



Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program NOFO Information Session

June 16, 2025



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Presenters

Hubert Murray, Program Manager

DCEO - Office of Energy & Business Utility

Christine Flynn, Public Sector Consultant

Workforce Policy Lab – Northern Illinois University

Jason Anderson

DCEO – Office of Accountability





Items of Note

1. This session is being recorded
2. The recording and this slide deck will be made available in a follow-up email to this session and on the NOFO website
3. Please remain muted throughout the session and add questions.
4. Questions will be taken at the end of each section.



Overview

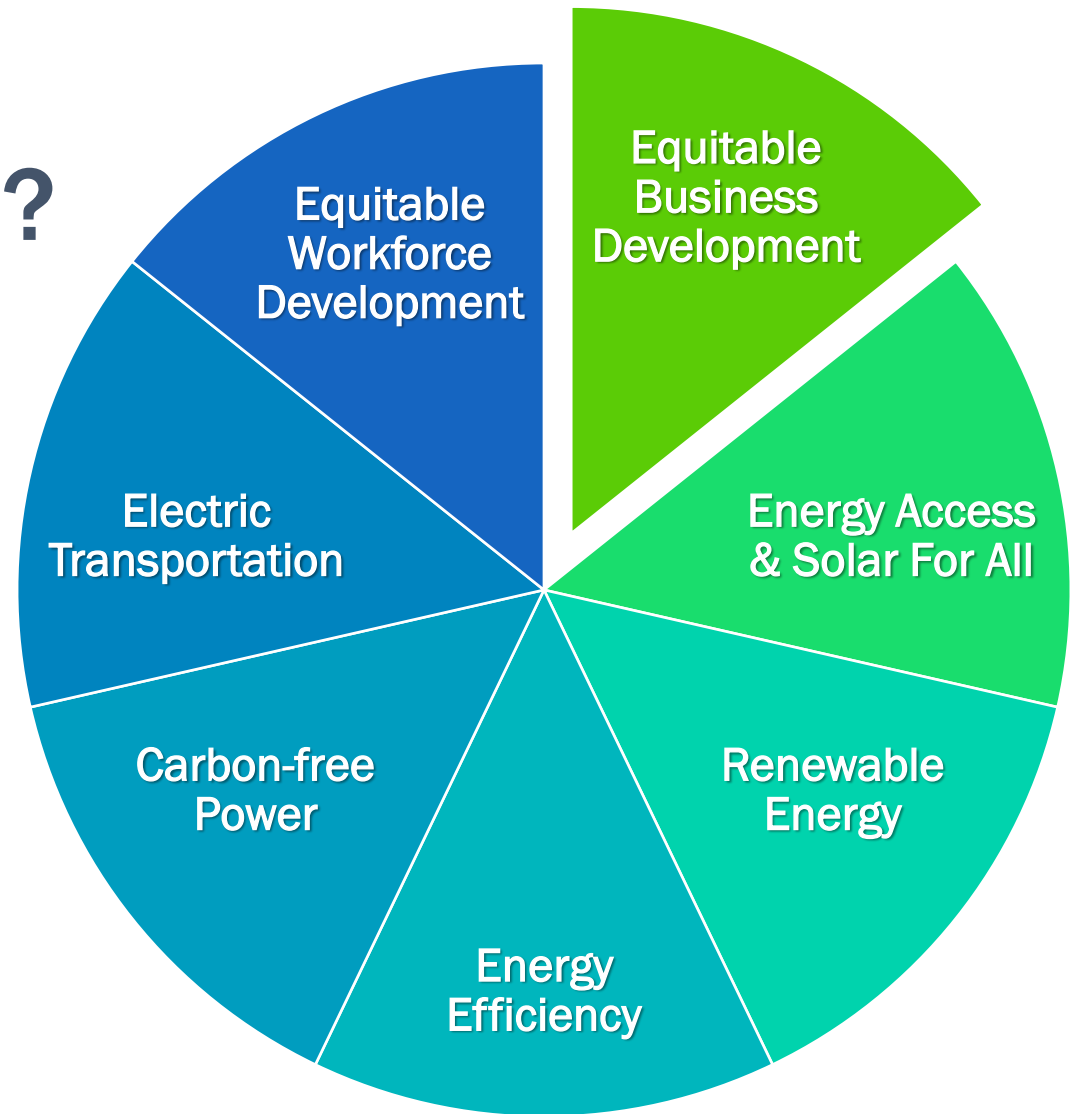
1. Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)
2. Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Overview
3. Grant Accountability & Transparency Act (GATA) & Pre-Qualification
4. Grant Application & Submission Requirements



Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

What is the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) ?

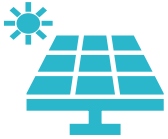
Comprehensive energy legislation that centers equity and puts Illinois on track to achieve 100 % clean energy by 2050.



DCEO Clean Energy Programs

★ Funding Opportunity Currently Open

CEJA Economic & Community Development (\$74M) Office of Energy & Business Utility (OEBU)



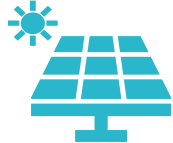
Coal to Solar



Energy Transition
Community Grant
\$40M/yr.



Equitable Energy
Future Grant
Up to \$25.5M/yr.



Solar Energy
Sovereignty Grant
Up to \$8.5M/yr.



CEJA Workforce Training Programs (\$61 M +) Office of Employment & Training (OET)



Clean Jobs
Workforce Network
\$21M/yr.



Climate Works
Pre-apprenticeship
\$9M/yr.



Energy Transition
Navigators
\$6M/yr.



Returning Resident
Clean Jobs
\$6M/yr.



Energy Transition
Barrier Reduction
\$15M/yr.



Clean Energy Career
Pathway Program
\$4M

CEJA Councils & Boards

Office of Energy & Business Utility (OEBU)



Energy Workforce
Advisory Council



Clean Energy Jobs
& Justice Fund

CEJA Contractor Support Programs (\$30M+) Office of Entrepreneurship & Innovation Technology(OEIT)



Contractor
Incubator
\$21M/yr.



Contractor
Primes Accelerator
\$9M/yr.



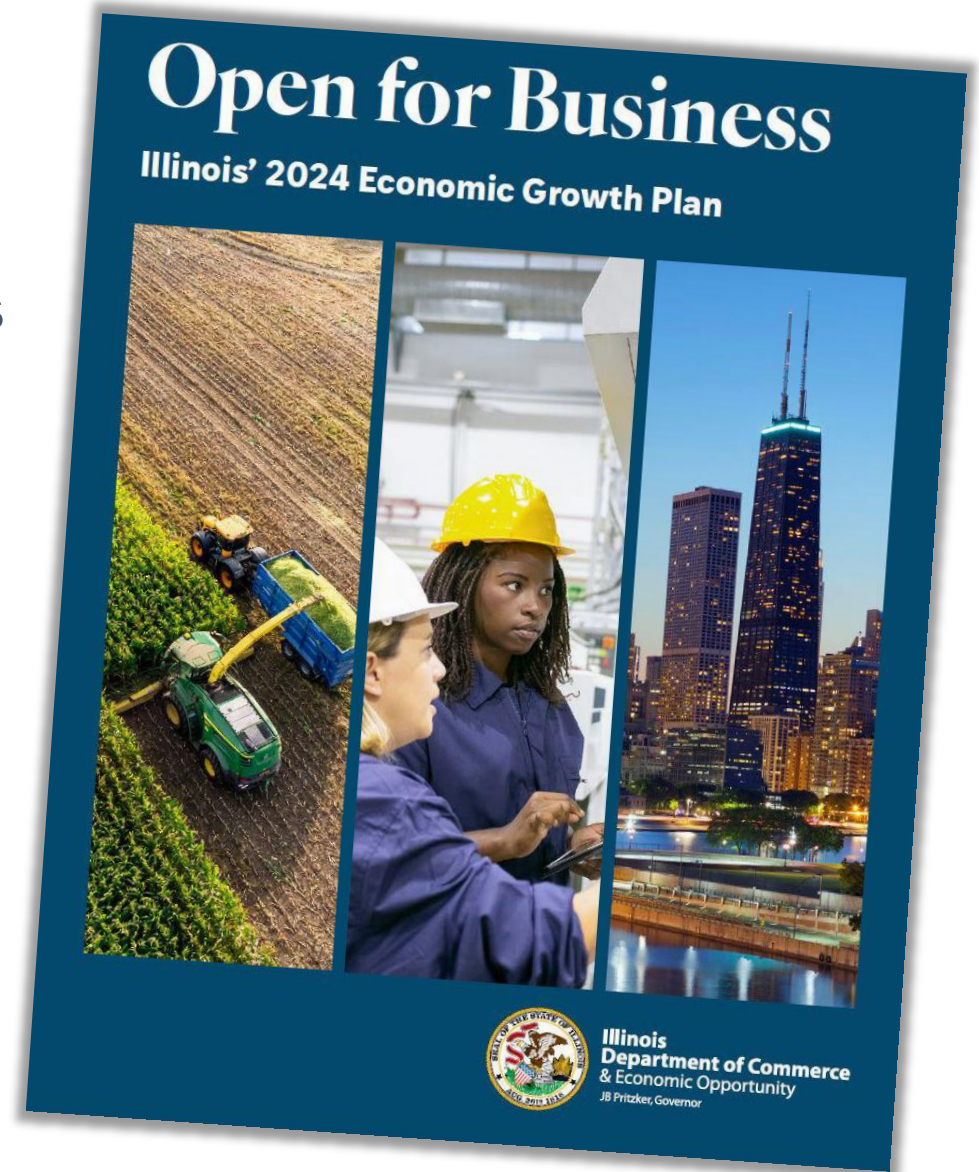
Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) OET



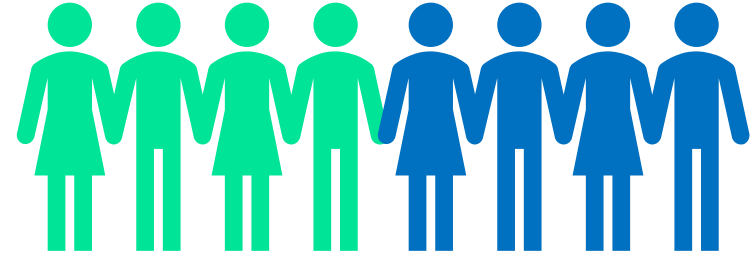
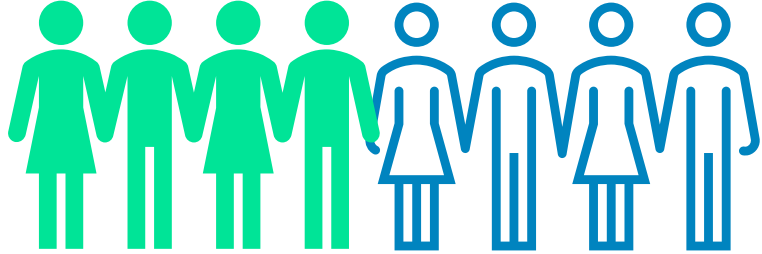
FEJA Workforce
Training Program

Open for Business: Illinois' 2024 Economic Growth Plan

- CEJA legislation and Equitable Energy Future addresses 3 of 4 economic development goals
 - Advance Comprehensive Economic Development
 - Promote Equitable Growth by Empowering Workers, Entrepreneurs, and Communities
 - Build Out the New Clean Energy Economy
- Equity Focused



CEJA Equity Focus



Some groups of people and communities benefit more from clean energy investments while some others suffer more from environmental impacts & community disinvestment.

