



Illinois Solar for All

Joint Illinois Income Qualified Energy Efficiency Committee

Sept 26, 2022

Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) Overview

- Made possible by the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) and updated by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)
- Provides incentives to help make solar installations in income-eligible and environmental justice communities more affordable
- Administered by Elevate on behalf of the Illinois Power Agency (IPA)
- Illinois Shines (Adjustable Block Program)-market rate program in Illinois



Who is Illinois Solar for All for?

- Income-eligible residents (including renters!) and affordable housing owners
- Institutions serving income-eligible communities
 - Non-profits
 - Public facilities



Illinois Solar for All Subprograms



Small Residential (1-4 unit)

- \$11,887,500 annual budget
- Costs and fees won't exceed 50% of value of electricity produced
- No upfront cost to participants



Non-Profit and Public Facilities

- \$16,125,000 annual budget
- Non-profit or public sector facilities serving and located in income-eligible or Environmental Justice Communities
- Costs and fees won't exceed 50% of value of electricity produced
- Upfront costs allowed



Community Solar

- \$26,000,000 annual budget
- Income-eligible residents can subscribe
- Costs and fees won't exceed 50% of value of electricity produced
- Usually no upfront cost to subscribers
- Exception to no upfront costs for CS used as a cooperative to promote energy sovereignty



Large Residential (5+ Unit)

- \$11,887,500 annual budget
- At least 50% of tenants must be income-eligible
- Upfront costs allowed



Program Benefits

- Consumer Protections
 - Solar companies must register with the program
 - Follow Consumer Protection Handbook
 - Program Administrator Reviews projects
- Participants in Illinois Solar for All must see benefits associated with solar projects, either:
 - Direct benefits via lowered electricity bills
 - Indirect benefits (master metered residential buildings) via rent discounts, stabilized rents, free internet, etc.



Opportunities for income-eligible homeowners... and renters!



Income eligibility (80 percent of Area Median Income)



Illinois Solar for All

Maximum Income for Households to be Eligible for Illinois Solar for All







Effective 9/1/22

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cook County (Chicago-Joliet- Naperville, IL HUD Metro FMR Area)	\$58,350	\$66,700	\$75,050	\$83,350	\$90,050	\$96,700	\$103,400	\$110,050
Crawford County	\$42,500	\$48,600	\$54,650	\$60,700	\$65,600	\$70,450	\$75,300	\$80,150
Cumberland County	\$44,000	\$50,250	\$56,550	\$62,800	\$67,850	\$72,850	\$77,900	\$82,900
DeKalb County (IL HUD Metro FMR Area)	\$54,250	\$62,000	\$69,750	\$77,450	\$83,650	\$89,850	\$96,050	\$102,250
De Witt County (IL HUD Metro FMR Area)	\$43,200	\$49,400	\$55,550	\$61,700	\$66,650	\$71,600	\$76,550	\$81,450
Douglas County	\$42,650	\$48,750	\$54,850	\$60,900	\$65,800	\$70,650	\$75,550	\$80,400



Income Eligibility

- Participation in:
 - 3rd party programs (e.g. LIHEAP)
- Or, provide documentation such as:
 - Tax transcript
 - Tax returns or pay stub

Qualifying Program	Supporting Documentation		Verification Level
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)		Award Letter from Illinois Department of Human Services	Household
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)		LIHEAP Award Letter from household's local Community Action Agency	Household
Illinois Housing Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)		IHWAP Award Letter from household's local Community Action Agency	Household
Medicaid	  	Benefit letter from Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services or the Illinois Department of Human Services OR Medical Card (front and back)	Individual



Savings

- Indirect benefits must be equivalent to at least 50 percent of the value of the energy generated by the solar installation
- Single-family homeowners who participated in Illinois Solar for All have saved an average of more than \$1000 annually on electric bills. Individual savings will vary and are based on household electricity use.



Residential Projects



Rooftop or yard solar

- The homeowner or building owner picks a solar company who drives the process (fills out the application, submits paperwork to the program, receives funding through the program, etc.)
- Program is currently limited by solar company interest in some parts of the State; opportunities vary based on building type, etc.



What Does my Property Need?

- For roof installations:
 - Roof must be in good condition and will not need to be replaced within 15 years.
 - Roof should be relatively free from shading or other obstructions.
 - A modern electrical panel must be present.
- For ground mount installations:
 - The foundation will need to be able to support the solar system.
 - The foundation cannot be a high flood risk.



Residential Offers

Approved Vendors in the Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) program have made the following residential solar standardized offers available for eligible Low-Income Distributed Generation program participants. These offers are available to standard systems of up to 10 kW in size. Individual offers may vary based on site considerations.

