



# Illinois Finance Authority/Climate Bank

## NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Stretch Code Adoption Grant

**CSFA#** 560-03-3635

**Issued:** April 22, 2025

**Pre-Applications Due by:** May 23, 2025 by 5 PM CDT

Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (ICB), issues this **NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)** to announce the opening of the first round of competition for grants under the Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Stretch Code Adoption Grant.

This NOFO will **not** commit the State of Illinois or IFA/ICB to any contracts for any supplies or services or any grant or funding awards. All costs associated with responding to this NOFO are at the applicant's expense.

**This NOFO constitutes a Request for Proposals.** With this NOFO, IFA/ICB invited eligible entities to apply for funding under this program through [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal) in compliance with the terms of this NOFO by the indicated deadline. Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted or not legible files, may not be reviewed. Please submit your applications via the AmpliFund system. The Project Narrative, described below, shall not exceed ten (10) total pages in length in Microsoft Word (.docx) or readable PDF format, and should be uploaded to the AmpliFund system. Submission via AmpliFund is the only acceptable method of delivery. Fax, mail, and courier delivery shall not be accepted, unless special accommodation is granted by the IFA/CB. Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted or not legible files, may not be reviewed.

**Proprietary information:** Any information obtained in response to this NOFO may be used by the IFA/ICB and the State of Illinois for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if reasonable, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Any material within a response to this NOFO identified as confidential must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. The State may publicly post a summary of the responses received.



**Contact for inquiries:**

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**UNIFORM NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)**

**Summary Information**

	Data Field	
1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (ICB)
2.	Agency Contact:	Claire Brinley, <a href="mailto:climatebank@il-fa.com">climatebank@il-fa.com</a> , 312-651-1319
3.	Announcement Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	IFA-CPRG-01
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Stretch Code Adoption Grant
7.	CSFA Number:	560-03-3635
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	Stretch Code Adoption Grants
9.	Assistance Listing (formerly CFDA Number):	Enter "not applicable" if Source of Funding does not include Federal or Federal pass-through funds
10.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	Up to 18
11.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$3,600,000
12.	Award Range	Up to \$200,000
13.	Source of Funding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding
14.	Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
15.	Indirect Costs Allowed Restrictions on Indirect Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction: US EPA General Terms and Conditions, Sec. 18; Assistance Amendment between IL Finance Authority and US EPA (limiting budget to 10% de minimus rate).
16.	Posted Date:	April 22, 2025
17.	Application Range:	April 22, 2025- May 23, 2025
18.	Technical Assistance Session:	Session Offered: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Session Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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# NOFO

## A. Program Objectives

**NOFO Purpose:** Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (ICB), invites project proposals under Illinois' award for the Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG): Stretch Code Adoption Grant Program (Program). With this NOFO, IFA/ICB invites eligible entities interested in applying for funding under this program to file their application proposals in compliance with the terms of this NOFO.

IFA/ICB reserves the right to revise any part of this NOFO by issuing addendum(s) at any time. Issuance of this NOFO, or subsequent addendum(s), if any, does not constitute a commitment by IFA/ICB or the State of Illinois to fund any project. In addition, IFA/ICB may cancel this NOFO at any time, without incurring any liability from responders or potential responders.

**Illinois Stretch Code Adoption Overall Objectives:** In July 2024, Illinois was announced as one of the recipients of an award under the [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](#) program, created by the [Inflation Reduction Act](#). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) awarded \$430,251,378 to the State of Illinois to implement a variety of programs over the five-year grant period (2024-2029). Stretch Code Adoption Grants are one of these programs.

The 2023 Illinois Stretch Energy Code, established under [20 ILCS 3125/55](#), took effect on January 1, 2025. Illinois developed this stretch code as part of its broader efforts to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and align with the state's ambitious climate goals. By adopting a stretch energy code, municipalities have the opportunity to exceed the baseline statewide energy efficiency requirements.

Illinois pursued the development of the stretch energy code to provide a framework for implementing advanced energy-saving measures in new construction and retrofits. The code integrates progressive energy efficiency standards that go beyond the statewide minimum by focusing on enhanced insulation, high-performance heating and cooling systems, and improved building envelope requirements. By doing so, Illinois aims to reduce energy consumption in the building sector, a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, while simultaneously lowering utility costs for residents and businesses.

