

BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
In re: Illinois Finance)
Authority Stakeholder)
Engagement Session)

Chicago, Illinois
April 24th, 2024

Met, pursuant to notice, at 10:34 a.m.

1 BEFORE:

2 Chris Meister, Executive Director of the Illinois
3 Finance Authority

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6 Steven J. Brickey

License No. 084-004675

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Witnesses: Direct Cross direct cross			Examiner
None.			

E X H I B I T S

Number	For Identification	In Evidence
None taken.		

1 MR. MEISTER: Good morning,
2 everyone. My name is Executive Director Chris
3 Meister of the Illinois Finance Authority. We
4 were named the Climate Bank in September of 2021
5 in Governor Pritzker's Climate and Equitable Jobs
6 Act, or CEJA.

7 I would like to welcome everyone
8 to this morning's listening session formally
9 titled the Illinois Climate Bank's 2024 Update:
10 New Federal Funding for Solar for All From The
11 United States Environmental Protection Agency
12 Stakeholder Listening Session and Presentation.

13 Today is Wednesday, April 24th,
14 2024, and the time is 10:35 a.m. Central Time.

15 Assistant Secretary Brinley.

16 MS. BRINLEY: Good morning. This is
17 Claire Brinley, policy analyst for the Illinois
18 Finance Authority.

19 As Executive Director Chris
20 Meister mentioned, the listening session commenced
21 at the time of 10:35 a.m. and the line will remain
22 open until 11:30 a.m. This listening session is
23 being conducted both in person at the Authority's
24 Chicago office on the 10th floor of 160 North

1 LaSalle, Chicago, Illinois and via video and an
2 audio conference.

3 The Authority as the Climate
4 Bank of the state of Illinois, is holding the
5 stakeholder listening session regarding the
6 Climate Bank's new federal funding for Solar for
7 All. I am currently in the Authority's Chicago
8 office at the physical location of this listening
9 session in the conference room on the 10th floor
10 of 160 North LaSalle Street and participating via
11 video and audio conference.

12 Some guests and staff are
13 similarly at the physical location of this meeting
14 and participating via video and audio conference
15 while some guests and staff are attending this
16 meeting solely via video or audio conference.

17 Before we begin making our way
18 through today's agenda, I would like to request
19 that each speaker mute their audio, when possible,
20 to eliminate any background noise unless you're
21 speaking, answering a question or otherwise
22 providing any comments to the record.

23 If you're participating via
24 video, please use your mute button found on your

1 task bar at the bottom of your screen. You'll be
2 able to see the control bar by moving your mouse
3 or touching the screen of your tablet.

4 For any guests, staff or anyone
5 from the public participating via phone, to mute
6 and unmute your line, you may press Star 6 on your
7 keypad if you do not have that feature on your
8 phone.

9 As a reminder, we are being
10 recorded and a court reporter is transcribing
11 today's listening session. For the consideration
12 of the court reporter, I would also like to ask
13 that each speaker state their name before speaking
14 or otherwise providing any comments for the
15 record.

16 Finally, I would like to confirm
17 that all members of the public attending via video
18 or audio conference can hear this meeting clearly.

19 Andrew, can you confirm that
20 this video and audio conference is clearly seen
21 and heard at your remote location?

22 MR. BARBEAU: Yes, this is Andrew
23 Barbeau. I can confirm I am participating via
24 video and audio conference remotely, and I can

1 hear the discussions of the participants at the
2 physical location of this listening session and
3 those of the other remote attendees that have
4 spoken thus far. Thanks, Claire.

5 MS. BRINLEY: This is Claire
6 Brinley. I can confirm that I can hear all
7 discussions at the physical location of this
8 listening session and the remote participants that
9 have spoken thus far.

10 The agenda for this listening
11 session was posted on this floor and the first
12 floor of 160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago,
13 Illinois and on the Authority's website on Monday.

14 Building security have been
15 advised that any members of the public who choose
16 to do so and choose to comply with the building's
17 public health and safety requirements may come to
18 this room and participate in this listening
19 session.

20 If any members of the public
21 participating via video or audio conference find
22 that they cannot hear these proceedings clearly,
23 please call (312) 651-1300 or write info@i-fa.com
24 immediately to let us know and we will endeavor to

1 solve the audio issue.

2 MR. MEISTER: Thank you very much,
3 Claire. Moving onto Roman numeral II, the Climate
4 Bank of remarks with representatives from our
5 state partners. Again, this is Chris Meister.
6 I'm executive director of the Climate Bank.

7 I'd like to welcome any members
8 of the Illinois Finance Authority. They are our
9 volunteer leadership appointed by Governor
10 Pritzker and confirmed by the Illinois Senate, but
11 also more importantly for this particular funding
12 opportunity -- for this particular funding
13 opportunity, I had already mentioned CEJA, how
14 CEJA provides the foundation for Illinois to
15 enhance our competitiveness for this river of
16 equitable finance and climate funding
17 opportunities from the United States of America.

18 Our successful competitive
19 application would not have been possible without
20 the collaboration and cooperation of some of our
21 partners in -- among state agencies and the
22 leadership of a newly created non-profit entity
23 created by CEJA.

24 So, first, Sarah Duffy from the

1 Illinois Power Agency. Sarah, can you briefly
2 introduce yourself and your agency?

3 MS. DUFFY: Sure. Thanks, Chris.
4 Hi, everyone. I hope my sound is good. I'm going
5 to assume it is unless told otherwise. I'm Sarah
6 Duffy. I'm deputy legal counsel with Illinois
7 Power Agency. For those that don't know about the
8 IPA, we administer all of the Illinois state
9 incentives for solar and wind power projects.

10 So if you have heard of Illinois
11 Shines or the Illinois Solar for All program, we
12 run those and create all of the program rules for
13 them. We consulted with the Illinois Finance
14 Authority to ensure that all of the proposals for
15 the use of these federal funds aligned with the
16 program rules to make sure that the projects that
17 were being supported through IFA are also eligible
18 for incentives through Illinois Solar for All.

19 So we're really excited -- and
20 some through Illinois Shines. We're very excited
21 about this and looking forward to hearing from the
22 other agencies and getting started on rolling it
23 all out. Thanks, Chris.

24 MR. MEISTER: Sarah, IPA has been an

1 essential partner to this state's effort. Just
2 to -- just to emphasize, the Power Agency creates
3 what are known as RECs, or renewal energy credits,
4 which ultimately partially take the form of equity
5 on many of these projects, is that correct, Sarah?

6 MS. DUFFY: Yes.

7 MR. MEISTER: Did I summarize that?

8 MS. DUFFY: Kind of. The projects
9 create the renewable energy credits. So renewable
10 energy credits are kind of like a -- a type of --
11 kind of symbolic unit that represents kind of the
12 energy and the environmental benefits from
13 renewable energy.