The benefits of clean energy investments and good-paying clean energy jobs should be distributed equitably.

What is Equity?

Equity is when support and resources are deliberately and thoughtfully designed to fit the need of an individual or community.

CEJA was designed with equity at its center to ensure ALL Illinoisians are part of the journey toward a clean energy future.





How Can CEJA Help My Community?

- Community takes leadership role in clean energy transition
- Energy transition will bring
 - Economic opportunity
 - Economic growth
 - Job opportunities
 - Better environmental outcomes
 - Better health outcomes
- Can expand economic development efforts
- Clean energy jobs make communities more resilient, combat climate change



How Can CEJA Help My Organization?

- Provide stable funding
- Build capacity
 - Hiring staff
 - Professional development
 - Build new network of partners and providers
- Flexible funding source
- State Funds which can be leveraged with other non-CEJA programs

How Can CEJA Help Employers?

- Access qualified candidates with fundamental clean energy knowledge and skills and essential employability skills.
- Meet minimum equity or supplier diversity requirements
- Grow their businesses to take advantage of clean energy project funding.
- Provide capital for renewable and energy efficiency projects





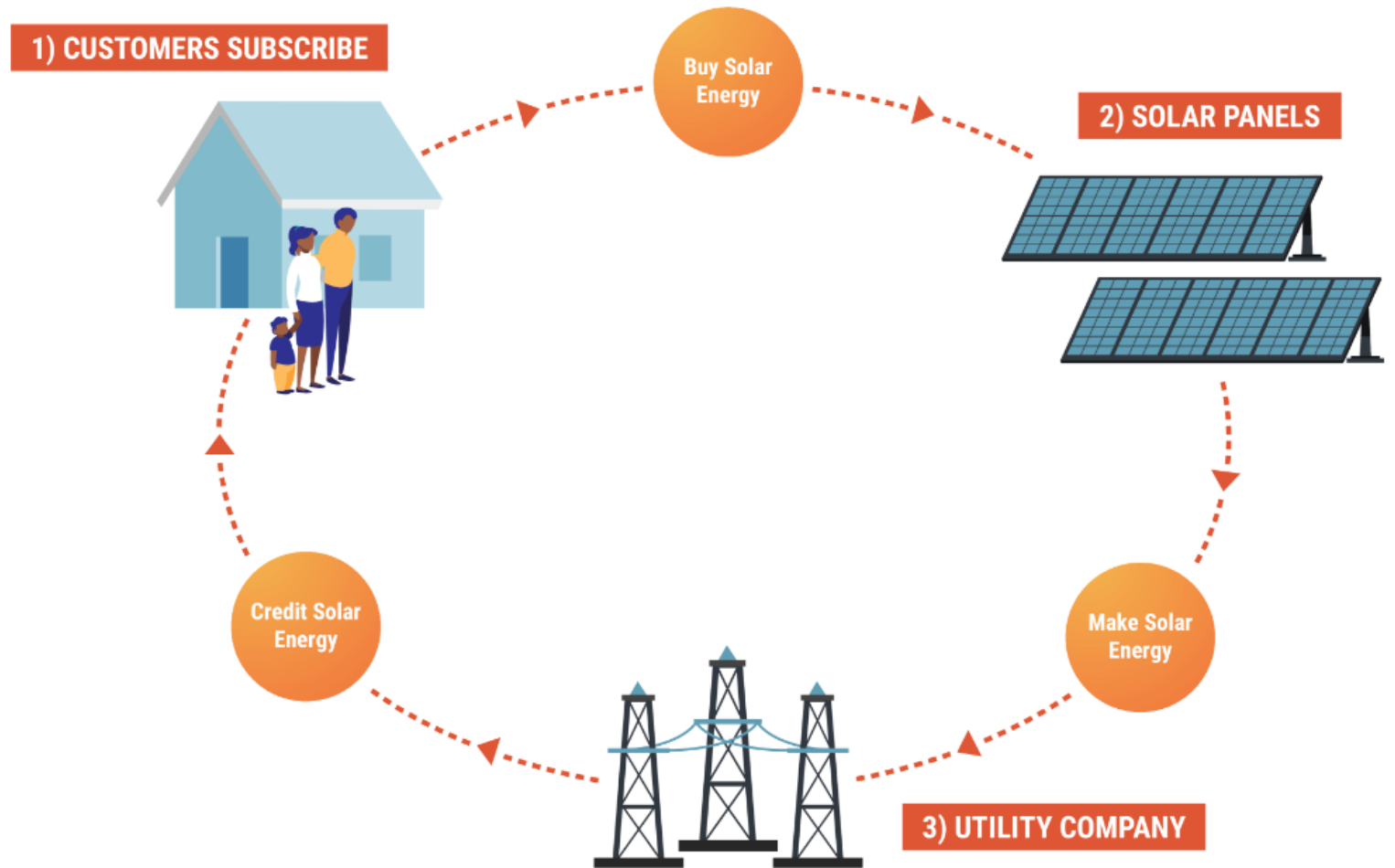
Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program



What is Community Solar?

“Any solar project or purchasing program, within a geographic area, in which the benefits flow to multiple customers such as individuals, businesses, nonprofits and other groups”

- U.S. Dept. of Energy



What is Equitable Community Solar ?



Equitable Community Solar Projects **provide direct, tangible benefits** to and **involvement of the local community** and have a specific **focus on underserved/disadvantaged communities.**

Benefits of Community Solar



Utility Savings



Workforce
Development



Community
Ownership



Health
Benefits



Resilience

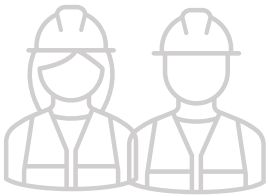
NOFO Fundamentals: Community Solar Energy



Funding Background & Goal

The Community Solar Energy Sovereignty (CSES) Grant Program is one of the two grants funded under the Jobs & Environmental Justice Grant Fund

CSES offers pre-development funding to support the development of community solar projects.



Eligible Applicants

The goal of CSES is to remove barriers to project, community & business development caused by lack of capital.

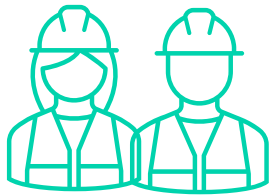


Funding

NOFO Fundamentals: Community Solar Energy



Funding Purpose & Goal



Eligible Applicants



Funding

Community-Based Organizations

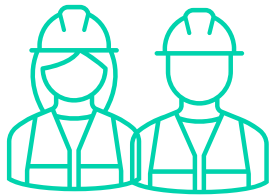
Must fit the definition outlined by the National Community-Based Organization Network (NCBON) in the Illinois Power Agency's 2022 Long Term Plan:

- 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.

NOFO Fundamentals: Community Solar Energy



Funding Purpose & Goal



Eligible Applicants



Funding

Public Entity

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.)
- B. The public entity must certify that no local community-based organizations exist that can fill 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.

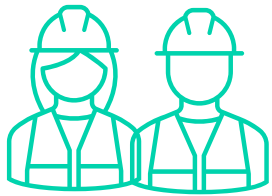
NOFO Fundamentals: Community Solar Energy



Funding Purpose & Goal

Technical Service Providers directly working with a CBO

Technical service providers as defined in the CEJA Section 5-60 (e) (4) working in direct partnership with community-based organizations (as defined above).



Eligible Applicants

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.