The Stretch Building Code Grant Program is designed to facilitate the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of the Illinois Stretch Energy Code by supporting units of local governments with the necessary resources to navigate this process. The program will provide financial support for education, community engagement, and technical assistance to ensure that municipalities are well-equipped to

integrate the stretch code into their regulatory frameworks. Over the five-year program period, the goal is to have 90 municipalities and local government units adopt the Illinois Stretch Energy Code, contributing to statewide emissions reductions and greater energy efficiency in both new and existing building stock.

Through this grant program, municipalities will receive funding that enables these local governments to better understand the stretch code, determine local impacts, support community engagement, and develop implementation plans. The program aims to streamline the process by offering resources for internal capacity-building, public engagement efforts, and technical training for staff responsible for code enforcement.

**Subaward Objectives:** Administered by IFA/ICB, Illinois will conduct a competitive selection process to award up to \$3,600,000 per year in federal funding through approximately 18 grants of up to \$200,000 each. These grants will support units of local government in adopting and implementing the Illinois Stretch Energy Code.

IFA/ICB will select projects that support four core objectives: Municipal Awareness and Capacity Building, Community Engagement and Education, Incremental Code Modernization, and Emissions Reductions and Energy Efficiency Improvements. The set of metrics and strategies described below will be used to effectively track whether investments achieve State and programmatic goals.

Illinois' investment decisions in selecting projects under this program are guided by the "Climate and Equitable Jobs Act" (CEJA) and the stakeholder input received which shaped the Stretch Code Adoption Plan. IFA/ICB will assess the effectiveness of objectives highlighted here, through the Program implementation. Specifically, the State will assess whether the objectives established under this Program have resulted in expanded stretch code adoption.

## Municipal Awareness and Capacity Building

**Objective:** Enhance the ability of municipalities to adopt and implement the Illinois Stretch Energy Code by providing funding for education, training, and internal capacity development. This will ensure that local governments have the knowledge, resources, and administrative processes necessary to successfully integrate the stretch code into their building regulations.

**Intended Outcomes:** Local governments will develop the internal knowledge and resources needed to adopt and implement the stretch code. These efforts are expected to lead to increased adoption of the stretch energy code.

**Metric:** Grant recipients will track the number of municipal staff and local council members trained on the stretch code, including the number of training sessions and workshops held. The program will track the number of municipalities adopting the Illinois Stretch Energy Code, the extent of staff and city

council education within funded local governments, and the number of city councils passing resolutions to adopt the stretch code, as a measure of effectiveness of capacity-building efforts.

## Community Engagement and Education

**Objective:** Support municipalities in conducting outreach and education efforts to inform residents, businesses, and stakeholders about the stretch code and its benefits, ultimately increasing public understanding and acceptance.

**Intended Outcomes:** Local governments will conduct effective community outreach to increase awareness and acceptance of stretch code adoption. Municipalities will identify and address public questions and concerns related to stretch code adoption.

**Metrics:** The grant recipient will track the number and type of community engagement activities. The grant recipient may need to provide a summary of the engagement key findings and outcomes.

## Incremental Code Modernization

**Objective:** Based on stakeholder feedback, it became evident that many municipalities require additional support in updating base codes before they can realistically adopt stretch energy codes. The objective is to consider local governments that present a clear and structured plan for a staged approach, including updates to base codes and a timeline for future stretch code adoption.

**Intended Outcomes:** Municipalities requiring preliminary updates to base codes will develop structured plans and roadmaps for stretch code adoption. Local governments will integrate incremental code updates that align with statewide energy efficiency goals. A phased approach will ensure that municipalities can successfully implement stretch code requirements over time.

**Metrics:** The successful implementation of base code updates will be measured by the number of municipalities that adopt these updated codes, as well as the percentage of those municipalities that subsequently proceed with the successful adoption of the stretch code.

## Emissions Reductions and Energy Efficiency Improvements

**Objectives:** Support the long-term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and improvements in energy efficiency through the widespread adoption of the stretch code while ensuring municipalities commit to sustained energy efficiency goals and measurable emissions reductions that align with the overall state goals set by CEJA.