14 So for every unit of energy that
15 the project creates, it also creates this
16 renewable energy credit and the Illinois renewable
17 portfolio standard, which is all of our renewable
18 energy targets, we measure our progress towards
19 those renewable energy targets in renewable
20 credits.

21 So that's how we track whether
22 we are actually putting renewable energy onto the
23 Illinois grid and so in financing these types of
24 projects, IFA will be directly helping us meet

1 those -- those renewable energy targets.

2 MR. MEISTER: Thank you very much.
3 Cami is on? Great. So another one of our central
4 partners, especially given the focus of the
5 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Solar for All
6 funding about which this -- this stakeholder
7 engagement session is about is -- is the Illinois
8 Housing Development Authority, IHDA. Cami Freeman
9 works with the Climate Bank and the IPA from --
10 from -- from IHDA and I have just seen that Cami
11 has joined us.

12 Cami, do you want to give a
13 quick introduction, if you can?

14 MS. FREEMAN: Sure. Welcome,
15 everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to say a
16 few words. Unfortunately my camera is not
17 working. But IHDA is very, very proud of our
18 participation in this application and very excited
19 about the opportunity to bring real benefits to
20 homeowners and renters throughout our affordable
21 housing projects.

22 We look forward to working with
23 the other entities just to figure out how best to
24 implement -- implement this in our portfolio as

1 well as be a conduit for getting the information
2 out to all of the projects and homeowners that are
3 interested in greening their home and bringing
4 solar energy to their -- to their residence.

5 So thank you, again, for the
6 opportunity to be -- be here, and I will continue
7 to listen.

8 MR. MEISTER: Thank you very much,
9 Cami, on behalf of the Illinois Housing
10 Development Authority.

11 Again, I had mentioned our
12 colleague, volunteer leader chair, Memuna Lee of
13 Bloomington, Illinois. She is the appointed chair
14 of a non-profit created statutorily by the Climate
15 and Equitable Jobs Act or CEJA.

16 CEJA named the IFA as the
17 Climate Bank. They also created the Clean Energy
18 Jobs and Justice Fund, a non-profit. Sometimes we
19 refer to it as the -- as the CEJA fund. They are
20 just getting started.

21 Like the members of the Illinois
22 Finance Authority, they are volunteers, but they
23 were also created by the same statutory policy and
24 legal foundation that named the Authority the

1 Climate Bank and also set the nation leading goals
2 of CEJA. Memuna.

3 MS. LEE: Good morning. Yes, it's a
4 pleasure to be here. Memuna Lee from the Clean
5 Energy Jobs and Justice Fund and I am the
6 chairwoman of the Board of the inaugural board.
7 We are very excited about the work that lays in
8 front of us.

9 We have moved at a running
10 start. We got our quorum in -- I want to say --
11 June or July. We managed to get our 501(c)(3) by
12 November and have recently just been awarded
13 funding from the builder's initiative, and in
14 addition we have actually just finalized our last
15 rounds of interviews for an executive director and
16 expect to get funding from DCEO in the next few
17 weeks.

18 So we have been off to a running
19 start in our goal of providing innovative
20 financing to opportunities and grants to Minority
21 Business Enterprises, contractors of color, low
22 income environmental justice, BIPOC communities
23 and the businesses that serve them.

24 MR. BARBEAU: Chris, you're muted.

1 MR. MEISTER: Thank you very much,
2 Chair Lee. I do want to mention that Chair Lee
3 and one of her colleagues has appeared before the
4 Illinois Finance Authority public meeting. We are
5 working in close partnership with them, but we are
6 very grateful that as a volunteer Chair Lee was
7 able to join us today.

8 We have one other quick state
9 introduction. She was on and then we may be
10 having technical difficulties.

11 Deputy Director Hillary
12 Ogunrinde-Scott. Hillary, are you on the line?

13 MR. BARBEAU: I don't think she was
14 able to reconnect.

15 MR. MEISTER: Okay. So just a word
16 about the various partnerships and typical for the
17 Pritzker administration, many players, everybody
18 wearing the same jersey.

19 Deputy Director Hillary Scott is
20 leading the Department of Commerce and Economic
21 Opportunity's funding and grant process under
22 CEJA. Again, she's been a close partner of the
23 Climate Bank both on this Solar for All federal
24 funding effort. It's a valued partner and

1 hopefully later on she'll reconnect and do -- do a
2 brief introduction.

3 Andrew, if we can move quickly
4 to slide 2. Again, this is Chris Meister. You
5 have heard me talk about the Climate and Equitable
6 Jobs Act, the deeper that our agency and our
7 partners get into our -- the progress of obtaining
8 federal funds, the more important and
9 nation-leading CEJA becomes. I'm not going to
10 read all of this.

11 I am going to highlight my
12 favorite paragraph because we are a finance
13 entity. One of our statutory purposes is to
14 accelerate the investment of private capital into
15 clean energy projects broadly defined in a manner
16 that reflects the geographic, racial, ethnic,
17 gender and income diversity of the great state of
18 Illinois. This is great language.

19 Not only is it aligned with the
20 purposes of the vast array of federal funding, but
21 it also allows us to have the same conversations
22 on West Harrison Street in the City of Chicago as
23 we do in Harrisburg, Illinois and downstate
24 Illinois and everybody tends to nod their head in

1 agreement.

2 Next slide. This is a
3 particularly important slide. It comes to us
4 courtesy of the United States Department of
5 Energy.

6 It was presented by Yasmin
7 Yacoby. She is a senior leader at the U.S.
8 Department of Energy under Secretary Granholm.
9 She presented this slide at the inaugural and, to
10 date, only National Green Bank Summit on September
11 28, 2022. I found it to be an amazing slide
12 because I think that it really addresses the heart
13 of the purpose and the challenge of this vast
14 array of federal funding.

15 These are redlining slides. So
16 Pittsburgh and Baltimore. All of us have lived in
17 this country for a long time. I don't think that
18 there is an urban, suburban or rural space in this
19 country that has not been impacted by these red
20 lining disinvestment slides of the 1930s. Again,
21 many great things came out of The New Deal, but
22 this was one of the adverse legacies.

23 Disinvestment in --
24 disinvestment in communities of color and

1 communities without a lot of economic opportunity
2 and it became a self-reinforcement, negative
3 circle. I think what is prominent about this was,
4 A, the recognition by the U.S. Department of
5 Energy of the federal government's role in
6 redlining; two, that she was quite clear that the
7 federal funding was going to be used to remedy --
8 partially remedy the sins of the past and that the
9 federal funding available today was not going to
10 replicate the mistakes of the past.