Name of Approved Vendor	GRNE Solar	Sunrun
Region(s) ¹	Statewide, IL	Cook County, IL Northeast, IL Northwest, IL
Building Type(s)	Single family, 2-4 units	Single family
Roof Type(s)/Ground Mount?	Flat roofs, pitched roofs, and ground-mounted	Pitched roofs
Offer Type ²	Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)/Lease	Lease
Date Offer Expires	12/31/2022	TBD
Contract Length	15 years	20 years
Base Offer Rate ³	\$0 (single family, 2-4 units)	\$0



Lytese Dubois, Marynook, Chicago

- Total costs: \$0
- Estimated savings on electricity costs:
 - First year: \$987
 - Over length of 15.5 year contract: **\$17,018**



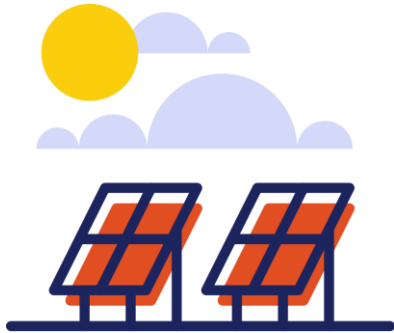
Photo courtesy of Certsun LLC



Community Solar



What is a community solar project?



1. Solar panels are installed in a sunny location somewhere in the community.



2. Anyone with an electricity bill in the project's utility territory can subscribe to this community solar project and start accessing solar energy for their home.



3. Each subscriber is credited with the electricity created by their share of the solar project right on their electric bill, regardless of where they live.



Participation

- Good option for renters or
- Homeowners with roof issues, too much shading, etc.
- Find a Community Solar Project accepting subscribers [here](#)

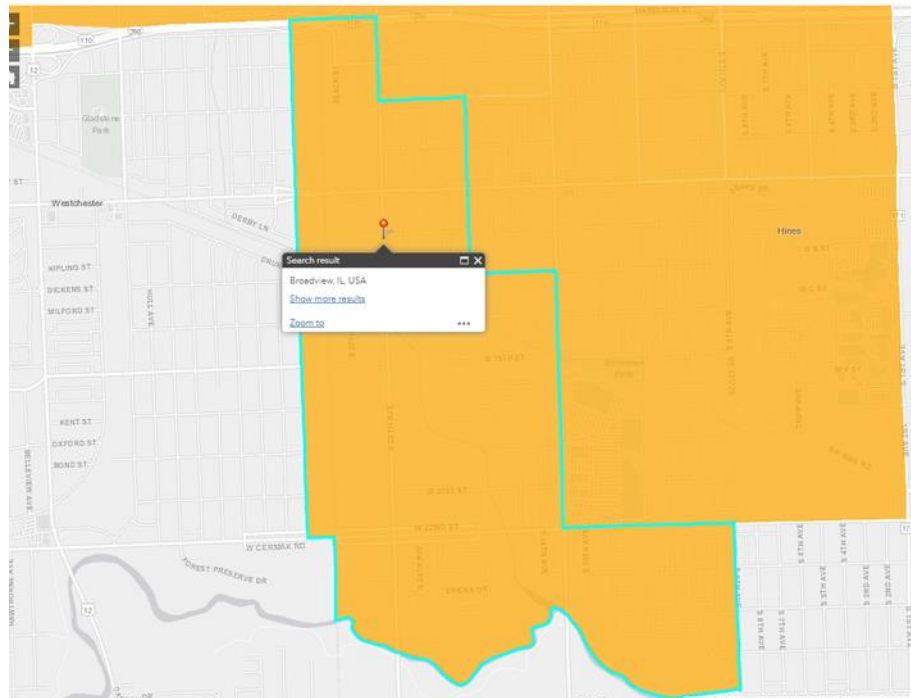


Non-profit and Public Facilities



Non-profits and Public Facilities

- Non-profit organizations and public entities must be located in either an Environmental Justice Community and/or an Income-eligible Community



Non-profit and public facilities

- Non-profits and public facilities can rent or own their buildings and properties
- Need input and connection to low-income community
- Must be considered a “Critical Service Provider”
 - Public schools
 - Fire stations
 - Municipal administration offices
 - Libraries
 - Places of worship
 - Homeless shelters
 - Hospitals, health care facilities, and clinics
 - Job training and workforce development services
 - Etc.



Savings

- Savings required to be at least 50% of value of the energy generated
- Realized through net metering

Habitat for Humanity ReStore



Photo courtesy of Balance Solar

Project Summary

Habitat for Humanity ReStore, a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center, has been serving Bloomington, Illinois, since 2009. Community members shop at the ReStore for new and gently used furniture, appliances, cabinets, home accessories, and building materials at discounted prices.