**Intended Outcomes:** The adoption of the stretch code will lead to measurable reductions in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to statewide climate goals. Municipalities will demonstrate a commitment to long-term energy efficiency by integrating the stretch code into their regulatory framework and planning for future energy-saving initiatives.

**Metrics:** Ongoing energy efficiency improvements in funded communities, measured against CEJA's site

energy index benchmarks, and assessments of greenhouse gas and other emissions reductions resulting from stretch code implementation. Grantees will also estimate the square footage of new buildings expected to be covered by the stretch code and the actual square footage of buildings built or renovated under the stretch code during the performance period.

## B. Funding Information

This award is utilizing federal funds. The total target funding distribution for the first year of the program is \$3,600,000. The ultimate allocation may differ from this target allocation based on the finalized amounts of awarded projects.

- Expected amounts of individual State awards: Up to \$200,000 per project.
- Anticipated start dates and periods of performance for new awards: Summer 2025, 1-5 years
- Type of assistance instrument that may be awarded to successful applications: Grant.
- Cost match requirement: None.
- Indirect costs allowed? Yes, at 10% de minimus rate.

New rounds of funding will be available at least annually. Depending on demand, additional funding cycles may be introduced within a given year, and the grant application period may be extended beyond 30 days based on interest and resource availability.

## C. Eligibility Information

Proposed projects must meet the grant requirements described below.

### Eligible Entities

Only units of local government that are based in Illinois, including cities, towns, and municipalities, are eligible to apply. Applicants included in the SAM.gov Exclusion List and status on the Illinois Stop Payment List will not be eligible for an award.

### Geographic Priority

Only units of local government in Illinois are eligible for this funding. Priority will be given to eligible units of government that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. One or more census tracts designated as [Equity Investment Eligible Communities](#) under CEJA. These include the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program's [R3 Areas](#) map, which includes areas where residents have historically been excluded from economic opportunities, as evidenced by rates of child poverty, unemployment, gun injuries, and incarceration, among other factors; or
- b. Units of local government that have not yet adopted the Illinois Stretch Energy Code.

### Existing Electrical, Mechanical, and Other Codes



Through the stakeholder process, IFA/ICB learned that a key barrier to the adoption and implementation of the Illinois Stretch Code is the need to update electrical and other codes. The Stretch Energy Code requires at least the following base codes:

- 2017 National Fire Protection Association 70 National Electrical Code (NEC)
- 2018 I-Codes (International Residential Code and International Building Code)

Consequently, to be eligible for this funding, applying units of government must either:

- a. Have base codes in place that enable the Stretch Energy Code; or
- b. Propose updating base codes, in addition to other required activities.

### Eligible Activities

Subawards to eligible entities under this award can be used for projects that demonstrate an intention and plan to adopt the Illinois Stretch Code, align with statewide goals, or implement base code updates as a strategic step towards full stretch code adoption. Eligible activities may include the following:

- **Staff Time for Education and Training** – Funding can be used to cover staff time for understanding the stretch code, including participation in training sessions, workshops, and internal municipal discussions.
- **Municipal Leadership and City Council Education** – Support for internal education efforts to inform policymakers, city councils, and other municipal leaders about the stretch code and its implications. Funding may cover costs related to preparing and delivering educational materials or sessions for elected officials and senior municipal leadership regarding the Illinois Stretch Energy Code.
- **Community Outreach and Public Engagement** – Execution of outreach initiatives to educate residents, developers, and key stakeholders on the stretch code’s benefits and address public concerns. Funding may support staff time or consultant costs associated with designing and conducting outreach events, public meetings, or communications to educate residents, developers, and other stakeholders.
- **Hiring External Consultants or Organizations** – Contracting with external experts to provide technical training, policy guidance, and support for the adoption and implementation of the stretch code.
- **Acquisition of Educational and Training Materials** – Procurement of materials and resources needed for municipal staff, city councils, and real estate professionals to understand and promote the stretch code.
- **Staged Code Modernization and Incremental Updates** – Support for municipalities in developing a structured, phased approach to updating base codes, such as electrical and mechanical codes, before full stretch code adoption. Funds may support staff time or consultant services to review existing codes, identify necessary updates, and draft phased modernization plans aligned with the stretch code.