11 Next slide. This is what was
12 awarded. It became public at 5:00 a.m. on Monday
13 morning Eastern Time. \$156 million under the
14 greenhouse gas Solar for All national competition.
15 Again, completely aligned and integral with the
16 state of Illinois and the governor's law and
17 policy under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

18 Next slide. More than our fair
19 share has been our orders from the governor.
20 Again, he has been sure to knock down silos among
21 the many, many state government agencies and work
22 to make these resources easily available to the
23 ultimate beneficiaries, hopefully some of the
24 folks that are on this call today.

1 This is a brief summary. Solar
2 for All, the National Clean Investment Fund, also
3 through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds. Our
4 national applicant is the non-profit coalition for
5 green capital. We're very grateful to them for
6 the quality of their application and their
7 leadership.

8 We also are in the process of
9 receiving \$14 million from the U.S. Department of
10 Energy for a building revolving fund. We were
11 awarded through the U.S. Department of Energy \$15
12 million in charging and fueling infrastructure.

13 We were only able to do that
14 through the partnership of non-profit colleges and
15 universities and park districts and counties and
16 other non-profits across the state and then
17 finally in close partnership with municipal
18 utilities and rural co-ops, I think as of last
19 week we put in our application for \$24 million.

20 We have received an award of \$16
21 million. The entire award was supposed to be \$40
22 million under the grid resilience. We also have
23 the SSBCI co-lending participation small business
24 lending program in partnership with DCEO and U.S.

1 Treasury and in partnership with Elevate and the
2 Green Building's Alliance.

3 We're part of a \$4 million award
4 from the U.S. Department of Energy for what we
5 hope will become a very effective and educational
6 clean building hub.

7 Next slide. And, again, the
8 rough cut of all those numbers, again, we don't
9 have all the awards, but it looks to be between
10 \$300 million and \$330 million. So between \$300
11 million and \$330 million.

12 So what is the magic recipe? I
13 can tell you it's built into CEJA. It's
14 partnerships, it's quantifiable progress on
15 climate, it's build it here in the USA on national
16 security grounds, hopefully in Illinois. It's
17 Justice40 benefits and involvement and it's labor
18 involvement, organized labor involvement and
19 participation.

20 This is the equation that we
21 have seen that is consistent through all of these
22 federal applications. We're also fortunate in the
23 state of Illinois that this happens to be the law
24 and policy in our state.

1 Next slide. Important,
2 important, I cannot stress the importance enough
3 of this slide. These are the links if you are a
4 business that would like to do business with the
5 state of Illinois or with the Climate Bank or with
6 DCEO or with the Housing Development Agency or
7 with the Power Agency, please, please, please get
8 yourself registered in Bid Buy. It is the
9 Illinois business procurement portal. The link is
10 there.

11 If you are a vendor or business
12 that is owned by minorities, veterans, people with
13 disabilities, women, please, please, please get
14 yourself registered under the state's commission
15 and equity and inclusion, also known as the
16 Business Enterprise Program. These are very,
17 very, very important.

18 Also, through the Power Agency,
19 again, the feds borrowed the name of the state
20 Power Agency's low income solar program also named
21 Solar for All and Illinois Shines. Those are the
22 websites. So these are important. They're so
23 important we're going to show them again later on
24 in the program.

1 Next slide. So we have been
2 very, very active on stakeholder engagement and
3 collaboration. We started this journey in
4 November of '22. We will likely have more.

5 Again, many state agencies you
6 don't have to remember them. That's our job.
7 Under the Pritzker administration, it is many
8 players wearing one jersey to advance climate
9 outcomes in an equitable manner and economic
10 development. Next slide.

11 MR. BARBEAU: I think I can --

12 MR. MEISTER: I turn it over to you,
13 Andrew. Thank you.

14 MR. BARBEAU: Thank you very much,
15 Chris. All right. So I'm going to talk a little
16 bit about kind of now what is in it and what came
17 out of that extensive stakeholder process that we
18 had identified and conducted over the course of
19 the past year and a half.

20 Thank you to a lot of you who
21 are on this call for participating in that work to
22 really identify the gaps and challenges that
23 disadvantaged communities, low income communities
24 face in accessing the clean energy economy. We

1 have done this for several different technology
2 types, businesses and approaches and our goal here
3 was to really think about how do we -- despite the
4 fact that Illinois has strong renewable energy
5 policies, a great Solar for All program that is in
6 existence, how do we ensure that we are meeting up
7 to those expectations and addressing those areas
8 where we still have gaps and challenges in meeting
9 our ultimate outputs and outcomes?

10 So we designed this
11 intentionally around overcoming these gaps and
12 challenges with the whole focus on trying to
13 ensure the success of Illinois's efforts rather
14 than trying to duplicate, replicate or supplant
15 what we are already doing in the state.

16 So when we think about what the
17 federal Solar for All program required, we really
18 had to design around some core objectives that
19 were in the U.S. EPA's requirements for the Solar
20 for All program under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction
21 Fund.

22 The first was that an initiative
23 had to achieve 20 percent electric bill savings
24 across its entire program for all participants.

1 That's easy in a place like Illinois because the
2 Illinois Solar for All program already requires a
3 50 percent savings for participants in this,
4 though, some of our efforts go beyond Illinois
5 Solar for All as we'll talk about in a second. So
6 we need to ensure that even those things that
7 didn't touch Illinois Solar for All as part of
8 this effort achieved the 20 percent electric bill
9 savings.

10 It had to have focus on
11 increasing access to solar for low income
12 households and affordable housing and
13 disadvantaged community access to solar where
14 there were obstacles through new products, new
15 incentives, new deployment strategies. We had to
16 focus on resilience to ensure that we could find
17 ways to increase resilience for disadvantaged
18 households or other facilities during grid
19 outages.

20 We identified a target here of
21 trying to get to 12-hour resilience to address
22 challenges identified through extreme heat and
23 cold weather events and other storms that Illinois
24 sees as its, kind of, hazards strategies or

1 hazards that are challenges confronting the state.

2 We also need to focus on
3 increasing ownership and wealth-building
4 opportunities for low income households and
5 disadvantaged communities trying to find ways
6 where we can ensure long-term wealth-building
7 efforts and equity in all senses of the word over
8 the long-term asset ownership life.

9 We had to also focus on growing
10 quality jobs and businesses, increasing the amount
11 of participants and training programs that lead to
12 new careers, supporting new business starts.

13 CEJA was very intentional about
14 starting new contractor development, new BIPOC-led
15 contractors, development within its initiatives
16 and programs, prime contractors, subcontractors,
17 et cetera, but we still face challenges in
18 ensuring they have the capital needed to establish
19 and grow.

20 So thinking about all that
21 together, and we have presented this back in
22 September, but this is kind of a good reminder of
23 where we are at and where we're going. We created
24 a number of different discreet initiatives

1 designed to support and enhance Illinois's Solar
2 for All efforts.