A significant revenue source for **Habitat for Humanity of McLean County**, the ReStore has brought in over \$5 million to fund the organization's community work. Habitat for Humanity of McLean County is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International and works to eliminate substandard housing in the Bloomington community.

To better serve the community and reduce their energy costs, Habitat for Humanity ReStore completed energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades in June 2018. Habitat leaders had considered adopting solar power at the ReStore, but the cost was too high: \$160,000, or 5% to 7% of their annual operating income.

A connection with Ecology Action Center, a local environmental education organization, introduced Habitat leaders to affordable solar energy through Illinois Solar for All.

The Process

Ecology Action Center, one of ILSFA's Grassroots Education organizations based in Normal, Illinois, provides education to community members

Project Details

- Approved Vendor: **Central Road Energy**
- Solar Subcontractor: **StraightUp Solar**
- Solar Array Designee: **Balance Solar**
- Estimated savings on electricity costs:
 - First year: **\$5,696 or 65.4%**
 - Total savings: **\$234,077 or 92.9%**
- Eligibility: **Environmental Justice Community and Low-Income Census Tract**

*These savings are based on estimated electricity costs. Since electricity rates are expected to rise over time, Habitat ReStore's estimated savings also increase over the course of their contract.

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A Head Start on Energy Cost Savings



Photo courtesy of BCMW Head Start/Early Head Start

Project Summary

BCMW Head Start/Early Head Start is a non-profit comprehensive child development program that has engaged and prepared children and families for success in school since 1965. The organization offers two programs to income-eligible families in Bond, Clinton, Marion, Washington, and Franklin counties.

The Head Start program enrolls children ages 3 to 5 years old, including children with disabilities, and provides an individual learning plan for each child. Early Head Start serves pregnant women and families with children from birth to three years old and provides weekly home visits focusing on child development and nutrition.

BCMW Head Start/Early Head Start installed a new roof in the summer of 2021 and planned to install a new HVAC system. Organization leaders had no initial plans to go solar, thinking it would be too expensive.

The cost savings through Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) made going solar possible.

BCMW Head Start/Early Head Start is part of **BCMW Community Services**, a Community Action Agency dedicated to empowering people in the region by reducing poverty and strengthening communities.

BCMW Community Services became an ILSFA Grassroots Education organization in 2020. ILSFA Grassroots Education organizations are trusted members of their communities that provide information to income-eligible households on the basics of solar energy and the ILSFA program's benefits and eligibility requirements. BCMW Head Start/Early Head Start followed the standard project application process and did not receive special consideration because of BCMW Community Service's role as a Grassroots Education organization.

Project Details

- Approved Vendor: **Central Road Energy**
- Solar Subcontractor: **StraightUp Solar**
- Designee: **Balance Solar, LLC**
- Estimated savings on electricity costs:
 - First year: **\$7,396 or 65.1%**
 - Total savings: **\$296,196 or 90.9%**
- Eligibility: **Income-Eligible Census Tract**
- Critical Service Provider type:
 - **After-school provider**

*These savings are based on estimated electricity costs. Since electricity rates are expected to rise over time, BCMW Head Start/Early Head Start's estimated savings also increase over the course of their contract.
† Critical Service Providers are non-profit or public sector entities that offer essential services to income-eligible or environmental justice communities.

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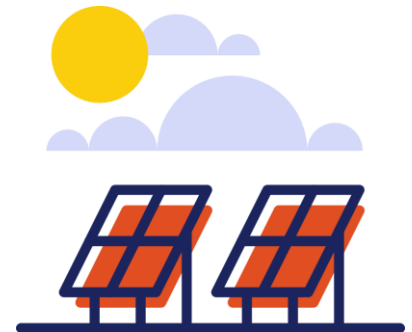
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Recent Program Updates



Key Recent Program Updates

- Program Year 5
 - Starting with Project Submission for:
 - Residential and Non-Profit and Public Facilities on Oct. 31, 2022
 - Community Solar on Jan 30, 2023
- New Program Updates Include:
 - New and Emerging Programs from CEJA and the 2022 Plan
 - New Consumer Protection Handbook
 - Streamlining Processes for AVs
 - Updated Income Eligibility Guidelines
 - New Sub-program Names



Stakeholder Engagement Plans

The Program Administrator and the IPA will be doing stakeholder engagement and asking for comments on the following in the upcoming months.

- Vendor Manual
 - Draft and Redline ([draft link](#) & [redline](#))
 - Comments Due: October 7, 2022 at 12:00 PM CDT
 - Final Document will be published ahead of the first window opening and a training session will be scheduled for Approved Vendors.
- Project Selection Protocol ([link to document](#))
- Consumer Protection Handbook and Disclosures
- Pilot Programs listed in 2022 Plan
 - Program Delivery
 - Home Repairs and Upgrades



Questions?