Funding

NOFO Fundamentals: Community Solar Energy



Funding Purpose & Goal



Eligible Applicants

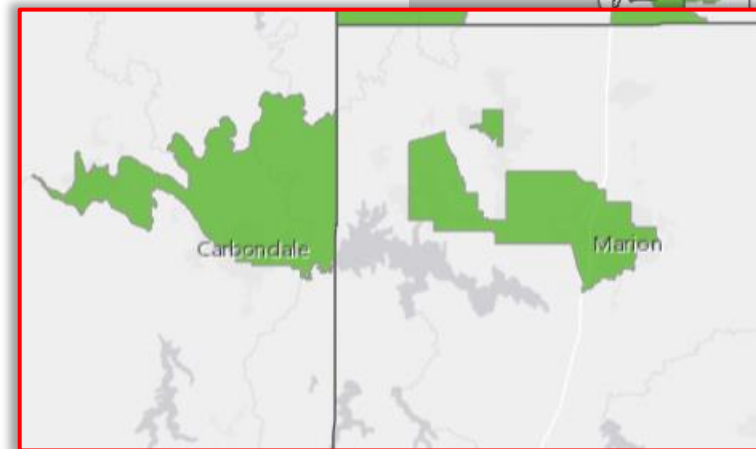


Funding

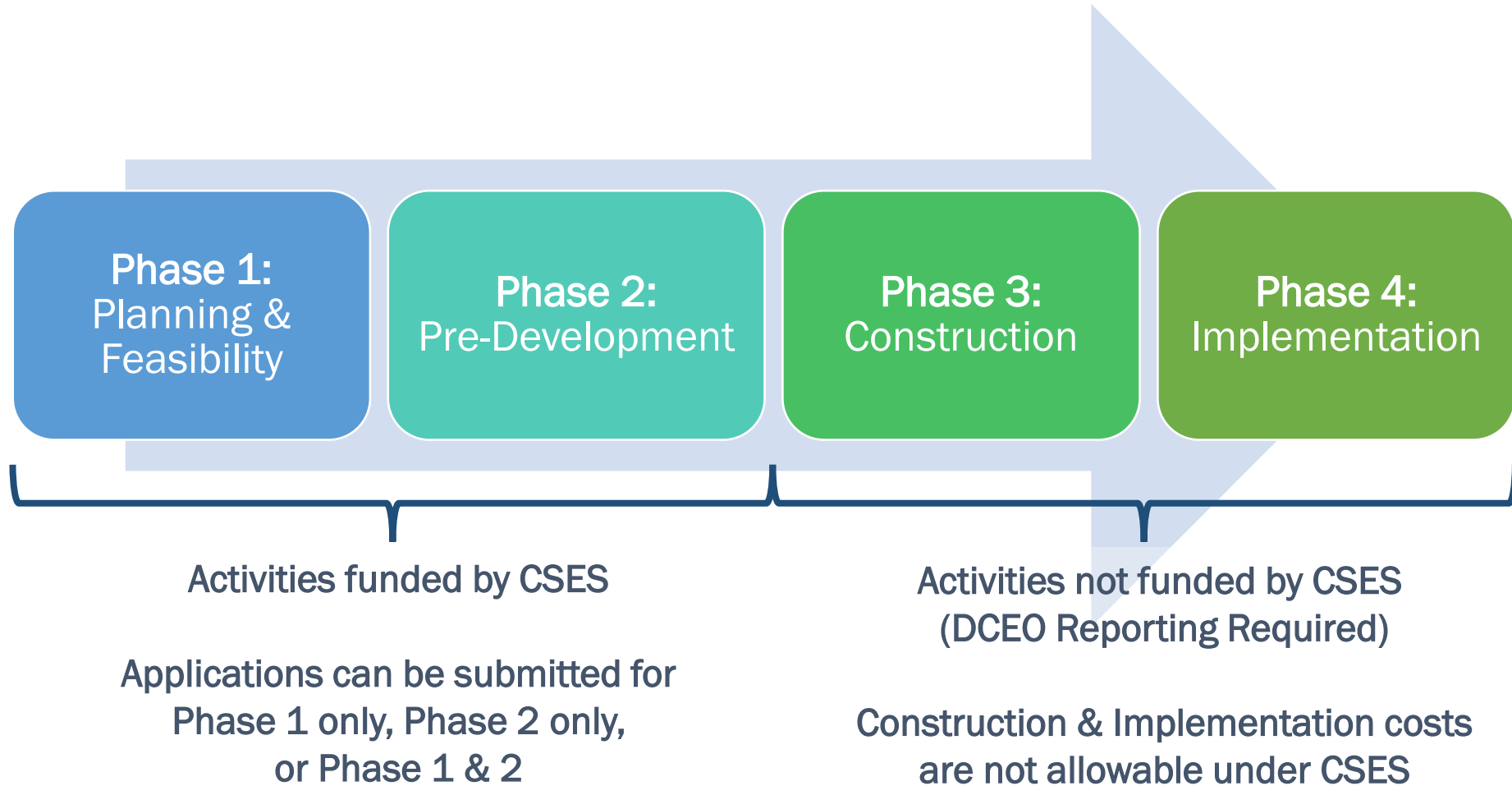
- **Total Funding:** \$8.5 million per year
- **Per Applicant Award:** \$50,000 - \$1,000,000
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** Up to 40
- **Applicants may apply for multiple projects.** However, applicants will only be approved for a total award amount of funds up to \$3 million between all projects.
- **Applicants may apply for both CSES and EEF.** However, they can only receive a maximum award between EEF and CSES of up to \$3 million.

Priority projects are those that are located in or support an equity investment eligible community.

- Environmental Justice communities
- Restore. Reinvest. Renew (R3) communities



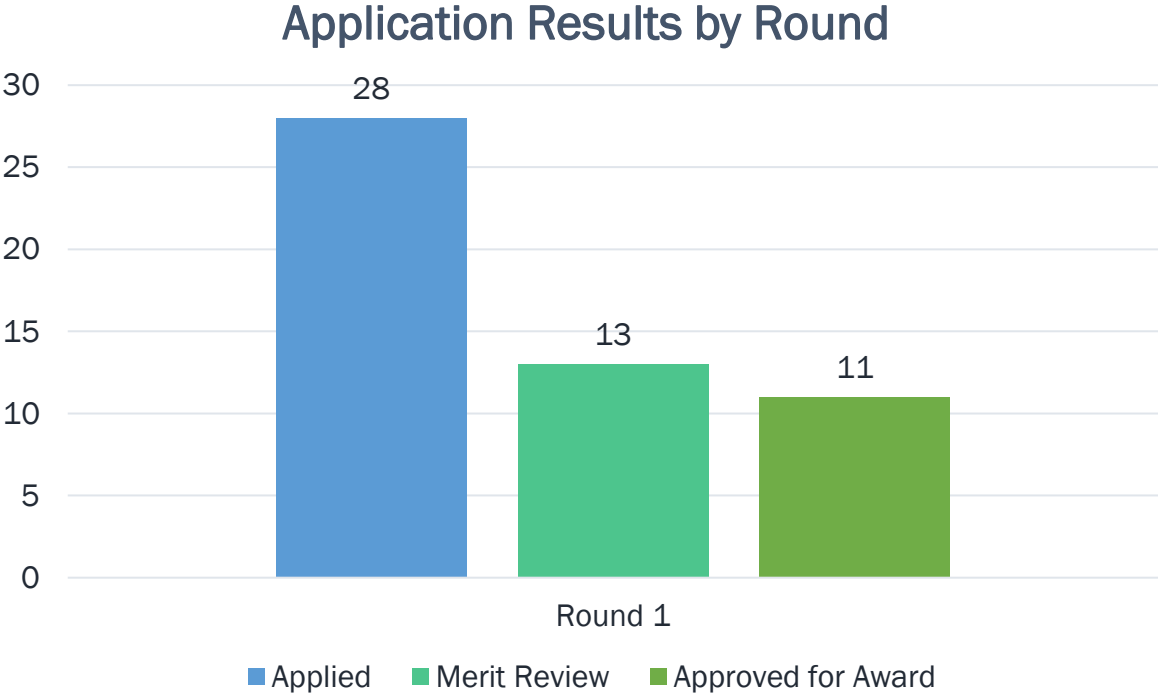
Project Phases



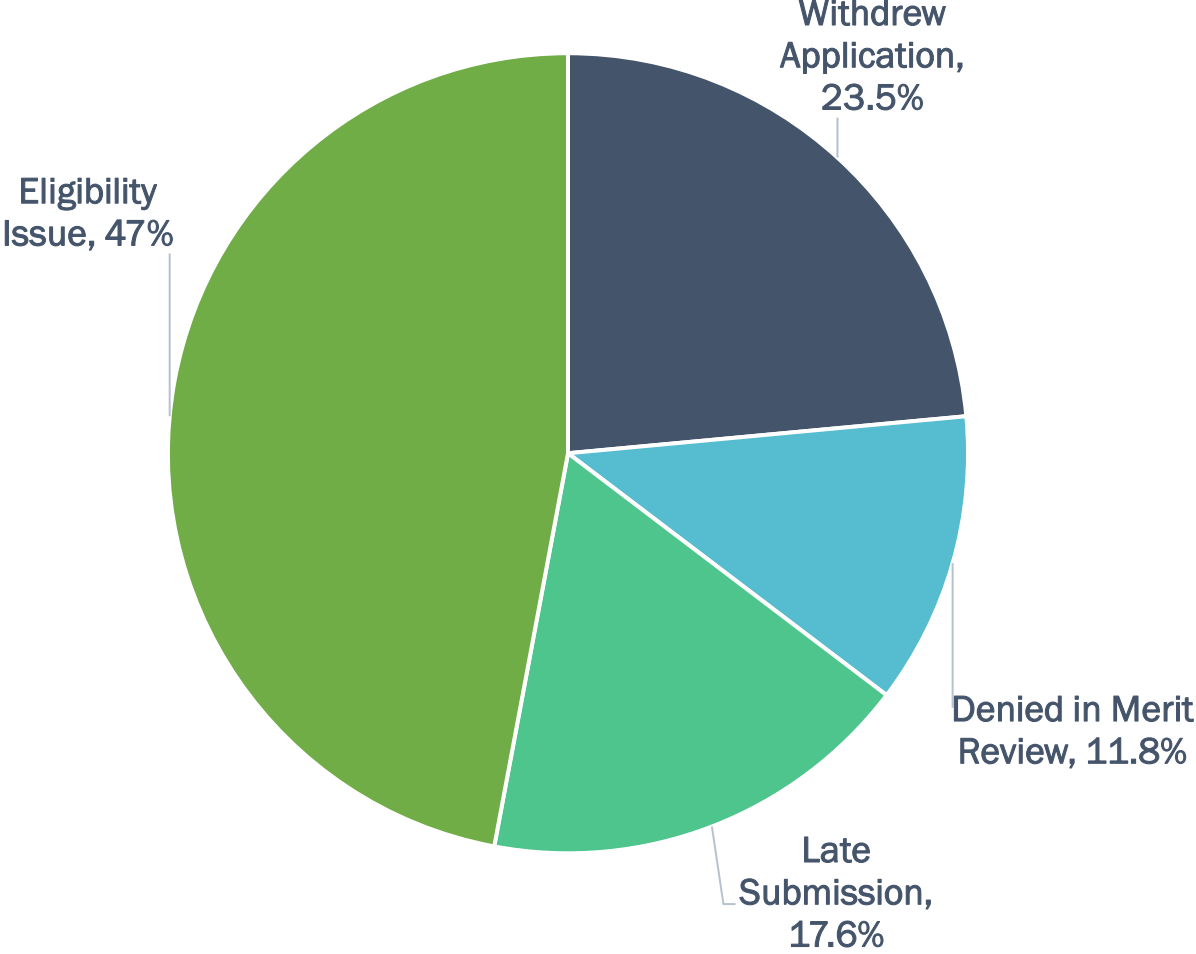
Allowable Activities

Phase 1: Planning and feasibility	Phase 2: Pre-development construction
Early-Stage Project Planning	Procurement and contracting
Project Team Organization	Securing financing
Site Identification	Site control
Organizing a project business model	Customer outreach and enrollment
Customer outreach	Permitting and zoning
Preliminary site assessments	Equipment and supplies
Development of cooperative or community ownership project models that allocate benefits to equity eligible communities	Interconnection application costs and fees, studies and expenses Staff and operation expenses

Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Results



Total Amount Awarded **\$7,667,625**



Breakdown of Application Denials

Project Funding



- Funds for CSES are disbursed based on milestones determined during the negotiation process.
- Each milestone is connected to a critical decision point in the project.
- An agreed upon percentage of funds will be disbursed upon completion of each milestone until all milestones are completed.