3 First, we identified a big
4 challenge from stakeholders that there is a
5 significant amount of walkaways from Illinois
6 Solar for All, particularly residential projects,
7 due to health and safety issues or the need for
8 other supporting upgrades in the homes and one of
9 the core things we thought about as we were
10 developing this work was to try to ensure when you
11 have someone who is interested and supportive and
12 wanting to deploy solar on their home to the point
13 where you have a contract in hand or a project
14 that is about to get developed and you have to
15 walk away because of other issues and no other
16 funding source to address those issues, that that
17 is kind of the worst of all worlds.

18 We see this in energy
19 efficiency, building decarbonization, solar across
20 the board. So within this proposal, we focused on
21 trying to overcome, first, those barriers that are
22 inhibiting the existing residential solar
23 deployment and to ensure more uptake of the
24 existing programs, by adding in the enabling

1 upgrades program.

2 Next, to focus on resilience and
3 other economic benefits for households. We are
4 incorporating an energy storage incentive into
5 Solar for All deployments. On the residential
6 side, we'll talk about the specifics of that. We
7 also looked at the existing demand and need to
8 grow the Illinois Solar for All subprograms. The
9 Illinois communities -- the Solar for All
10 community's solar bucket and subprogram is highly
11 oversubscribed and has a strong opportunity for
12 growth.

13 The Illinois Residential Solar
14 Subprogram will be oversubscribed once we
15 believe -- we believe once we address the
16 participation levels within some of these other
17 programs. So ensuring we are able to expand those
18 initiatives to additional households is a core
19 priority.

20 So those are areas where
21 we -- those four pieces where we are supporting
22 projects where these are going to be primarily
23 through grants. These will be grants through a
24 mechanism outside, but in coordination with direct

1 contracts that the Illinois Power Agency is able
2 to execute.

3 Since Illinois Power Agency is
4 generally restricted to the REC contracts, this
5 will provide some more flexibility for the state
6 to supporting these types of projects in the
7 ultimate goal of getting solar on roofs and
8 communities benefitting.

9 Also, when it comes to
10 supporting projects, we have identified several
11 areas where there is, kind of, a gap in financing
12 in the market that is inhibiting kind of, the
13 broader equity and wealth-building goals that we
14 have identified.

15 The first is around the
16 community-driven, community solar initiative or
17 the bucket within the Illinois Shines program.
18 This is a type of community solar that focuses on
19 community ownership and engagement and involvement
20 above and beyond what we see from traditional or
21 mass market community solar projects and there are
22 a lot of very interesting and innovative new
23 projects that are being developed across the state
24 that have a lot more community ownership,

1 community wealth-building strategies built in and
2 there's a gap in being able to access financing
3 for this market.

4 So this is an area where we are
5 excited to be able to develop new loan and
6 financing options to serve those community-focused
7 initiatives.

8 We also have heard a lot from
9 stakeholders about the need to both -- to find new
10 mechanisms to support long-term wealth building
11 for residential solar through kind of a variety of
12 mechanisms. So to serve that need, we have two
13 approaches that we are going to be able to deploy
14 with this focused on low cost, easy to access and
15 equitable lending.

16 First through a standard offer
17 lease-to-own product that allows for additional
18 potential monetization of federal tax credits
19 layered with Illinois incentives and ultimately
20 find a way to turn that over to long-term
21 ownership by the resident.

22 So it's a near-term strategy to
23 bring in additional federal dollars, but
24 ultimately turn that over to residential ownership

1 for the long-term. Similarly, for those that can
2 manage it or want to pursue this route, there are
3 energy sovereignty requirements within CEJA as well
4 to support more long-term ownership systems on the
5 residential side and other sides.

6 We will create new easy to
7 access and low cost energy sovereignty loans for
8 the deployment, more ownership of low income solar
9 systems as well.

10 These are kind of six -- or
11 seven mechanisms that will directly support
12 projects and support increased access and overcome
13 barriers to adoption within the existing Solar for
14 All and related programs.

15 We also want to support
16 businesses. One of the key things we heard over
17 the course of our stakeholder engagement in 2023
18 was the need to provide easy to access and low
19 cost working capital loans to small minority,
20 equity-eligible contractors and others to allow
21 them to move beyond, kind of, a cash basis for
22 project development, to kind of grow in scale.

23 So we are looking at some
24 standard offer, working capital loans for projects

1 that are working in the Solar for All and Illinois
2 Shines space to really allow for those companies
3 to, kind of, access something that is predictable
4 and readily available to grow to the size beyond
5 what -- you know, waiting for rebates and
6 incentives and checks to clear.

7 We also have identified other
8 barriers through our stakeholder process that are
9 going to be key, that we are going to be focusing
10 on investing in. First, I'll talk about the
11 Bright Neighborhoods Pilot, which is a pilot
12 currently run by Illinois Power Agency focused on
13 very targeted outreach and coordination of solar
14 initiatives at a geographic level.

15 So a micro-geographic level that
16 allows, you know, kind of a focused effort to
17 improve communication and reduce the distrust
18 levels within communities around deploying solar
19 and, you know, the distrust with the broader
20 energy ecosystem that has emerged in this state
21 with, kind of, focused engagement.

22 We are going to reimagine and
23 expand that pilot a little bit to focus on
24 deploying funds to community-based organizations

1 in 12 targeted communities across the state to
2 really focus on being that central point of
3 contact and information and kind of a trusted
4 advisor for the deployment of solar in these
5 targeted community areas to increase, again,
6 uptick and adoption of the residential Solar for
7 All programs.

8 We also know that there are
9 barriers with regard to permitting and that delays
10 in permitting and other local governmental
11 approvals can create challenges for projects
12 particularly in underresourced communities.

13 A key part of this will be
14 deploying, kind of, small grants out to local
15 governments to adopt and get trained on SolarAPP+,
16 which is a tool developed by DOE to, kind of,
17 streamline and help digitize and streamline
18 permitting and approvals for local solar projects.
19 I think this will help to reduce some additional
20 barriers in communities across the state.

21 Finally, the other component
22 here is around deploying a contractor portal to,
23 kind of, consolidate in a central repository
24 information from various state finance grant and

1 loan opportunities that they can tap into as they
2 are developing their projects and coordinate some
3 of these efforts across different agencies and
4 utilities.

5 We are in the development stage
6 of this right now, but ultimately we know that
7 DCEO and Illinois Power Agency and the Illinois
8 Finance Authority all have different efforts that
9 can support both businesses and projects and we
10 want to make that easy and seamless for
11 contractors to tap into to access and understand
12 what is available to them and the projects they
13 are working on.

14 One thing I will talk about here
15 quickly as we look at the overall approach is we
16 did submit for a \$250 million budget as part of
17 what was the maximum allowable budget for the
18 state of Illinois and the category that we were
19 in.

