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ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY

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Illinois Power Agency Announces the Reopening of the Illinois Shines Program

The Program is now accepting new project applications

Dec. 14, 2021, CHICAGO – The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) today announced the reopening of the [Illinois Shines](#) Program (also known as the Adjustable Block Program), an IPA-administered solar incentive program used to support the development of new distributed generation and community solar projects across Illinois. With the enactment of the Public Act 102-0662 (the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act or CEJA) on September 15, 2021 by Governor J.B. Pritzker, the IPA is tasked with numerous crucial implementation activities, including the reopening of the Illinois Shines within 90 days after effective day of that Act.

The passage of CEJA includes substantial updates to the Illinois Shines Program, including additional funding to accept new applications for photovoltaic distributed generation (on site projects that offset the electric usage for homes and businesses) and community solar projects (larger projects that allow subscribers to share the benefits of a single system). In addition, CEJA includes three new categories for the Illinois Shines Program while including all of the original categories (small distributed generation projects, large distributed generation projects, and community solar) and strengthens diversity, equity, and labor requirements for renewable energy projects. As part of the reopening, the IPA will allocate an additional 75 megawatts (MW) of new solar project capacity each to small and large distributed projects, 250 MW to traditional community solar, 50 MW of capacity for public schools, 10 MW for community-driven community solar, and 50 MW of projects submitted by equity eligible contractors.

Since Illinois Shines first opened for project applications on January 30, 2019, the Program has supported over 670 MW of new distributed generation and community solar development in Illinois, further advancing the state's success in renewable energy implementation. However, after two years of the Program's initial opening in January 2019, the capacity of the Program was filled. As a consequence, project applications for new distributed generation and community solar projects were added to waitlists. Opening additional blocks of capacity required passage of new energy legislation, as occurred through CEJA.

"This is an important day for the IPA, and we are excited to reopen the Illinois Shines Program," said IPA Director Anthony Star. "The passage of CEJA was an important milestone for the Agency, as it allows us to expand the Illinois Shines program, and it effectively addresses short-term and long-term Renewable Portfolio Standard funding issues necessary for supporting Illinois residents and businesses in their decision to go solar." In the coming year the Agency will also be conducting procurements to support the development of utility-scale wind and solar projects as solar projects on brownfield sites.

Illinois Shines, initially created by the Future Energy Jobs Act in 2017, facilitates new photovoltaic distributed generation development and community solar projects through providing additional revenue to new project developed by procuring Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") from projects participating in the Program at administratively established prices. RECs represent the environmental benefits of



electricity generated from solar panels independent of the energy produced by those systems. Those RECs are then purchased and retired by electric utilities to comply with Illinois's RPS policy, which sets goals for those utilities to obtain a percentage of their electricity from renewable energy resources. For more information about the Illinois Shines program, including Program requirements and how to find an Approved Vendor for participating in the Program, visit www.illinoisshines.com

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About the Illinois Power Agency

The Illinois Power Agency ("IPA") is an independent state agency established under Illinois law in 2007. It is charged with the development and implementation of energy procurement plans for residential and small commercial customers of Illinois electric utilities. The IPA is also responsible for the development and implementation of other procurement plans, including those to support new renewable energy development and the continued operation of nuclear plants. The IPA administers incentive programs and conducts procurements to promote renewable and zero-carbon energy generation to benefit all Illinoisans.

Learn more at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/ipa/Pages/default.aspx>