Project Funding Example

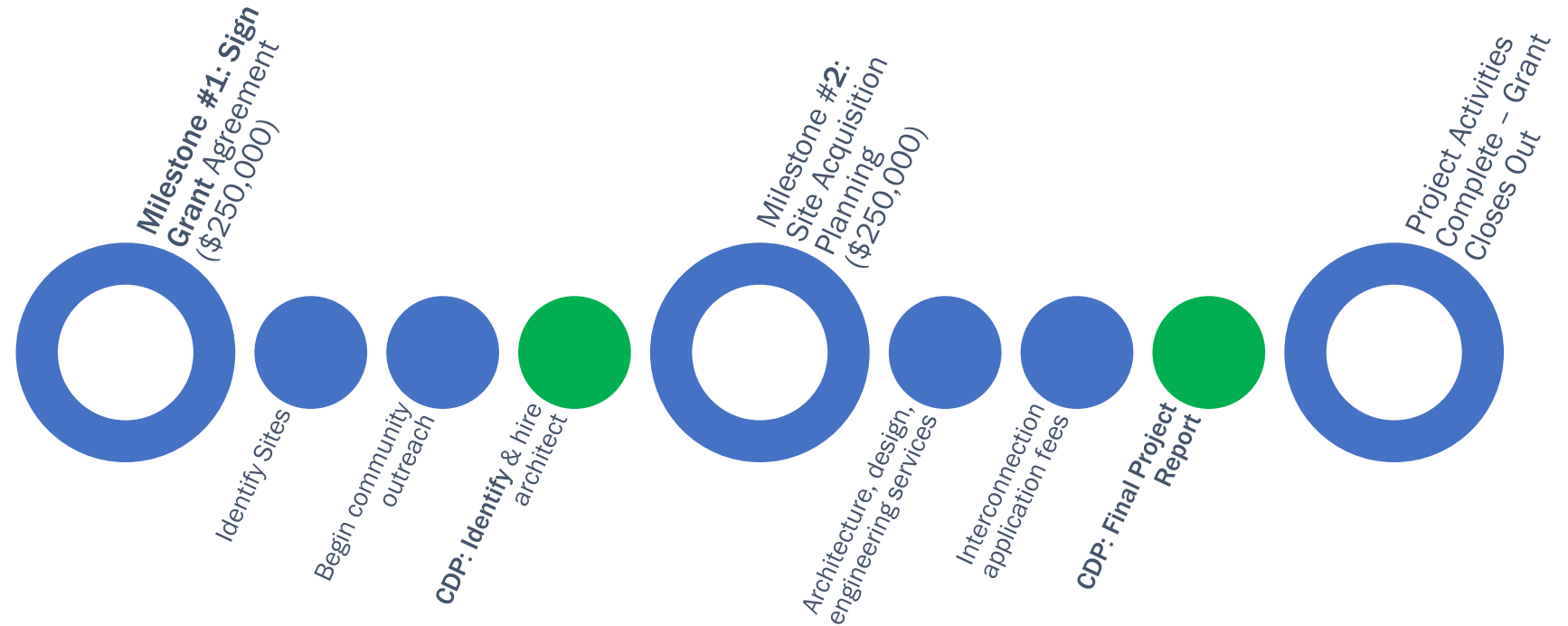
Grantee A

Award Amount: \$500,000

Number of Milestones: 2

Milestone Funding Percentage:
50% of grant funds per milestone

Funded Phase(s): Phase 1

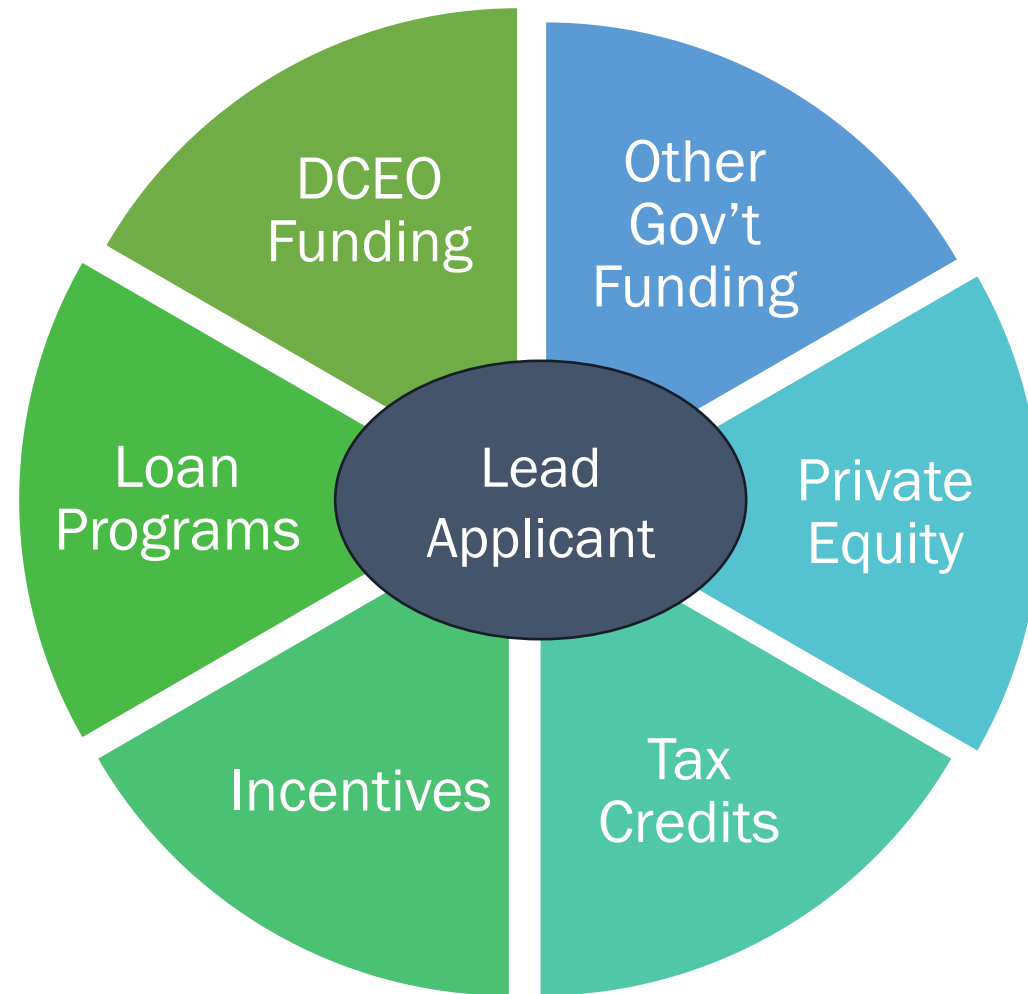


Building the Capital Stack

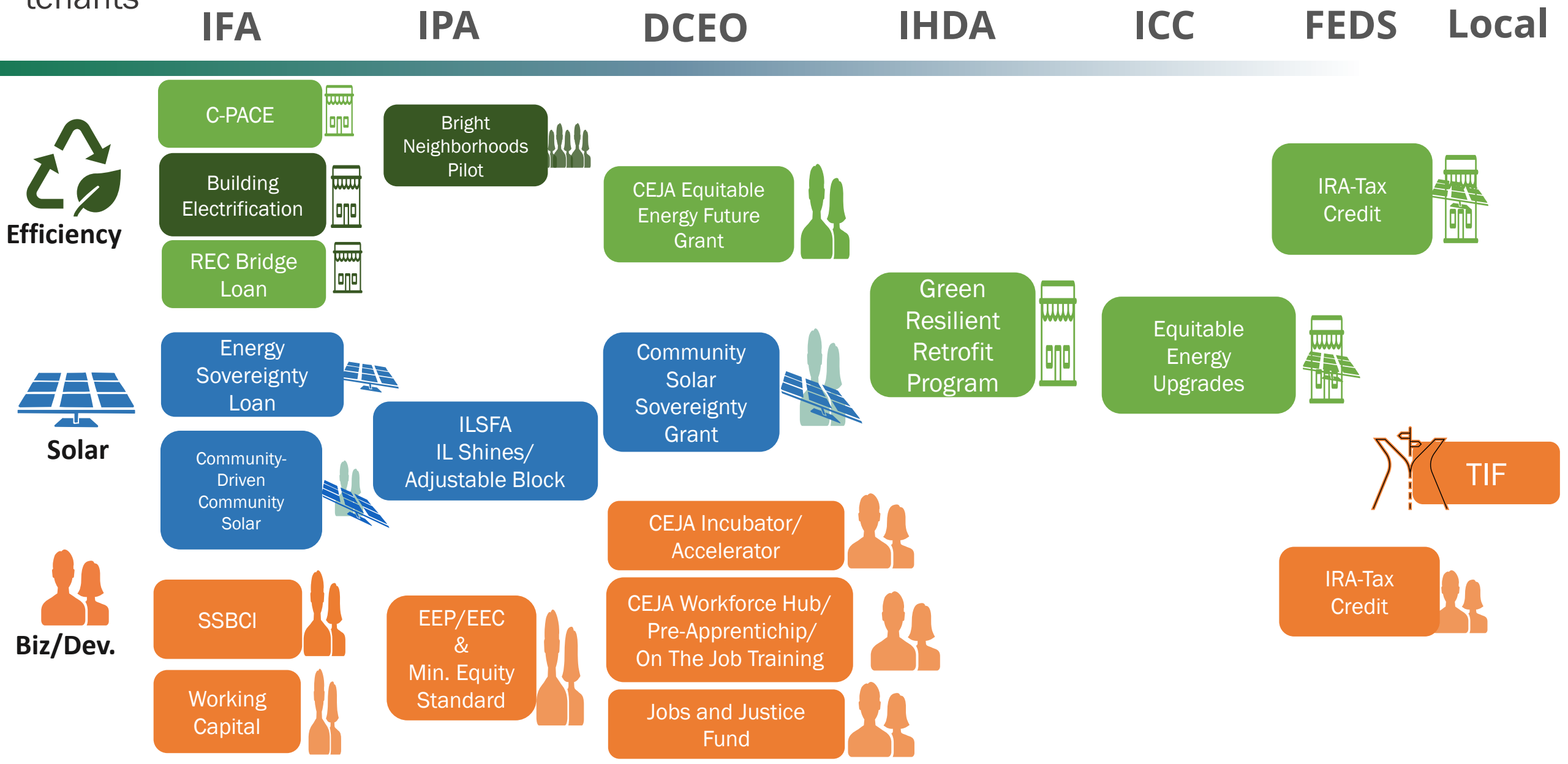
Applicants must demonstrate how they plan to fund their project.

