

# Community Solar Sovereignty Grant

## Program Application 2025

Applicant Information & Eligibility	
<b>1. Lead Applicant Name</b>	
<b>1a. GATA #</b>	
<b>2. Type of organization</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Community based organization <input type="checkbox"/> Public entity ( <i>Public Attestation Required</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Technical service provider ( <i>must be in partnership with a community-based organization</i> )
<b>3. Annual revenue</b>	<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	
<b>4. Please verify that your organization meets the following eligibility requirements by checking the boxes that apply. (NOFO Section C,1,A)</b>	<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	
<b>5. Please check all boxes that apply to verify that your organization meets eligibility requirements. (NOFO Section C.1.B)</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	
<b>6. Do you have parent company or subsidiaries? (NOFO Section C.1.C)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>6a. If yes, please describe structure and provide entity names.</b>	
<b>7. Please describe your direct partnership with a community-based organization for this project. (NOFO Section C.1.A)</b>	
<b>8. Business legal structure (check all that apply) (NOFO Section C.1.C)</b>	<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:

Project Information		
9. What is the grant amount being requested per phase?	Phase 1	\$
	Phase 2	\$
10. List the address(es) where the proposed project will be located (Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip). If an address(es) have not been selected outline potential sites/geographies.		
11. Does the applicant own the project property/address(es)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
11a. If no, do you have permission from the property owner to locate the project on the property? Provide documentation, if available.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
12. Why was this specific site chosen? Please provide background on how the site was identified and the advantages of this site location over alternate locations. If a site has not been chosen, identify what factors will be considered when selecting a final site (up to 250 words)		
13. Does the proposed project meet any of the following priority criteria? Check all that apply. <i>(Note: not meeting one or both does not stop applicants from applying for this funding opportunity)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed project is located in and supports an equity investment eligible community(ies) ( <a href="#">CEJA Map</a> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed project is <u>not</u> located in an equity investment eligible community(ies) ( <a href="#">CEJA Map</a> ) but supports equity investment eligible community(ies). <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed project provides additional benefits for participating low-income households.		
14. Describe the size, scope, and status of the community solar project(s) the applicant is proposing. Provide an estimate of the installed capacity of the solar project (kW). (up to 500 words) (See NOFO Section C.1.C)		
15. List the community(ies) this project will serve and the community needs this project will address (please provide demographic, economic, and labor data as applicable) (up to 500 words) (see NOFO Section A, Program Description and Section D,2)		
16. Describe the community ownership model the applicant will be pursuing (including planning, engagement, long-term governance, management, and maintenance)? Ensure the answer includes why the specific community ownership model was chosen. (up to 750 words). (See NOFO Section C.1.C and Section D.2 project quality)		

<p>17. List and describe the projects' direct community benefits, including wealth building via community renewable generation and additional benefits for low-income households. (up to 500 words) (See NOFO Section D,2 project description and Section E.1 project quality)</p>		
<p>18. Provide examples of outreach and community engagement activities that have been or will be conducted to involve the community in this project. Please provide as much detail as possible (e.g. partner names, outreach methods or tools, timeline, etc.) (up to 250 words)</p>		
<p>19. Funding may be requested for one or both of the following project phases: Phase 1: Planning and Feasibility, and Phase 2: Pre-Development. (See NOFO Section A)</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> Phase 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 1 & 2
<p>20. Check the Phase 1 activities for which you are requesting funding. (Check all that apply)</p> <p><i>Refer to the CSES Allowable and Non-Allowable Costs Supplement available on the DCEO NOFO webpage</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Early-stage project planning <input type="checkbox"/> Project team organization <input type="checkbox"/> Site identification <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing a project business model <input type="checkbox"/> Community/customer engagement and outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary site assessments	<input type="checkbox"/> Development of cooperative or community ownership model <input type="checkbox"/> Development of project models that allocate benefits to equity investment eligible communities. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<p>21. Check the Phase 2 activities for which you are requesting funding (Check all that apply).</p> <p><i>Refer to the CSES Allowable and Non-Allowable Costs Supplement available on the DCEO NOFO webpage</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Procurement and contracting <input type="checkbox"/> Land purchase/lease <input type="checkbox"/> Securing financing <input type="checkbox"/> Community/customer engagement and outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Permitting and/or zoning <input type="checkbox"/> Interconnection application costs and fees, studies and expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Project Equipment and supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Project Staff and operations expenses <input type="checkbox"/> Fixing code violations <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<p>22. Does the project include the sale of energy production?</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure
<p>23. If the project plans to sell energy or maybe/unsure describe how the applicant will/would sell energy to customers and remain commercially viable upon project completion. (up to 250 words)</p>		
<p>24. Does the project include battery storage?</p>		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure

Partnerships, Staff Capacity & Clean Energy Workforce								
25. List the applicant organization's historical, current, or future partnership(s) with/in the community where the project will be located and the length of that partnership. If applicable, state the role that partner will play in the proposed project. Applicants may submit additional documents along with this application to demonstrate partnerships/collaborations with the community (up to 500 words). (See NOFO Section A, Program Description, and letters of support in Section D.2)								
26. Provide brief bios of the key staff who will be assigned to this project, their roles, and percentage time they will spend on the project. If there are role(s) that are unoccupied, please provide a job description of the role(s). If additional space is needed, applicants may submit additional documents containing resumes, job descriptions etc. as necessary. (Up to 500 words) (see NOFO Section D.2.).								
27. Number of permanent and/or temporary jobs that will be created through project activities. Note: "Total Project" includes jobs created from Phase 1: Planning and Feasibility through Phase 4: Implementation.								
Phase 1	Temporary		Phase 2	Temporary		Total Project	Temporary	
	Permanent			Permanent			Permanent	
28. Provide details about how your project will support the growth of the clean energy workforce in Illinois. List any connections the applicant has to CEJA or FEJA workforce programs and/or engagement with local workforce and contractors living in an equity investment eligible community and how the role those individuals will play in this project. (up to 500 words). (See NOFO Section D.2)								

Funding & Leveraged Resources				
29. Which of the following incentive or grant programs have you applied to or plan to apply to for this project, if any?	Incentive/Grant Programs		Applied	Plan to Apply
	Equitable Energy Future Grant		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Illinois Solar For All		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Illinois Shines		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Illinois Finance Authority/Illinois Climate Bank (Specify funding program in Q30)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Community Development Block Grants		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Community Renewable Generation Projects		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renewable Energy Procurements		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
30. List and describe any established or planned funding sources for this project. When possible, include the requested funding 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: <a href="https://uofi.app.box.com/v/cleanenergyfunding">https://uofi.app.box.com/v/cleanenergyfunding</a> . (up to 500 words)				

Supplemental Documentation	
<p><b>Standard Application Package Documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Grant Application</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Budget Template</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Disclosures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conflict of Interest Disclosure</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Program Specific Application</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Project Timeline Template</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documentation of IRS declaration: 501c3, c6, etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Property ownership document OR document demonstrating applicant’s authority to make site improvements including that the site is unencumbered. If a site has not been identified/selected, applicant should supply documentation of potential site information/addresses.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Letter(s) of support from community leaders, organizations, businesses, stakeholders etc. demonstrating support for the project and community needs the project will address. AND if applicable, letter(s) of support from CEJA/FEJA or clean workforce development partners documenting support or connection to the proposed project.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Required Phase Specific Documentation:</b></p> <p>For Phase 2 Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Design or construction documents that provide details of the project, if available. These may be provided after Phase 1 activities are complete if submitting application for Phase 1 and Phase 2.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If only submitting Phase 2 application, documentation of the prior planning and feasibility must be provided as supporting documents in the initial application. Quotes used for budget estimates, if available (examples: preconstruction budget, proposals, estimates). These documents may be provided after Phase 1 activities are complete, if submitting application for Phase 1 and Phase 2- If only submitting Phase 2 application, documentation of quotes can be included if available to support your application.</li> </ul>