20 The U.S. EPA in the final awards
21 reduced the maximum amount available to projects
22 in our tier from \$250 million down to the \$156
23 million amount that we were awarded. That means
24 we will have to revise our budget as we go over

1 the course of these next few months with a final
2 funding agreement anticipated in September.

3 As part of that, some of this
4 will be scaled, some of this we'll be able to tap
5 into other funding sources to support,
6 particularly on the loan side, because, as Chris
7 mentioned, we did secure funding from other
8 sources for some of the loan efforts. We might be
9 able to tap into that, preserve some of the grant
10 programs and other barrier reduction efforts here.

11 So we're going to be working
12 over the next several months to figure out what
13 that is. We do not have a final allocation of
14 budget to each of these initiatives now because of
15 that, but we will be developing that over time and
16 can describe that in much more detail as we get
17 more clarity from U.S. EPA on how they're going to
18 award and dole out funds over time and some of the
19 other input they have on our application. So more
20 to come on how much is allocated per and the
21 overall impact we're able to achieve with that
22 reduced budget amount.

23 I will say, and kind of go
24 through some of these quickly, importantly, you do

1 not have to take vigorous notes. This will be
2 available on IFA's and Illinois Climate Bank's
3 website, maybe as soon as today, along with this
4 recording and so, you know, no need to take
5 vigorous notes, but ultimately wanted to, kind of,
6 share a little bit about what the thought was
7 around some of the key elements here and how it
8 contributed to the overall proposal.

9 So when you think about enabling
10 upgrades, this is likely going to be things such
11 as, you know, deferred maintenance, health and
12 safety repairs, things that are electrical panel
13 upgrades that allow for programs to deploy solar.
14 You cannot access -- you will not be able to
15 access these funds if you're not doing solar.

16 It is only to enable the
17 deployment of solar and we coordinate with the
18 Home Repair and Upgrade Pilot that IPA launched as
19 well. So the goal is to really cover the things
20 that are necessary to get solar on the roof or
21 incorporate a battery storage system if that's --
22 if that's a part of the project.

23 Around energy storage, we're
24 looking at here an additional grant bucket for up

1 to, not exactly, but up to \$7,500 per household
2 that will be based on, kind of, size to the system
3 depending on its power and energy capacity and in
4 coordination with any distributed generation
5 rebate incentives that are offered by the
6 utilities.

7 We will prioritize within this
8 bucket the households wherein which a person lives
9 that is reliant on electricity-dependent, durable
10 medical and assistive equipment and devices.

11 So we will have more details on
12 the energy grant program as part of this, but
13 those would be incentives coming from IFA in
14 coordination with the IPA contracts.

15 When we think about Illinois
16 Solar for All, community solar and residential
17 solar expansion, again, these are programs that
18 provide 50 percent savings already to subscribers
19 or those who install systems. These will be able
20 to be scaled up with these funds more -- we don't
21 have an exact distribution because ultimately they
22 have to kind of scale up with demand and go in
23 some way together.

24 So we will be able to kind of

1 track that over time, but a significant allocation
2 will be to expand these efforts, but we have to
3 ensure that our existing buckets are full before
4 some of these will be able to really expand and
5 reach more households.

6 Again, in the Bright
7 Neighborhoods Pilot, we will focus on marketing,
8 public outreach, public interactions, income
9 verification, initial site suitability assessments
10 for small residential distributed generation
11 projects in 12 targeted communities around the
12 state.

13 At this point, we are looking at
14 grants up to, may not be \$500,000 at this point
15 with budget reductions, but up to \$500,000 per
16 community to community-based organizations to do
17 this outreach. So the existing Bright
18 Neighborhoods Pilot focuses on incentives for
19 developers in communities.

20 This, it will take a slightly
21 different tact that will focus on upfront or
22 grants to community-based organizations supporting
23 those targeted communities, which communities we
24 identify and, you know, community-based

1 organizations they will be through a competitive
2 solicitation and coordination with IPA and other
3 agencies, DCEO, over time to identify areas where
4 there is opportunity, but lots of walkaways or
5 issues that have been identified. So more
6 information to come on this.

7 The standard offer lease to own
8 having both a lease to own and a loan program will
9 be very helpful for getting over the hump for the
10 cash gap for projects and also supporting that
11 long-term ownership and wealth building.

12 We are looking at lots of
13 options in designing some new innovative finance
14 models here that would allow us to really tap into
15 potentially additional federal tax credits and
16 state incentives while also being able to turn the
17 systems over to the residents for the long-term
18 without violating any IRS or treasury rules. So
19 we will be working on that over the course of this
20 summer and hope to have something and updates on
21 that soon.

22 Community driven, community
23 solar. As I mentioned, you know, these are
24 projects within Illinois Shines, not Illinois

1 Solar for All, that have an organize and design to
2 benefit local communities.

3 We are working to develop a loan
4 program to provide both free development capital
5 as well as potentially long-term development and
6 these could be in the form of direct loans or
7 participation loans to projects that are designed
8 to meet their timelines and thoughtfully support
9 projects as they develop and grow.

10 We had put initial pilot dollars
11 in this, in the Solar for All program, but we have
12 a lot more federal capitalization available under
13 the National Clean Investment Fund dollars that we
14 we'll be receiving. So it's possible we move this
15 bucket over to that other award because we have
16 more funding available there for projects.

17 Energy sovereignty loans as we
18 mentioned, similar to the standard offer lease to
19 own, but this would be a loan product,
20 specifically not a third-party lease to ownership.
21 This would be just a straight loan to those that
22 want to pursue that route. There's a lot of good
23 examples Smart-E in Connecticut that we're looking
24 and modeling the initiatives off of and, you know,

1 I think we can be able to deploy pretty quickly.

2 The contractor portal as we
3 mentioned -- as I mentioned briefly really focused
4 on new and emerging disadvantaged businesses to
5 access various support opportunities, allow for
6 potential information sharing across agencies to
7 reduce administrative burdens in accessing grant
8 and loan offerings.

9 We don't know exactly how that's
10 going to all work yet, but that is the goal. We
11 have heard repeatedly that at least the initial
12 applications for some of these things that, you
13 know, may be outside IPA and other REC contract
14 restrictions that are there, but for other things
15 like the loans and opportunities, we need to make
16 as seamless and easy to enter as possible given
17 the administrative burdens involved in accessing
18 some of these while ensuring we have protections
19 in the backend to ensure projects are, you know,
20 free from waste, fraud and abuse and are able to
21 kind of grow and sustain themselves over time.

22 So really looking at finding
23 ways to make sure people don't have to fill out
24 the same information ten times and, you know, we

1 should know when a project is getting a grant, is
2 getting an IPA contract, is getting a loan, that
3 should all be coordinated on the state end and not
4 be completely dependent on the recipient to do all
5 that coordination themselves.