CSES funds only cover a portion of project funds.

Applicants are encouraged to explore other available funding opportunities through DCEO, other state agencies, federal support, loans, incentives, private equity etc.



Project Scenario: Non-profit organization, Net Zero/Near Net Zero Retrofit, located in and/or serves EJ/R3/DAC, mixed use commercial/residential building with market rate and low-income tenants



Illinois Renewable/Clean Energy Funding Opportunities

Applicants can also visit the [Clean Energy Funding Sources/Opportunities List](#) for additional funding opportunities

Agency	Programs
Federal Programs	IRA
Illinois Capital Development Board	Stretch Goals
Illinois Commerce Commission	Equitable Energy Upgrade Program
Illinois Community College Board	IAC Program: Clean Energy Build/Manufacturing Workforce
Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	CEJA Workforce Training Programs CEJA Contractor Programs Community Economic Development Programs Reimagining Energy and Vehicles in Illinois Act (REV)-Manufacturing
Illinois Dept. of Transportation	National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program Competitive Freight-Port Infrastructure
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	Energy Codes Training EE Trust Fund Electric Vehicle Rebate Electric School Bus Energy Assessments Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Energy Efficiency Variety
Illinois Finance Authority	Illinois Climate Bank C-PACE GRID: muni. utility/rural coops State Small Bus. Credit Initiative Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Greenhouse Gas Reduction
Illinois Power Agency	Illinois Shines IL Solar For All Energy Equity Portal Min. Equity Standard Utility Scale Procurement
U.S. Dept of Energy	Funding and Financing

Note: Due to ongoing changes at the federal level some of these resources or funding opportunities may change.

What are the reporting requirements?

Depending on the project, grantees may be required to report on some or all the items below in addition to project specific metrics/deliverables

Planning/development
activities completed

Renewable project(s)
successfully
completed

Energy efficiency
projects successfully
completed

Installed capacity of
completed renewable
energy projects

Projected output of
completed renewable
energy projects

Projected annual
energy savings of
completed energy
efficiency projects

Permanent full-time
equivalent jobs
created

Investment leveraged

NOFO Round Updates

Communication at NOFO
Process Steps

Applications submitted at least 16 days prior will have Administrative Review. If application is missing documentation, applicant will be alerted and allowed to revise/resubmit



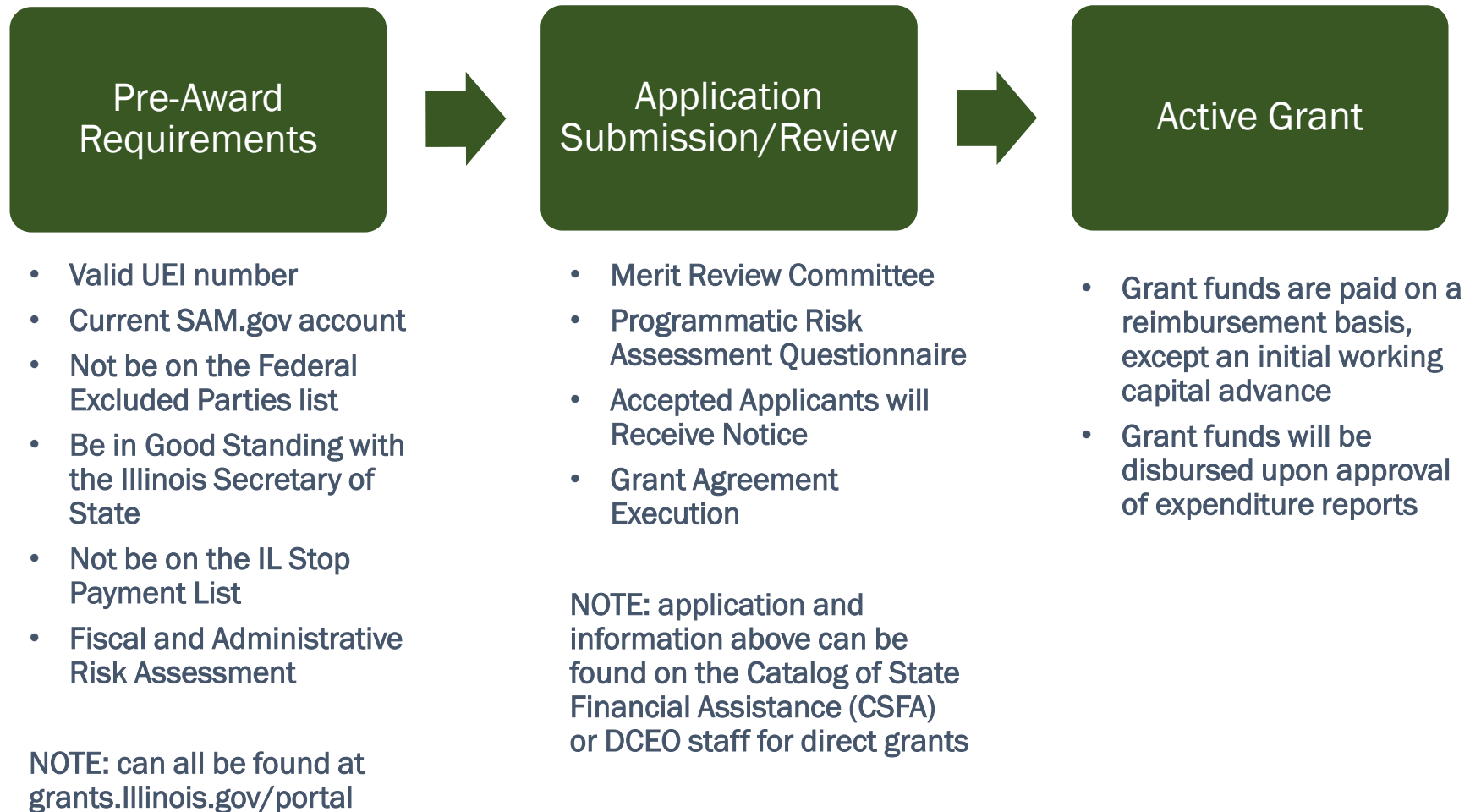
Grant Accountability & Transparency Act (GATA) & Pre-Qualification



Overview

- Review the DCEO Grant Process
- How to register in the IL GATA Grantee Portal
- Pre-Qualification
- Notice of Funding Opportunity
- What to expect after Grant Award

Competitive Grant Life Cycle



What is GATA?

- GATA - Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
- GATA Goals:
 - Remove duplicative processes
 - Increase accountability and transparency
 - Follow 2 CFR 200

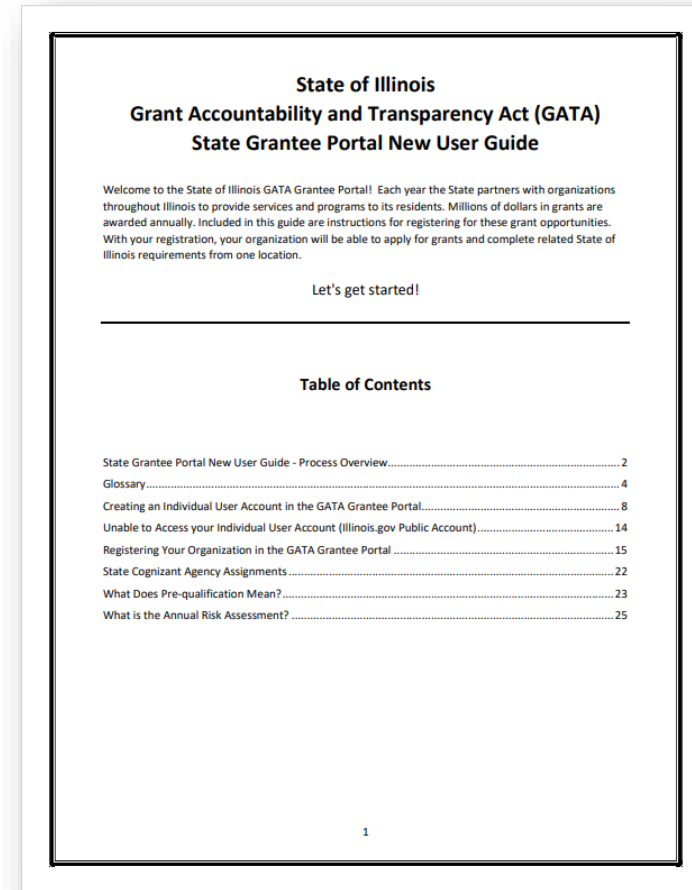
Getting Started in the GATA Grantee Portal

- <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>
 - Create Account



Getting Started in the GATA Grantee Portal

- GATA New User Guide
 - <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GATA%20New%20User%20Guide.pdf>
 - Provides step-by-step GATA Portal instructions
 - For new or current Portal users
- Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit at GOMB
 - <https://gata.illinois.gov/>



Pre-Qualification

- Required
- Maintain compliance
- Meet expectations
- Responsibly manage funds
- Effective Communication

Grantee must be in qualified status by the application review date by the state awarding agency.

PRE-QUALIFICATION INFORMATION	
SAM.gov Account:	Good until 8/5/2023
Federal Employer ID (FEIN):	Good
Federal Excluded Parties List:	Good
Federal Delinquent Debt:	Good
Illinois Secretary of State:	Good
Illinois Stop Payment List:	Good
Illinois DHFS Sanction List:	Good

Pre-Qualification Status

Your organization not in good standing. Items in red require your action.