- **Technical Assistance for Code Compliance and Implementation** – Assistance in reviewing and aligning existing permitting and enforcement processes with stretch code requirements.
- **Contractor and Industry Professional Training** – Development and facilitation of training programs to ensure local construction and renovation professionals are prepared to comply with stretch code requirements.
- **Capacity Building for Municipal Code Enforcement** – Support for municipalities in improving code enforcement infrastructure, ensuring proper implementation of stretch code provisions.
- **Long-Term Planning and Adoption Strategy Development** –Funding may support staff time, external consultants, or technical assistance to develop multi-year roadmaps, adoption timelines, and strategic plans that align local policies with municipal or regional energy goals and support long-term stretch code implementation..
- **Tracking and Reporting of Energy Savings and Emissions Reductions** – Establishing systems for municipalities to measure and report on the energy efficiency and environmental impact of stretch code adoption. Grants may fund internal staff time, tracking systems and software, or consultant support to measure and report energy use, emissions reductions, and project impacts.
- **Cohort Meetings and Regional Collaboration**- Funding may be used to support staff time or coordination efforts for participating in cohort-style peer learning, regional working groups, or collaborative planning meetings with other municipalities working toward stretch code adoption.

**Non-eligible activities:** A subaward to an eligible entity under this grant Program **may not** be used for:

- Activities that do not support the adoption and implementation of the stretch building code, or if necessary, facilitating base code updates;
- Equipment purchases or rental;
- Activities that support measures, activities or projects outside the boundaries of the ten EPA regions;
- Costs of acquiring “intangible property,” as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#), or
- Lobbying activities or union organizing

## Indirect Cost Rate

To charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs:

**Federally Negotiated Rate.** Organizations that receive direct federal funding, may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The organization must provide a copy of the federally negotiated NICRA.

**State Negotiated Rate.** The organization may negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have a Federally Negotiated Rate. If an organization has not previously established an indirect cost rate, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted through State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system no later than three months after receipt of a Notice of State Award (NOSA). If an organization previously established an indirect cost rate, the organization must annually submit a new indirect cost proposal through CARS within six months after the close of the grantee's fiscal year.

**De Minimis Rate.** An organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with the Federal Government or the State of Illinois is eligible to elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC)<sup>1</sup>. Once established, the De Minimis Rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the De Minimis Rate.

All grantees must complete an indirect cost rate negotiation or elect the De Minimis Rate to claim indirect costs. Indirect costs claimed without a negotiated rate or a De Minimis Rate election on record in the State of Illinois centralized indirect cost rate system may be subject to disallowance.

## D. Application Submission Information

### Contact to Request Application Package and Accommodations.

The full application is available through the [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal). If any assistance is needed in accessing application materials or submitting application due to limited Internet access or other limitations, the potential applicant should email [climatebank@il-fa.com](mailto:climatebank@il-fa.com).

### Submission Approach

This NOFO is a competitive process to solicit project applications from interested entities to meet the funding objectives of this program. This process has been designed to reduce the burden on entities seeking to apply for funding and ensure alignment on funding objectives with respondents. The competitive process will be divided into stages:

1. **Initial application window.** The initial application process will provide respondents with an accessible, easy-to-navigate method for outlining their proposed project to IFA for selection.

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<sup>1</sup> MTDC is defined at [2 CFR 200.1](#).

2. **Candidate selection.** IFA will evaluate projects submitted under the application process on their likelihood and ability to meet program objectives, as described further in Section E below. Based on a review of applications, projects will be identified for funding and award.
3. **Competitive, rolling application windows.** After the initial application deadline, the IFA reserves the option to open a competitive, rolling application window for project selection. IFA anticipates that if it opens a competitive rolling application process, based on the availability of program funds, applications will be accepted on a quarterly basis and evaluated competitively as a batch, based on the ability of a project to meet program objectives.

### Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), SAM.gov & GATA registration

To submit an application, the applicant must register and pre-qualify through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal). Registration and pre-qualification are required annually. Selected applicants must also register with the federal SAM.gov and must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) assigned in the sam.gov. Applicants included in the SAM.gov Exclusion List and status on the Illinois Stop Payment List will not be eligible for an award. The Grantee Portal alerts the entity alerts of “qualified” status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., missing UEI Unique Entity Identifier assigned in sam.gov, not in good standing with the Secretary of State). Inclusion on the SAM.gov Exclusion List cannot be remediated.

### Application Content and Format

**NOTE:** Applicants selected for funding under this Program will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (FAIN 00E03862) and US EPA’s [General Terms and Conditions](#) , as they apply to subgrantees.

### Mandatory Forms & Attachments

All project submissions must include the following mandatory forms and attachments:

- a. Uniform State Grant Application (accessible through the Grantee Portal);
- b. Project Narrative (as described below);
- c. Budget using the [Uniform Budget Template](#);
- d. Timeline & Deliverables (referenced in this NOFO as Attachment A, available at the IFA/ICB website [here](#)).

### Project Narrative

The applicant must submit a Project Narrative, in Microsoft Word or a readable PDF format, of up to 10 pages in 11- or 12-point font. The narrative must describe the proposed project in sufficient detail and must align with the information provided in Attachment A. It should include the following information:

**Applicant's information and qualifications:**

- a. Lead applicant's name, type, and contact person (name, title, phone, email and address).
- b. A brief description of the applicant's background and any relevant experience, including with similar codes and permitting-related projects and/or working with other federal and state awards.
- c. Indicate if the applicant has been debarred or is a suspended entity.
- d. If more than one entity is involved in the proposed project, describe each entity involved and provide name and contact information for each entity's project lead.

**Project Description:**

- a. **Project Location:** Indicate the unit of government proposing to adopt the Illinois Stretch Code and, if needed, facilitating code updates. Indicate whether at least one Census tract within the unit of government's jurisdiction is marked as an R3 Area on the [R3 Areas](#) map, if applicable.
- b. **Facilitating Codes Upgrades:** Complete this section only if the proposed project includes efforts to upgrade base codes to facilitate the adoption of the Illinois Stretch Energy Code. If applicable, identify which codes are currently in use and which codes the applicant will seek to adopt and implement in place of the current codes. Then, describe the process by which the unit of local government will leverage those updated base codes to implement the stretch building code.
- c. **Project Description.** Provide a detailed narrative of the proposed project, outlining the activities to be undertaken to adopt and implement the Illinois Stretch Energy Code or align with statewide energy efficiency goals through necessary code upgrades in addition to the metrics that the project will be able to track. The project narrative should be supported by completed Attachment A which outlines a clear breakdown of project tasks and expected completion timelines.

Refer to the list of eligible activities in Section C and describe any additional activities necessary to support code adoption, including phased base code upgrades where applicable. Clearly identify any prior work completed within your jurisdiction related to stretch code adoption or code modernization, along with the outcomes of those efforts. If applicable, explain how this project builds upon previous work to further progress toward stretch code adoption.

Additionally, provide an assessment of any barriers to adopting and implementing the stretch code, including challenges related to staffing, technical expertise, or community

- engagement. Describe how the proposed activities will address these barriers and lead to measurable outcomes. The project description should also include estimated metrics tied to each project task, quantifying expected outcomes such as the number of municipal staff trained, community engagement events held, base code updates completed, or buildings expected to be constructed or renovated under the stretch code.
- d. **Community Scale.** Applicants are encouraged to describe the scale of their community and the potential for new construction or renovation that could fall under the stretch code, including any estimates of building square footage based on current development patterns, housing goals, or zoning capacity.
  - e. **Workforce Benefits.** If the proposed project includes a workforce training component, describe who will be trained (for example, permitting staff, installation contractors, others?), how they will be trained and other details.
  - f. **Funding Objectives:** Describe how implementing the stretch code and, if needed, facilitating codes upgrades, can reasonably be expected to create benefits including those described in Section A above, particularly for communities identified by the [R3 Areas](#) map, if applicable. Describe how the proposed project meets any or all of the Program Objectives outlined in Section A above, and the applicant's ability to demonstrate compliance with the highlighted metrics.
  - g. **Project timeline:** Applicants must provide a high-level project timeline outlining major tasks, milestones, and expected completion dates using the template provided in Attachment A. Tasks must align with the proposed budget and the total grant amount requested.
  - h. **Project costs breakdown.** Respondents should fill out the budget in their application response through the [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal) and the quarterly cost breakdown in Attachment A. All expenditure must be allowable, allocatable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles. For more information, see [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](#) - Cost Principles as well as applicable provisions of [2 CFR Part 1500](#).
  - i. **Performance measurement.** Grantees will be responsible for ensuring all reporting requirements associated with the federal funding are met. This includes providing timely and accurate reporting to the Climate Bank in compliance with all federal and programmatic obligations. The Climate Bank will ensure that reporting processes are adjusted as necessary to meet updated or additional requirements issued by U.S. EPA. Reporting will include, but is not limited to, project financial and activity report, and assistance in developing sample project case studies.

