA or FEJA participants.	10%
Cost Effectiveness/Return on Investment (20%)	
The cost efficiency and effectiveness of the planned activities and projected outcomes.	10%
Ability to leverage existing funding sources, incentives, services and partnerships to improve the cost effectiveness and return on investment of the project.	10%

2. Review and Selection Process.

Applications will be graded using the Merit Review Process and scored on the criteria specified in Section E.1. The Department will designate an Evaluation Committee to grade each application received for this funding opportunity. The final score of each Committee member will be calculated and an average of all scores will be the final applicant score. Grants will be awarded to the highest scoring applicants on a scale to be determined by DCEO and available funding. The process for selection is based on a first come first serve basis as outlined in Section D.4 above.

The Merit Based Review process is subject to appeal. However, competitive grant appeals are limited to the evaluation process. Evaluation scores may not be protested. Only the evaluation process is subject to appeal. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Department within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published. The written appeal shall include the name and address of the appealing party, the identification of the grant and a statement of reasons for the appeal. To file an appeal, applicants must submit the appeal in writing and in accordance with the Merit-Based Application Review Appeals Process listed on the Grant Opportunities page of the DCEO website:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/meritappreview.html>.

3. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates, if applicable.

The Department will conduct a merit based review of eligible applications on a rolling basis. Successful applicants will receive a Notice of State Award (NOSA) to initiate the grant agreement phase. During this phase, you will be contacted by a grant manager to develop a grant agreement, which can be a months long process depending on complexity, cooperation, and conformity with all applicable federal and state laws.

The Department reserves the right to issue a reduced award, or not to issue any award.

F. Award Administration Information

1. State Award Notices.

The Notice of State Award (NOSA) will specify the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from the pre-award risk assessments and the merit-based review process. The NOSA must be accepted in the GATA Portal by an authorized representative of the grantee organization. The NOSA is not an authorization to begin performance or incur costs.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

Subrecipients and Subcontractors: Agreement(s) and budget(s) with subrecipients and subcontractors must be pre-approved by and on file with DCEO. Agreements can be submitted to DCEO when available. Subcontractors and subrecipients are subject to all applicable provisions of the Agreement(s) executed between DCEO and the grantee. The successful applicant shall retain sole responsibility for the performance of its subrecipient(s) and/or subcontractor(s).

Grant Uniform Requirements: The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/1 *et seq.*) (and its related administrative rules, 44 Ill. Admin. Code Part 7000), was enacted to increase the accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds from whatever source and to reduce administrative burdens on both State agencies and grantees by adopting federal guidance and regulations applicable to those grant funds; specifically, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200).

Procurement: Grantees will be required to adhere to methods of procurement per the Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.317 – 2 CFR 200.327).

3. Reporting.

Periodic Performance Report (PPR) and Periodic Financial Report (PFR)

Grantees funded through this NOFO are required to submit in the format required by the Grantor, at least on a quarterly basis, the PPR and PFR electronically to their assigned grant manager. The first of such reports shall cover the first three months after the award begins. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.328, Periodic Financial Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days

following the period covered by the report. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.329, Periodic Performance Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Any additional reporting requirements will be disclosed in the NOSA. Grantees are required within 45 calendar days following the end of the period of performance to submit a final closeout report in the format required by the Grantor (See 2 CFR 200.344).

Program Specific Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to report to the Department at the end of the grant term on the activities pursued under their grant and any lessons learned. Reported information may be included on the Department's website so that other solar energy sovereignty projects may learn from their experiences.

Grantee must at minimum report the following:

Number of workers recruited from a FEJA or CEJA workforce program

Number of contractors recruited from a CEJA contractor program

Amount of funds leveraged for project

Number of households that received or are projected to receive benefits from the project.

Projected amount of energy saving for households that received or are projected to receive benefits from the project

Chart showing names of community partnerships and types of input

Phase 2 projects must show estimated or achieved amount of solar energy produced.

Monitoring

Grantees funded through this NOFO are subject to fiscal and programmatic monitoring visits by the Department in accordance with 2 CFR 200.337. They must have an open-door policy allowing periodic visits by Department monitors to evaluate the progress of the project and provide documentation upon request of the monitor. Program staff will also maintain contact with participants and monitor progress and performance of the contracts. The Department may modify grants based on performance.

Audit

Grantees shall be subject to Illinois' statewide Audit Report Review requirements. Terms of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC 7501-7507), Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, and the audit rules set forth under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act shall apply (See 30 ILCS 708/65(c)).

G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Grant Help Desk
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Email: **CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov**

H. Other Information, if applicable

The Department reserves the right to request additional information from applicants to evaluate applications. Submission of an application confers no right to an award or to a subsequent grant agreement. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is not obligated to award any grants under this program, to pay any costs incurred by the applicant in the preparation and submission of an application or pay any grant-related costs incurred prior to the grant's beginning date.

Renewals and Grant Modifications: The Department may authorize the renewal of grant funding for grantees based on the activities, outcomes and performance of the grantee as well as the availability of funds under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. The renewal, if granted, would occur after an evaluation of activities and outcomes by the Department.

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Technical Assistance and Professional Development: Grantees must plan on attending group or individual technical assistance and/or training sessions as directed by the Department. Grantees may have the opportunity to garner additional support from a program coach contracted by the Department. Depending on grantee needs and capacity, the Department may require grantees to work with the program coach to support project planning and development.

NOFO Technical Assistance: DCEO will provide Technical Assistance (TA) throughout the application process, in the form of webinars, office hours, on-line resources and an FAQ.

- Bidder's Conference
- Office Hours: Request a 30-minute technical assistance session via Zoom by emailing ceo.ceja@illinois.gov.

Questions and answers: Applicants may submit questions at ceo.ceja@illinois.gov. Responses will be posted as a link on the NOFO site.