Items in yellow are being evaluated by the State. Their status could take up to one business day.

Requirement	Status	Remediation
SAM.gov Account	UEI not found	Help
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)	Pending	Help
Federal Excluded Parties List	Good	Help
Illinois Secretary of State	Not Found	Help
Illinois Stop Payment List	Good	Help
Illinois DHFS Sanction List	Good	Help

Your organization must remain in good standing in all pre-qualification requirements. The status of these requirements are validated nightly. Notifications when changes occur to the pre-qualification status can be emailed to Grantee Portal Access users by clicking the "Manage" button below.

SAM.gov Account

- Active registration required
 - Validated annually
- UEI Number
 - Used in the IL GATA Grantee Portal
- Registration should be set to “Public”
- Receiving UEI vs Complete Registration

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List

Federal Employer ID (FEIN)

- Business entity identification
- Used by federal government
- Request from IRS
- Verification confirmed automatically from SAM.gov

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List

Federal Excluded Parties List

- Excluded from receiving Federal contracts
- Suspensions and debarments
- Generated by SAM.gov
- Automatically updated

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List

Illinois Secretary of State

- Certificate of Good Standing
- Business entity exists
- Allowed to conduct business in Illinois
- In compliance with State regulations
- www.ilsos.gov
- Not needed for governmental entities

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List

Illinois Stop Payment List

- Entity has fallen out of compliance.
- View reason in the portal
- For questions, contact your former Grant Manager or your cognizant agency
- For DCEO, contact ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List

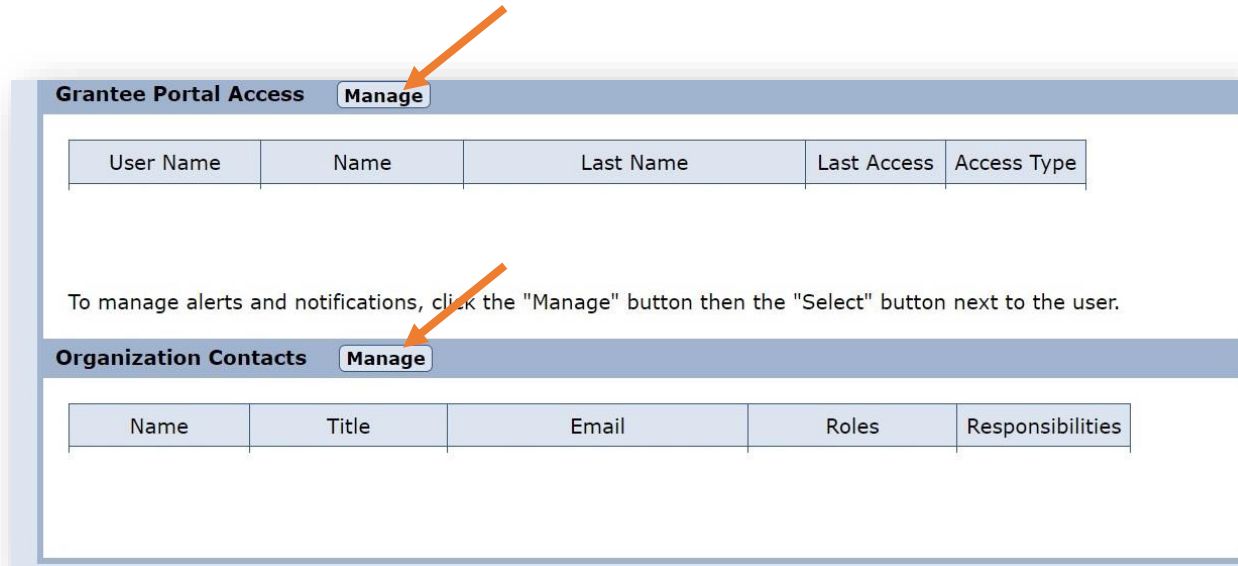
Illinois DHFS Sanction List

- Not eligible for Medicaid Reimbursement
- Administrative action taken against entity or individual
- Violation of:
 - Administrative Rule
 - Civil Law
 - Criminal Offense

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List

Other GATA Grantee Portal Tips

- Maintain current and accurate contact list
- Ensure fiscal year end date is accurate



The screenshot displays the GATA Grantee Portal interface. It features two main sections: 'Grantee Portal Access' and 'Organization Contacts'. Both sections have a 'Manage' button highlighted with an orange arrow. The 'Grantee Portal Access' section includes a table with columns: User Name, Name, Last Name, Last Access, and Access Type. Below this table is a text instruction: 'To manage alerts and notifications, click the "Manage" button then the "Select" button next to the user.' The 'Organization Contacts' section includes a table with columns: Name, Title, Email, Roles, and Responsibilities.

User Name	Name	Last Name	Last Access	Access Type
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To manage alerts and notifications, click the "Manage" button then the "Select" button next to the user.

Name	Title	Email	Roles	Responsibilities
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Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- Outlines all important details of program and how to apply
- **NOFO Sections:**
 - Program Description
 - Funding Information
 - Eligibility Information
 - Application and Submission Information
 - Application Review Information
 - Award Administration Information
 - State Awarding Agency Contracts
 - Other Information, if applicable

Other NOFOs
can be found in
the CSFA

Fiscal and Administrative Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ)

- Must be completed every State Fiscal Year in the GATA Grantee Portal
- Mitigates risk and builds grantee capacity (not punitive)

Fiscal and Administrative Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ)				
ICQ	State FY	Date Started	Date Submitted	Date Accepted
View	2024	03-13-2023		
View	2023	04-22-2022		
View	2022	03-30-2021		
View	2021	04-14-2020		
View	2020	03-06-2019	02-25-2020	
View	2019	06-28-2018		
View	2018	12-19-2017		

An ICQ is required for each state fiscal year your organization does business with the State of Illinois. For example, state FY 2018 which begins on 7/1/2017 and runs through 6/30/2018 requires an FY 2018 ICQ. Notifications when changes occur to an ICQ status can be emailed to Grantee Portal Access users by clicking the "Manage" button below.

Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act FY 2023 Internal Controls Questionnaire		
Return to Main Menu	Print	Submit
When all questions are answered the Submit button will be enabled. After the form is submitted no changes will be allowed. Grantee Portal Access users that have selected "Receive ICQ alerts and notifications" will receive an overnight notification that the status of an ICQ has change.		
Section	Questions	Answered
02 - Quality of Management System	8	0
03 - Financial and Programmatic Reporting	6	0
04 - Ability to Effectively Implement Requirements	29	0
05 - Audit	5	0
All Sections	48	0

Printing the ICQ requires Adobe Acrobat Reader.
ICQ Assistance: [Commerce And Econ Opp \(ceo.gata@illinois.gov\)](mailto:ceo.gata@illinois.gov)

Post-Award Requirements

- With Your Grant Manager
 - Periodic Financial Report
 - Periodic Performance Report
- In the GATA Grantee Portal
 - Consolidated Year End Financial Statement and Audit

Audit Types and Submission Deadlines

Total Expenditures of Federal Awards (direct or pass through)	Total Expenditures of State Awards	Not-For Profit and Governmental Grantees	For Profit Grantees	Audit Report Submission Deadline
During the grantee's fiscal year				
\$750,000 or more	N/A	Single Audit	Program-Specific Audit	9 months after grantee fiscal year end
Less than \$750,000	\$500,000 or more	Generally Accepted Governmental Auditing Standards Financial Statement Audit		6 months after grantee fiscal year end
	\$300,000 or more	Generally Accepted Auditing Standards Financial Statement Audit		6 months after grantee fiscal year end
	Less than \$300,000	Submit audit report if audit conducted due to other requirements		6 months after fiscal year end

Resources

Visit: <https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html>

Questions can be sent to
CEO.GrantHelp@Illinois.gov

Scan Here





Grant Application & Submission Requirements



Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mandatory Disclosure

Uniform Grant Application in
fillable PDF format

Uniform Budget utilizing template
provided by DCEO

DCEO Required Application Documents

Find all NOFO Materials
and resources here:

[https://dceo.illinois.gov
/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3055-2966.html](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3055-2966.html)

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mandatory Disclosure

Uniform Grant Application

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Award applicants and recipients of awards from the State of Illinois (collectively referred to herein as "Grantee") must disclose in writing to the awarding State agency any actual or potential conflict of interest that could affect the State award for which the Grantee has applied or has received. See 30 ILCS 708/35; 44 Ill. Admin Code § 7000.40(b)(3); 2 CFR § 200.112. A conflict of interest exists if an organization's officers, directors, agents, employees and/or their spouses or immediate family members use their position(s) for a purpose that is, or gives the appearance of, being motivated by a desire for a personal gain, financial or nonfinancial, whether direct or indirect, for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have a family business or other close associations. In addition, the following conflict of interest standards apply to governmental and non-governmental entities.

Definitions:

Governmental Entity. If the Grantee is a governmental entity, no officer or employee of the Grantee, member of its governing body or any other public official of the locality in which the award objectives will be carried out shall participate in any decision relating to a State award which affects his/her personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership or association in which he/she is directly or indirectly interested, or which affects the personal interest of a spouse or immediate family member, or has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the work to be performed under the State award.

Non-governmental Entity. If the Grantee is a non-governmental entity, no officer or employee of the Grantee shall participate in any decision relating to a State award which affects his/her personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership or association in which he/she is directly or indirectly interested, or which affects the personal interest of a spouse or immediate family member, or has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the work to be performed under the State award.

The Grantee shall also establish safeguards, evidenced by policies, rules and/or bylaws, to prohibit employees or officers of Grantee from engaging in actions, which create or which appear to create a conflict of interest as described herein.

The Grantee has a continuing duty to immediately notify the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department") in writing of any actual or potential conflict of interest, as well as any actions that create or which appear to create a conflict of interest.

Are there any current potential conflict(s) of interest, or any actions that create or which appear to create a conflict of interest, related to the State award for which your organization has applied?

☐ No☐ Yes

If there are any current potential conflict(s) of interest, or any actions that create or which appear to create a conflict of interest, related to the State award for which your organization has applied, please describe them all here:

Mandatory Disclosure

Award applicants and recipients of awards from the State of Illinois (collectively referred to herein as "Grantee") must disclose, in a timely manner and in writing to the State awarding agency, all violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the award. See 30 ILCS 708/40; 44 Ill. Admin. Code § 7000.40(b)(4); 2 CFR § 200.113. Failure to make the required disclosures may result in remedial action.