Reporting will include semi-annual reports to assist the Illinois Climate Bank in showing progress on achieving this program's purpose. These semi-annual progress reports will be due to US EPA within 30 calendar days of the end of the semi-annual reporting period.

Consequently, to allow time to compile reports from multiple grantees, reports may be due to the Climate Bank within as few as 10 days of the end of the semi-annual reporting period, which run from October 1 to March 31 and from April 1 to September 30 of each year. Grant recipients will track the impact of stretch code adoption through the metrics identified in the funding opportunity and as may be additionally requested by IFA/ICB.

- j. **Funding Compliance Requirements.** In responding to this NOFO, applicants must acknowledge compliance with the requirements related to this US EPA subaward:
- i. **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and other Federal statutes and regulations** prohibiting discrimination in Federal financial assistance programs apply, including provisions protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, and the environment per [200 CFR 200.300\(a\)](#), as well as regulations, including [2 CFR 200.300\(b\)](#) prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
  - ii. **Consultant Cap.** Grant funds available for salary paid to individual consultants is limited to the maximum daily rate for Level IV of the Executive Schedule.<sup>2</sup>
  - iii. **Management Fees.** Management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and approved indirect rates are not allowable.<sup>3</sup>
  - iv. **Foreign Work and Materials.** IFA must obtain written consent from US EPA prior to awarding a subaward that will be performed in a foreign country. Alert the IFA in the proposal if any portion of the project will be performed in a foreign country.<sup>4</sup>
  - v. **Reporting Executive Compensation.** Certain subrecipients receiving federal funding may be required to report executive compensation. For more information, refer to [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), section 15.3 and 15.4.<sup>5</sup>
  - vi. **Conflicts of Interest.** Applicants must have systems in place to address, resolve, and disclose conflicts of interest and must disclose conflicts of interest to IFA, as described in [US EPA's Conflicts of Interest policy](#).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For more information, see [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Section 8.7.

<sup>3</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 9.

<sup>4</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Section 8.11.

<sup>5</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 15.3, 15.4.

<sup>6</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 23.2.

- vii. **Utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.** US EPA requires that subrecipients make good faith efforts to utilize Disadvantaged Business Enterprises when procuring services and supplies, and retain documentation of doing so. The specific six good faith efforts can be found at [40 CFR Section 33.301\(a\)-\(f\)](#).
- viii. **Other Ineligible Activities.** Certify that the requested funding will not be used to encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned, or pending legislation or directly or indirectly support or oppose union organizing.<sup>7</sup>
- ix. **Refreshments.** IFA has not received advance permission from US EPA to fund light refreshments or meals served at meetings, training workshops, or outreach events. Thus, applicants may not use funds from this grant for these purposes.<sup>8</sup>
- x. **Procurement Standards.** The procurement standards in [2 CFR Part 200](#), including those requiring competition when the subrecipient acquires goods and services from contractors (including consultants), and Domestic preferences for procurements at [2 CFR 200.322](#) will apply to grant awardees.

## E. Review and Selection Criteria

**Minimum Requirements:** To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be located in Illinois, be submitted by an eligible entity, and propose eligible activities, as described in Section C above.