6 Also looking, as we mentioned,
7 working capital, you know, really thinking about
8 allowing businesses to, kind of, grow based --
9 beyond kind of a cash-based model, support broader
10 organizational developments, support growth of
11 project development, looking at, kind of, a
12 standard range of working capital loans in the
13 \$50,000 to \$250,000 range with kind of a custom up
14 to \$1 million per business based on kind of
15 factors and their ability to grow.

16 This is something that we think
17 we'll be able to launch actually on the sooner
18 end, this calendar year, after we have received
19 the funds with this and some other sources and
20 really excited to be able to launch this and work
21 on this in partnership with the Clean Energy Jobs
22 and Justice Fund as we work to, kind of, provide
23 capital to these businesses.

24 Also mentioned the SolarAPP+,

1 you know, currently targeting grants to local
2 governments to, kind of, streamline that solar
3 permitting for implementation and training. We'll
4 need help and support and coordination with the
5 local governments.

6 So we have some nexus there, but
7 you need to make sure that people choose to adopt,
8 know that there are resources available to them to
9 support that adoption.

10 One of the things that I think
11 Chris mentioned in the beginning, this is why
12 we're showing this again is, you know, we've
13 gotten a lot of outreach from folks who want to
14 work on Solar for All with the Illinois Climate
15 Bank.

16 I think the first thing we want
17 to say is make sure you know what Illinois's
18 existing solar policies and programs are. That is
19 both the Illinois Shines program and Illinois
20 Solar for All.

21 This is not a bucket of money
22 that we're using to create something completely
23 different. We are supporting those CEJA either
24 created or modified initiatives to grow and ensure

1 they are successful.

2 We don't have a set -- it's not
3 a separate bucket of funds for you to get funding
4 for your own projects outside of those
5 initiatives. So know what those programs are.

6 These efforts will support and
7 grow those efforts and you need to be intimately
8 familiar. You may need to be an approved vendor
9 within the Illinois programs. So we strongly urge
10 you to familiarize yourself with that first.

11 Second, before you reach out to
12 IFA, make sure you are registered in Bid Buy by a
13 vendor. That is in your interest to do so. If
14 you are a business that is owned by minorities,
15 women, persons with disabilities or veterans, you
16 should get certified through the State of Illinois
17 Commission on Equity and Inclusion. These are
18 important steps to take if you have any interest
19 in working either as a vendor or a recipient of
20 some of the funds for this work.

21 I'm going to quickly show e-mail
22 addresses for our IFA team. That if you have
23 questions or comments you would like to share,
24 please reach out to Chris and/or Claire with that

1 and we'll be as responsive as we can to get back
2 to you.

3 I'm going to stop sharing right
4 now and I think we can move over to some of the
5 Q&A that we have received. We have a bunch of
6 people who have put Q&A in the Q&A box in the Zoom
7 feature.

8 If you do have a question, feel
9 free to type it into Q&A. I will go through the
10 Q&A function -- Q&A asked questions first and then
11 if you have an interest in asking the question
12 verbally, I will -- you can click on the raise
13 hand button and we'll get to you then. All right.
14 So I'll --

15 MS. DUFFY: I'd just like to --
16 sorry -- remind everyone if you do happen to ask a
17 question verbally, please spell out your name for
18 the court reporter. Thanks.

19 MR. BARBEAU: Excellent. And as
20 questions are asked in the Q&A box, I will make
21 those available so that the court reporter can
22 find names there. All right. The first question
23 we had here was from Timothy Yee, which is "What's
24 the percent of funds distributed? What's the

1 percent for residential homes?"

2 I think as we kind of described
3 here this is about supporting and expanding. So a
4 significant portion of this is for residential
5 homes with a portion for community solar
6 expansion.

7 We don't have the exact percent
8 right now because we're going to be making some
9 adjustments, but from all the programs that are
10 put together, it's roughly, I believe, about at
11 least half is for residential homes as part of
12 this, but we will have more.

13 That doesn't include some of the
14 things like Bright Neighbors Pilot and community
15 engagement and other technical assistance. So,
16 you know, we'll have a finalized budget once we
17 revise that.

18 Next question I have is it says,
19 "What types of businesses can access the working
20 capital? Does this include property owners and
21 developers?"

22 That's a good question. I
23 believe our frame on this originally was to
24 develop working capital for contractors that are

1 either solar installers or enabling upgrades
2 providers or energy storage suppliers.

3 So they have to be somewhat
4 related to the deployment of these funds or Solar
5 for All funds. That is the only way we can
6 provide, kind of, general working capital loans in
7 this bucket to these businesses that are kind of
8 supporting the ecosystem.

9 If you -- it doesn't mean there
10 are not other loans potentially to property owners
11 for -- that could be through the energy
12 sovereignty, if you're a landlord or a developer,
13 there is other avenues that Illinois Climate Bank
14 that is developing that can be supportive there.
15 And feel free to reach out with specific
16 questions. That was asked by Cassidy Kraimer.

17 So I have a question from
18 Johanna Newman, which is "Can you put a finer
19 point on the SolarAPP+ grants program? How much
20 money is in the grant fund? Is there a standard
21 or max grant amount that a local jurisdiction can
22 get? What is the application process?"

23 Again, I shared some of that.
24 So we're anticipating that the grant amount per

1 jurisdiction is going to be about \$20,000 for
2 support for implementation and training. We
3 anticipate, you know, somewhere on the order of,
4 you know, 75 communities taking advantage of that,
5 though. If we have a high demand, we can adjust
6 if that is a very effective process, but we had a
7 budget for about 75 communities.

8 "Who is developing the
9 contractor portal," asks Kim Knowles. The
10 contractor portal will be developed in
11 coordination with Illinois Finance Authority
12 Climate Bank, Illinois DCEO, IHDA and others who
13 may have other initiatives that are supporting
14 these types of projects.

15 So we have a team internally
16 that will be working on what that is. Probably
17 also in coordination with Illinois EPA because
18 there are other funds that are running through the
19 state energy office there.

20 A question from Anna Chott or
21 Chott, one of the two, I'm sorry if I
22 mispronounced. "I'm so sorry if I missed this.
23 Can you share what the 12 targeted communities for
24 Solar for All are?"

1 As I shared, you didn't miss
2 anything. We don't -- we have not identified the
3 communities yet. Those communities will be
4 identified as part of, kind of, an application
5 statewide analysis and then competitive
6 application process.

7 Okay. I will get back to that
8 because I don't know if I understand it yet. So
9 there's a question of "Is there consideration for
10 having IFA carry the costs of residential projects
11 in Solar for All instead of the solar installer?"

12 I think that is probably a
13 question related to some of the loans that we
14 would offer. I think we do -- through a
15 combination of the loans and the working capital,
16 I think that is, in effect, what we are offering
17 is potentially carrying on some of the upfront
18 costs for the project, and I think that would be
19 either through the working capital or for some of
20 the other project development loans. That was
21 from Wade Halva.

22 Wade Halva also asked "Is
23 allocating more SRECs to downstate being
24 considered with this funding? The 2023-2024

1 funding was consumed by November of '23 and
2 delayed payments of SREC's changes the financial
3 viability of going solar significantly."

4 And I believe Sarah Duffy would
5 like to answer that question.

6 MS. DUFFY: Thanks, Andrew. Yeah, I
7 just want to note that this is a webinar about the
8 rollout of the federal funding for Solar for All
9 and how it will support Solar for All.

10 Discussions about changes to
11 Illinois Solar for All program requirements are
12 better suited to either, you know, direct
13 communication with IPA or some of our stakeholder
14 feedback processes.

15 MR. BARBEAU: All right. Shelby
16 Smith asks if the slides will be shared after
17 presentation. Yes, they will be available on the
18 IFA website.

19 Wade Halva asks, "When Solar for
20 All started elective pay was not an option for --
21 elective pay was not an option for not-for-profits
22 and municipalities.

23 The model was for a third-party
24 to own the system and lease it back. This is no

1 longer necessary and is often no longer
2 financially competitive. Are adjustments that
3 allow for upfront ownership in the not-for-profit
4 municipal space of the Illinois Solar for All
5 going to be coming."

6 I won't answer specifically to
7 the Illinois Solar for All, but I will say we are
8 specifically working on for non-profits and
9 municipalities a bridge loan product through
10 Illinois Finance Authority to address the elective
11 pay availability. We are actually going to be
12 starting that with our revolving loan fund dollars
13 as well as our NCIF dollars.

14 So we're very excited to look at
15 kind of bridge loan products for elective pay as
16 well as the lease to own model doesn't address
17 elective pay, but may allow for additional
18 monetization of the tax credits. Thanks, Wade
19 Halva.

20 A question is around "Are mobile
21 homes eligible for the Solar for All enabling
22 upgrades grant program?" I don't actually know
23 the answer to that question, from Nelson Mae. We
24 will talk about that and get back to you and I

1 think maybe I lean on IPA to ask that question
2 because that one actually stumps me, but we will
3 work on that and see what options are there.

4 So the next question from Lloyd
5 Kass is, "With the new award of funds, are you
6 looking to change how you might integrate your
7 offerings with the rate payer funded or IRA
8 rebates for EE electrification?"

9 Thank you, Lloyd. That is a
10 great question. Yes, as I mentioned, we are very
11 much interested in how we can braid -- and for
12 those that were involved in some of the CPRG
13 conversations that the state held at the end of
14 January and maybe February, the -- there is a lot
15 of interest in the state finding ways to braid and
16 make it seamless to offer and potentially looking
17 to expand some of the IFA, Illinois Climate Bank
18 loan offering to be kind of whole home, so beyond
19 just solar, to cover kind of the delays and, kind
20 of, payback timing for various rebates as well as
21 the solar initiatives.

22 So, you know, our goal is to try
23 to make that as seamless as possible and are in
24 coordination with Illinois EPA in trying to find

1 ways to do that.

2 All right. The question is --
3 is the home repair -- from John Delurey. "Is the
4 home repair grant program designed to replace the
5 current pilot or could a customer potentially take
6 advantage of both the upfront grant and the REC
7 increase in the current pilot?" I think the --
8 yeah, I don't know.

9 Sarah, do you want to answer
10 that question? Go ahead.

11 MS. DUFFY: Yeah, I think the -- the
12 language in our materials is a little, kind of,
13 open to interpretation on that. It might depend
14 on the results from the home repair pilot, but I
15 think the thinking behind it was I believe a
16 replacement, Andrew, mainly because the REC
17 incentive structure is just really not a good fit
18 for those type of upgrades because you have to
19 wait.

20 It's basically a reimbursement
21 model rather than upfront funds to directly pay
22 for them, the repairs. So I don't believe -- even
23 if they run concurrently, I don't believe we were
24 expecting to have a single project combine both

1 sources of funding.

2 MR. BARBEAU: Right. I think the
3 feedback we got from stakeholders last year was
4 very much a, you know, this isn't working as well
5 as an upfront would work. So we want to shift to
6 the upfront model, but IPA is limited in its
7 ability to do that. So these new funds definitely
8 allow us to do that good, which I think is a good
9 response.

10 The next question is will an
11 approved vendor list -- and, you know, I know we
12 are four minutes over at this point, but we have
13 lots of questions and answers and I want to get
14 through them all. You know, know that a lot of
15 these things will be -- you can watch the
16 recording later if you have to run to another
17 meeting and we'll have a lot of this information
18 posted in the FAQs at some point.

19 So will an approved vendor list
20 be released for residential and commercial
21 projects for inverters, storage and other solar
22 components or will you be using the approved
23 vendor list for Illinois Shines?

24 Sarah, I think you were -- did

1 you want to jump on that? Yeah.

2 MS. DUFFY: Yeah, I was going to
3 leave my camera on in case -- I feel like there
4 are several questions coming up that are more
5 about those requirements.

6 So there is already an Illinois
7 Solar for All approved vendor list available. I'm
8 not sure if that's what this person is asking
9 about, but that's already available on the
10 Illinois Solar for All. I'm not sure if they're
11 asking about, like, subcontractors and installers,
12 which might be different.

13 But you can reach out to the
14 Illinois Solar for All program administrator
15 Elevate Energy for more information about finding
16 vendors and contractors.

17 MR. BARBEAU: Excellent. Yeah, and
18 another question on there was "Is there
19 consideration of a VPP program as part of this?"
20 And, yes, that is something that we have thought
21 about and considered VPP -- for those who don't
22 know -- I believe means virtual powerplant and the
23 ability to leverage the battery for additional
24 grid services. I think that's something that

1 probably would get developed outside the Solar for
2 All program, but is an opportunity.

3 The question is -- here -- there
4 is a question, "With the continued growth of Solar
5 for All, Illinois Shines, how will we better use
6 the IPA portal for equity-eligible persons to
7 acquire employment pathways through
8 equity-eligible contractors? Not much movement
9 seen over the past year." I don't know if you
10 want --

11 MS. DUFFY: I would just say, again,
12 this is a webinar about specifically the financing
13 that is coming through this federal grant. We
14 just ran a stakeholder comment process on -- for
15 the Illinois Power Agency on assessment of our
16 equity-eligible contractor and minimum equity
17 standards and all of that -- those things.

18 So we will be assessing the
19 performance of those requirements. If you have
20 additional questions on that, please reach out to
21 the Illinois Power Agency.

22 MR. BARBEAU: Right. A question
23 here from Matthew Rundquist. "How can we provide
24 comment on the bridge loan program Andrew just

1 mentioned?"

2 That is great. We are going to
3 be starting this summer in anticipation of getting
4 these funds a broader, kind of, stakeholder
5 engagement process to, kind of, define and revise
6 and refine both what -- the bridge loan program
7 that is going to be developed through the ROF and
8 the NCIF dollars as well as the lease to own and
9 loan products that are part of this.

10 So we are going to have very
11 specific sessions that go into a lot more detail
12 on the loan products because we want to make sure
13 they work for people.

14 There is a question on "Are
15 funds stackable," and I think the question -- the
16 answer there it depends, from Genevieve Yuan. I
17 believe there are funds -- like we talk about --
18 the funds I talked about today. So if you think
19 about Solar for All incentives for residential
20 with the upgrade funds with the energy storage
21 funds, yes, those are all stackable as part of a
22 project. You cannot, though, duplicate funding
23 for the same thing.

24 So if there is other funding

1 sources for pieces, you cannot stack for things
2 and get paid twice obviously, but there will --
3 you know, you definitely can do all these things
4 together because that's how projects will get
5 deployed.

6 I am going to go over because
7 there are some people who have raised their hands.
8 I am going to, kind of, see if Tom Chi and I think
9 one more raised a hand. Tom, let me see if I can
10 get you elevated here to ask your question. Tom
11 Chi from Springfield. Oh, Tom lowered his hand.
12 Maybe I answered it.

13 All right. John Delurey, next
14 raised hand.

15 MR. DELUREY: Can you hear me okay?

16 MR. BARBEAU: Yes.

17 MR. DELUREY: Thanks, Andrew.

18 Thanks for this overview. Really exciting news
19 and these programs sound terrific.

20 I am curious if the state
21 intends to use any part of the planning window
22 that was offered through the Solar for All funding
23 to fine-tune implementation or program design and
24 specifically wondering if there is additional

1 opportunities to introduce new or different ideas
2 or to express prioritization of existing proposals
3 or should we consider this menu of options locked
4 in?

5 MR. BARBEAU: That's a good
6 question. So to answer your first question about
7 the planning phase, we intend to start the
8 planning phase prior to award. So we have heard
9 from US EPA that, you know, they expect the award
10 to be in September.

11 It cannot be past September. So
12 if it's past September, they are past their
13 statutory deadline. So, you know, we anticipate
14 that award in September and given the pace of
15 other federal awards, I do not anticipate that
16 coming before September.

17 However, we stated in our
18 application that we would try to start a planning
19 phase shortly after receiving notification of
20 award so that we can be ready to go. I believe
21 they had offered a 12-month planning phase.

22 I think we are looking at a
23 planning phase that will start sometime in the
24 next month or two and run through the end of the

1 year with the goal that we can have things
2 finalized and ready to deploy. After that,
3 though, you know, getting things in place and
4 setup and new grant programs in coordination with
5 other things is unfortunately not immediate.

6 Loan programs are some of the
7 earliest things I think we would be able to launch
8 with some of the other complimentary grant
9 programs and other development items like the
10 contractor portal probably taking a little bit
11 longer, but, yes, we anticipate doing a planning
12 stage sooner.

13 When it comes to the additional
14 items, we will see from US EPA. What we have
15 heard is this is our proposal, we have a scope of
16 work. There is probably some room for
17 modifications within if needed, if new
18 circumstances have arised. We have done that
19 before, but whole new scope items probably not
20 something that they are going to entertain right
21 now without -- they generally would have to go
22 back and rescore the whole proposal if we
23 substantially changed it, and I don't think we
24 want to do that at this point.

1 But, you know, adjustments along
2 the way, within the program, within budget
3 allocations, based on uptake and, you know,
4 specific design, those are all things that I think
5 we anticipate doing.

6 All right. I'm going to see --
7 just kind of check -- last couple of questions
8 that we have. I know we have a bunch more and we
9 will try to answer via e-mail or in an FAQ
10 afterwards.

11 We're collecting them all, but I
12 have, like, 20 -- 15 or 20 more questions I'm not
13 going to be able to get through before we have to
14 finish. So, you know, we will be holding another
15 session here probably in a few weeks to a month.

16 The last question I have here
17 just right at the top that I had -- I am just kind
18 of looking to see if anything is jumping out.

19 Looking at "How can utilities
20 support these projects?" I think this is a good,
21 kind of, last question of these, of the list.

22 "Are utilities eligible for supporting project
23 grants?" This is from Imran Rahman.

24 I think there is a lot of things

1 that utilities currently do within the program
2 that I think can be supportive and we are open to
3 additional utility support for implementation of
4 various things, whether it's coordination with
5 energy efficiency programs, whether it's
6 coordination with other beneficial electrification
7 programs.

8 We have already had good
9 conversations with some of the braiding
10 requirements -- or braiding goals that we have
11 with various initiatives. We want to make sure
12 that for people at the end of the day this seems
13 as seamless as possible and contractors have easy
14 to understand sources because one of the downsides
15 of having all these great new initiatives has
16 become a lot of things to figure out. How they
17 all work together is a challenge.

18 You know, that's what we heard
19 from stakeholders. That is, you know, something
20 we're going to have to work on, coordinate it as a
21 state.

22 So the rest of the questions
23 we'll either get, you know, a typed answer to or
24 included in a FAQ document that we will post to

1 the IFA website.

2 This recording from the Climate
3 Bank will be posted to the Climate Bank website
4 later today or tomorrow depending how soon we get
5 it from Zoom and we will have the presentation
6 that you saw posted there as well.

7 We anticipate -- this was a,
8 kind of, quick -- a quick reaction to the
9 announcement. I wanted to share what was in the
10 proposal for those who were curious and I think we
11 were able to turn that around quickly.

12 We had close to 160 folks
13 participating today, which is exciting. We
14 anticipate starting this planning process and have
15 a kickoff to the various planning elements of this
16 sometime in the next month and will engage
17 stakeholders on that to get into the nitty-gritty
18 details. So thank you, all, for joining us today.

19 Claire, I'll turn it back over
20 to you.

21 MS. BRINLEY: Yes, thank you. This
22 is Claire Brinley. I wanted to say that the time
23 is 11:45 a.m. and this stakeholder listening
24 session is adjourned.

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS.
3 COUNTY OF COOK)
4

5 I, Steven Brickey, Certified Shorthand
6 Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported in
7 shorthand the proceedings had at the hearing
8 aforesaid, and that the foregoing is a true,
9 complete and correct transcript of the proceedings
10 of said hearing as appears from my stenographic
11 notes so taken and transcribed under my personal
12 direction.

13 Witness my official signature in and for
14 Cook County, Illinois, on this _____ day of
15 _____, A.D., 2024.

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