Are there any violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the awarding of a grant to your organization? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If there are any violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the awarding of a grant to your organization, please describe them all here:

Grantee has a continuing duty to disclose to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department") all violations of criminal law involving fraud, bribery or gratuity violations potentially affecting this grant award.

By signing this document, below, as the duly authorized representative of the Grantee, I hereby certify that:

- All of the statements in this Mandatory Disclosure form are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001).
- There is no action, suit or proceeding at law or in equity pending, nor to the best of Grantee's knowledge, threatened, against or affecting the Grantee, before any court or before any governmental or administrative agency, which will have a material adverse effect on the performance required by the grant award.
- Grantee is not currently operating under or subject to any cease and desist order, or subject to any informal or formal regulatory action, and, to the best of the Grantee's knowledge, it is not currently the subject of any investigation by any state or federal regulatory, law enforcement or legal authority.
- If Grantee becomes the subject of an action, suit or proceeding at law or in equity that would have a material adverse effect on the performance required by an award, or an investigation by any state or federal regulatory, law enforcement or legal authority, Grantee shall promptly notify the Department in writing.

Grantee Organization (Company Name)


Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Printed Name (Authorized Signator Name)

Printed Title (Authorized Signator Title)

CSFA Number



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance

Agency Completed Section

1. Type of Submission:

☐ Pre-Application☒ Application☐ Changed/Corrected Application

2. Type of Application:

☒ New☐ Continuation (i.e. Multiple Year Grant)☐ Revision (Modification to Initial Application)

3. Date/Time Received By State (Completed by State Agency Upon Receipt of Application)

4. Name of Awarding Agency

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

5. Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) Number

6. CSFA Title

Federal Assistance Listing

☐ Not Applicable (No Federal Funding)

7. Assistance Listing Number #1

8. Assistance Listing Program Title #1

9. Assistance Listing Number #2

10. Assistance Listing Program Title #2

217.782.7500 Springfield | 312.814.7179 Chicago | www.illinois.gov/dceo

Uniform Budget Template

It's a standard DCEO template, with a few sections that are specific to this program. Some sections may not apply to you.

Be careful when inserting new rows. The template uses algorithms that can be deleted or altered.

If seeking funding for Phase 1 & 2, the Phase 2 budget may be renegotiated after Phase 1 is completed.

If you are selected for a grant award, DCEO the budget will be reviewed and finalized during the negotiation stage.

STATE OF ILLINOIS	UNIFORM GRANT BUDGET TEMPLATE			Commerce & Economic Opportunity	
Organization Name:		UEI#		NOFO #	3055-2966
CSFA Number:	420-35-3055	CSFA Description:	Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program	Fiscal Year:	2025
SECTION A -- STATE OF ILLINOIS FUNDS				Grant #	
Revenues				TOTAL REVENUE	
(a). State of Illinois Grant Amount Requested				\$	-
BUDGET SUMMARY STATE OF ILLINOIS FUNDS					

Section C - Budget Worksheet & Narrative						0
1A). Phase 1 Personnel (Salaries & Wages) (2 CFR 200.430) --List each position by title and name of employee, if available. Show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time to be devoted to the project and length of time working on the project . Compensation paid for employees engaged in grant activities must be consistent with that paid for similar work within the applicant organization. Include a description of the responsibilities and duties of each position in relationship to fulfilling the project goals and objectives in the narrative space provided below. Also, provide a justification and description of each position (including vacant positions). Relate each position specifically to program objectives. Personnel cannot exceed 100% of their time on all active projects.						
Name	Position(s)	Salary or Wage	Basis (Yr./Mo./Hr.)	% of Time	Length of time	Personnel Cost
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
					State Total	\$ -
					Total Personnel	\$ -
Personnel Narrative (State):						

Let's look at the budget categories in the template. Notice they are separated in phases.

Personnel	Fringe benefits	Equipment
Supplies	Contractual Services & Subawards	Consultant (Professional Services)
Feasibility/Market Analysis (Phase 1)	Site Control Costs (Phase 2)	Permitting & interconnection Costs (Phase 2)

Program Specific Application

Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Project Timeline

Letters of Community Support

Memorandum(a) of Understanding (if applicable)

Public Entity Attestation (if applicable)

Documentation of IRS Declaration(EIN letter, 501c3 etc.)

Documentation of Property Ownership or Authority to Improve Site

Phase 2 Specific Documents (refer to NOFO Page 6)

Program Specific Documents

Find all NOFO Materials and resources here:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3055-2966.html>

Program Specific Application

Community Solar Sovereignty Grant Program Application 2025	
Applicant Information & Eligibility	
1. Lead Applicant Name	
1a. GATA #	
2. Type of organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Community based organization <input type="checkbox"/> Public entity (<i>Public Attestation Required</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Technical service provider (must be in partnership with a community-based organization)
3. Annual revenue	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000+
Community-based Organizations Only	
4. Please verify that your organization meets the following eligibility requirements by checking the boxes that apply. (NOFO Section C.1.A)	<input type="checkbox"/> The majority of the governing body and staff consists of local residents. <input type="checkbox"/> The main operating offices are in the community. <input type="checkbox"/> Priority issue areas are identified and defined by residents. <input type="checkbox"/> Solutions to address priority issues are developed with residents. <input type="checkbox"/> Program design, implementation, and evaluation components have residents intimately involved, in leadership positions.
Public Entities Only	
5. Please check all boxes that apply to verify that your organization meets eligibility requirements. (NOFO Section C.1.B)	<input type="checkbox"/> The public entity represents a municipality or county (or school district, park district, etc.) in a municipality or county in the bottom 25% of the state by population. <input type="checkbox"/> No local community-based organizations exist that are capable of filling this role and/or have the current capacity to carry out the proposed project. <input type="checkbox"/> The public entity provides robust community engagement. (e.g., priority issues are identified and defined by residents; solutions to address priority issues are developed with residents; and program design, implementation, and evaluation components have residents intimately involved, in leadership positions.)
Technical Service Providers Only	
6. Do you have parent company or subsidiaries? (NOFO Section C.1.C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6a. If yes, please describe structure and provide entity names.	
7. Please describe your direct partnership with a community-based organization for this project. (NOFO Section C.1.A)	
8. Business legal structure (check all that apply) (NOFO Section C.1.C)	<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"/> Cooperative or Non-profit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Community Solar Energy Project Timeline

COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY GRANT PROGRAM 2025 PROJECT TIMELINE								
Anticipated Project Start Date:			Anticipated Project End Date:		PROJECT PHASE(S)			
1. Enter the anticipated project start and end dates. These dates should be for the full Phase 1 & Phase 2 project timeline. Note: Phase 1 is Planning and Feasibility Phase 2 is Pre-Development (Cell C3 and E3). Inset project activities chronologically. 2. Indicate the Uniform Budget tab where this expense is located. (i.e. Staffing, Fringe, Phase 1 Consultant, Phase 2 Consultants, N/A) 3. Select the Phase(s) that the applicant is applying for (Click Cell G3 to reveal drop-down list) 4. For selected Phase(s) add the Project Activity(ies), Estimated Start Date(s), Estimated End Date(s), Project Milestones, Projected Outcomes, and Deliverables per activity. Additional activity rows can be added by right-clicking and selecting "Insert" then selecting "Entire Row" from the pop-up 5. Indicate if an activity is a Critical Decision Point (Go/No Go Point) by selecting "Yes" or "No" in Column E. Critical Decision Points (Go/No Go Points) indicate if the result of a specific activity is critical to a project's ability to move forward. For any activity marked as "Yes" in Column E, applicants must also list a Deliverable that will document the result of the activity.								
PHASE 1 ACTIVITIES								
Project Activities	Uniform Budget	Estimated Start Date	Estimated End Date	Critical Decision Point (Go/No Go Point)	Project Milestones	Performance Measures/ Outcomes	Cost	Deliverable
Ex.: Define goals, identify partners, confirm location(s), etc.	staffing	6/3/24	7/8/24	Yes	Ex.: Draft scope of work, objectives, work flow / coordination, key deliverables, etc.	Ex.: Key leadership / partner approvals, etc.	\$25,000.00	Ex: Contract, Invoice
(Right click on row above and select "Insert" to add additional rows)								

Letters of Community Support



- Should be from community organizations or businesses, local municipal support/elected officials etc.
- No requirement on the number of letters.
- Should demonstrate the connection between this project and community.
- Memorandum of Understanding

Public Entity Attestation



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC ENTITY QUALIFICATION AS COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION

Name: _____

Organization/Entity: _____

Date: _____

This certification will be used to determine whether the above-listed organization or entity qualifies as a community-based organization under Section 5-60 of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (Public Act 102-0662).

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 and/or have the current capacity to carry out the proposed project.*
- c. *The public entity must provide the same showing of robust community engagement as a non-public entity would be required to show.*

To certify that the public entity took actions to confirm that an alternate community-based organization please check all that apply:

- ☐ Assessed community-based organizations.
- ☐ Hosted a focus group/open house engaging community-based organizations.
- ☐ Received written confirmation from potential community-based organizations that they did not have the capacity to implement this project.
- ☐ Other: _____

By signing below, you certify that the information provided is true and complete and that you understand that this document will be used for state government purposes.

Signature: _____

Date: _____


Printed Name: _____

Additional Required Documents



- Documentation of IRS Declaration(EIN letter, 501c3 etc.)
- Documentation of Property Ownership or Authority to Improve Site
- Phase 2 Specific Documents
 - Design or construction documents that provide project details (if available)
 - Quotes used for budget estimates (if available)
 - Documentation showing Phase 1 feasibility activities are complete

Submitting Application Materials

 Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

3055-2966 Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program

The Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program will support pre-development and development of community solar projects that promote community ownership and energy sovereignty. Grants will be awarded to applicants 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 o the proposed project is located in and supporting an equity investment eligible community or communities; and on proposed project provides additional benefits for participating low-income households.

Pre-Qualification *
By checking this box I understand for my application to be considered, my entity must be pre-qualified prior to application deadline. For more information on pre-qualification, please visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/GranteeResources.aspx>.