**Selection Criteria:** Applications will be reviewed competitively. IFA/ICB will evaluate projects for selection based on the following criteria, at a minimum:

- **Feasibility and Readiness:** The extent to which the applying unit of government demonstrates that it has the capacity to implement the proposed activities and has policies in place, or a willingness to put policies in place, to adopt and implement the Illinois stretch code and facilitating codes updates, if needed.
- **Quality and Clarity of Proposed Activities:** A clear, detailed, and structured plan of activities that are designed to accomplish the program's objectives.
- **Municipal Awareness and Capacity Building:** The extent to which the proposed project will increase the municipality's ability to adopt the stretch code, including training municipal staff

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<sup>7</sup> [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec. 13 (union organizing) and Sec. 45 (lobbying).

<sup>8</sup> See [US EPA General Terms and Conditions](#), effective October 1, 2024, Sec 35.



and leadership, creating internal processes, and setting policies that enable adoption and implementation.

- **Community Engagement and Education:** The degree to which the proposed project incorporates public outreach efforts to inform residents, businesses, and stakeholders about the stretch code, address public concerns, and encourage community participation in decision-making.
- **Incremental Code Modernization:** The extent to which the proposed project includes a structured and realistic plan for phased base code updates (if required), including a clear timeline and framework that leads to full stretch code adoption.
- **Emissions Reductions and Long-Term Energy Efficiency Improvements:** The expected impact of the proposed activities on increasing energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and ensuring alignment with Illinois’ long-term climate and energy goals.

**Project Benefits Assessment:** A successful project must score at least 30 points out of a maximum of 50 points. The selection criteria will be evaluated as follows:

Program Objectives Category	Maximum Points	Poor	Fair	Strong
Feasibility and Readiness	5	1-2 points	3 points	4-5 points
Quality and Clarity of Proposed Activities	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
Municipal Awareness and Capacity Building	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
Community Engagement and Education	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
Incremental Code Modernization	10	1-3 points	4-7 points	8-10 points
Emissions Reductions and Energy Efficiency Improvements	5	1-2 points	3 points	4-5 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>50</b>			

Each category will be evaluated in the Poor, Fair, or Strong bracket based on the description of the benefits in the project application and the likelihood of the applicant’s ability to achieve them as a consequence of the proposed project activities and to successfully measure these benefits.

IFA/ICB may exercise discretionary prioritization in awarding grants based on geographic considerations, as well as other priority factors outlined in Section C.

## F. Award Administration Information

### Schedule



IFA/ICB reserves the right to deviate from this schedule at any time and without notice.

### Activity/Event

Public Notice of Request for Projects:	April 22, 2025
Deadline for Receipt of Applications:	May 23, 2025
Anticipated initial project selections:	June 2025
Optional Rolling Application Window Opening:	August/September 2025

## Anticipated Announcement and Award Notices

Applicants will be notified of the selection decision within 30 days after the deadline for application submission.

Projects may require review and approval from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). IFA/ICB anticipates sending the Notice of State Award (NOSA) to successful applicants by email within 30 days of receipt of any necessary approvals. **NOTE:** Neither the initial notice of selection, nor the Notice of State Award (NOSA) are authorization to begin performance of the project or incur costs. Costs incurred before entering into a subaward agreement with the IFA/ICB will not be recoverable.

## Reporting

The awarded projects will be required to report project metrics semiannually. IFA/ICB may post these reports on the IFA's public website. In addition, the applicant will be required to submit project management reports quarterly throughout the life of the project.

## State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Contacts for questions and assistance: [climatebank@il-fa.com](mailto:climatebank@il-fa.com)

## Other Information

**No Funding Commitment.** The State is not obligated to make any award as a result of this NOFO. This NOFO will **not** commit the State of Illinois or IFA/ICB to any contracts for any supplies or services or any grant of funding awards. All costs associated with responding to this NOFO are at the applicant's expense.

**Confidential and Proprietary Information:** Any information obtained in response to this NOFO may be used by the IFA/ICB and the State of Illinois for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if reasonable, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Any material within a response to this NOFO identified as confidential must be clearly marked and will be handled in



accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. The State may publicly post a summary of the responses received.

**Appeal Process:** IFA/ICB will follow the appeal process under 44 ILL. Adm. Code 7000.350. IFA/ICB intend to give the applicants that were not selected in this round of solicitation sufficient opportunities to develop their application further, and resubmit their projects in the future rounds of project solicitations as they open.