☐

Applicant Information

Applicant Legal Name *

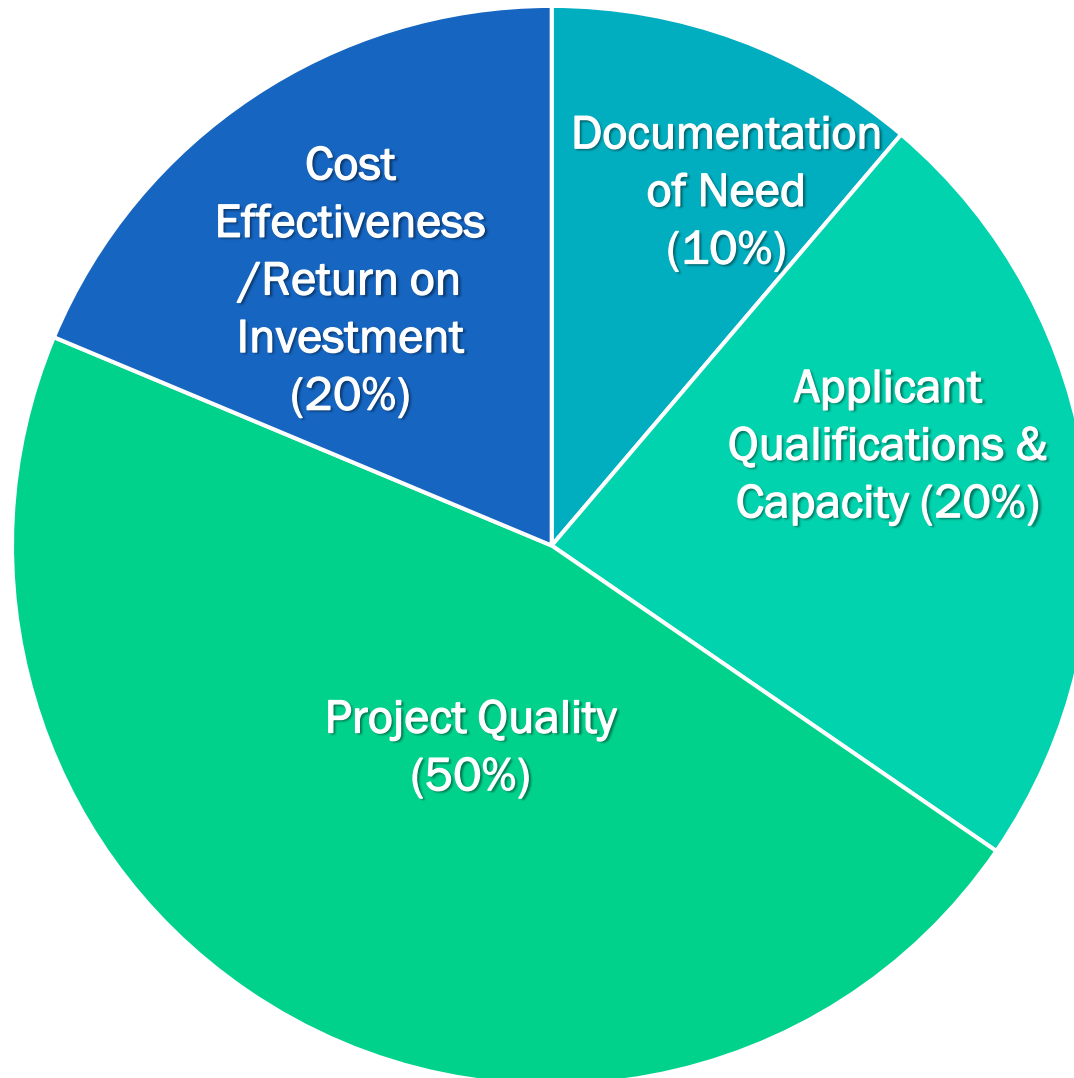
Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) *

1. Materials must be submitted through the Smartsheet form. Submission of documents through any other means will not be reviewed.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/963c1448a280491ab202af45ce3e62c6>

2. Do not provide documents through a cloud-based services (i.e. Google Drive, Dropbox etc.) DCEO cannot click on external links

Merit Review Scoring



Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis by the Merit Review Team.

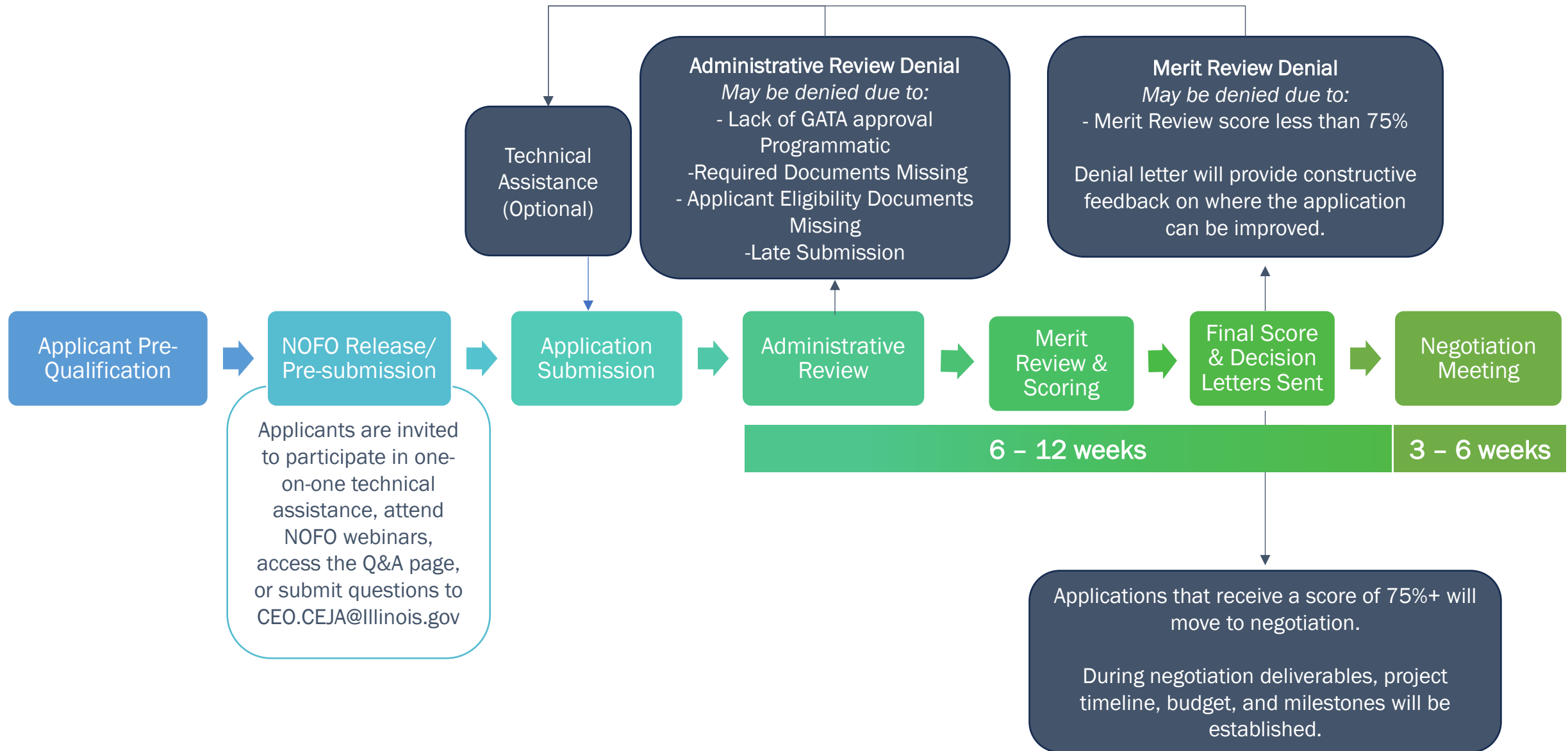
Applications scoring 75% or higher will move to negotiation.

Scoring Criteria (NOFO Section E)

Documentation of Need (10%)	
The project's location is within or serving equity investment eligible communities or underserved communities and the community needs this project will address.	5%
The plan identifies the community needs and explains how the project will address those 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%



OEBU & DCEO Grant Process



OEBU & DCEO Grant Process



OEBU Grant Process

Community Solar Energy Sovereignty is a rolling grant opportunity.

A **rolling grant opportunity** means that applications will be accepted at any point during the grant application window.

**It is possible that funds will be exhausted before 12/31/2025.*

Early applications are encouraged.



NOFO Timeline

May 27, 2025
NOFO Posted

End June/Early July
Merit Reviews Begin

December 31, 2025
Applications Due by
5:00 PM CST

Quarter 1 2026
Merit Reviews End
for Round 2



A photograph of a wind turbine and solar panels under a clear blue sky. The wind turbine is white with three blades, and the solar panels are blue and mounted on a structure in the foreground.

A few budget and grant resources

DCEO Video Training & Resources

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/learning-library.html>

Upcoming Grant Trainings

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/upcoming-grant-trainings.html>

Contact the DCEO Grant Help Desk

Email: CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov



Seek Applicant Support

1. Sign up for one-on-one technical assistance with a CEJA Program Coach:

Sign up for support here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/4qUkTdgCFY>



2. Submit questions to CEO.CEJA@illinois.gov. Responses to questions will be made publicly available on the CEJA Questions & Answers page.

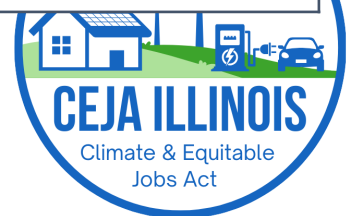


3. Contact Matthew Swaine, CSES Grant Manager Matthew.Swaine@illinois.gov



Helpful Links

Site	Link
DCEO CEJA Program Status	https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/ceja-program-announcements.html
NOFO Page	https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3055-2966.html
GATA Portal	https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/
DCEO Grant Help Email	ceo.GrantHelp@illinois.gov
DCEO Grant Help Inquiry Form	https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/df9d38efa4e241218ced486c54f3c109
DCEO Grant Resources	https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/learning-library.html
Clean Energy Funding List	https://uofi.app.box.com/v/cleanenergyfunding





Questions?





Contact Us
CEO.OEBU@Illinois.gov



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Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor