

Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Stretch Code Adoption Grant Responses to Applicant Questions

Notice of Funding Opportunity

[IFA-CPRG-01](#)

May 5, 2025 – May 9, 2025

Question: Can the implemented stretch codes exceed the State of Illinois criteria?

Response: We encourage you to apply as long as you can demonstrate eligible activities and how they will address core objectives. In the applicant, please explain how stretch codes exceeding State of Illinois criteria would result in additional realized energy efficiency and GHG reductions. We also recommend checking with the Capital Development Board on stretch code rules to make sure this approach is allowed, but if it is, we would love to see those applications.

Question: How specific in terms of timing does the implementation of the stretch code have to be?

Response: Applicants should outline their proposed deliverables and timelines in Attachment A using their best judgment about when the eligible activities they are requesting funding for—and the associated critical milestones—will occur. While awarded projects will be required to report on metrics, particularly greenhouse gas emissions reductions and other selected performance metrics, through September 2029, projects and funds can be completed or fully expended before the end of the CPRG grant period.

Question: Will the grants enable us to test how implementation of the Stretch Code may impact competitive development in a given community?

Response: This is not currently on the list of eligible activities, but if you believe it addresses the core objectives listed in the NOFO, we encourage you to submit an application.

Question: Does implementation mean only activities directly supportive of adoption, or would minor improvements to achieve compliance in municipal facilities also be included as an implementation activity?

Response: Implementation in the NOFO refers to activities that help a municipality implement the Illinois Stretch Energy Code once it is adopted. This includes a range of eligible activities outlined in the NOFO, such as staff training, public outreach, code enforcement preparation, and contractor readiness. However, the grant can also support several activities prior to or facilitating adoption, including incremental code modernization and updating base codes necessary for stretch code adoption. Please review the NOFO for a list of eligible activities. Applications focused on incremental improvements should clearly outline which base codes are being updated and how these efforts are expected to lead toward future stretch code adoption. Minor improvements solely for municipal facility compliance are not the primary focus unless



they are part of broader eligible activities supporting adoption or implementation aligned with program objectives.

Question: Does the city need to adopt the stretch code first? Our city is considering it but has not voted or decided on it yet. Does this mean we cannot bid?

Response: This grant is intended to provide funding for all of the steps leading to Stretch Code adoption and provide support on implementation. If you have not yet adopted the Stretch Code, but you're looking for staff training, or working with city council members, or doing community outreach to inform residents about the benefits, this grant can be used for that.

Question: Can the funding be used to offset permitting fees to the consumer/permit applicant?

Response: Applications will be evaluated based on how well they meet the programmatic objectives through eligible activities as outlined in the NOFO. All applicants are encouraged to apply if they believe their proposed project aligns with these objectives. While the NOFO does not explicitly list offsetting permitting fees as an eligible activity, applicants should clearly describe how their proposed use of funds advances the core objectives of municipal capacity building, community engagement, incremental code modernization, and emissions reductions to be considered for funding.

Question: Does the IFA or the groups running these webinars have availability to meet with nonprofits before submitting to answer specific questions/help think through specific types of outreach?

Response: No. Unfortunately, State law associated with Illinois grants is designed to ensure all grantees have the same information, so we are not allowed to meet with applicants or provide individual technical assistance.

Question: When can applicants expect to hear if they have been selected and how soon is work expected to start?

Response: IFA/CB will get responses back to applicants within a month after they close, and work will start quickly after. Project start date will vary by grant.

Question: What is the timeline of the Climate Bank in terms of opening additional funding opportunities? Are these all the NOFOs the Climate Bank will be releasing this year?

Response: For the Solar for All programs, these are the only two grant programs opening this year. IFA/CB does have a number of Solar for All financing (loan) programs that we're working to get out by the end of the year, but they won't involve NOFOs. For CPRG, IFA/CB is working on a number of programs that were outlined within the initial workplan application that went to U.S. EPA. There will be additional NOFOs for new programs under CPRG. We are working diligently to get those programs up and running. There are also a number of other programs that IFA/CB works on, including the 40101(d) Grid Resilience grants. Another NOFO under that program will open soon. IFA/CB will continue to have webinars as other NOFOs/programs open.

Question: Will these grants open up again in the near future? Or are they only being funded for this FY?



Response: If we do not receive enough qualified applications from these programs during this application window, IFA/CB reserves the right to open a later application window later this year, no earlier than June. Each of these grants has multi-year funding at this time, so we plan to open NOFOs yearly each spring for the next 5 years. However, if there is a lack of interest or we receive feedback on the program, IF/CB may change its plans for future rounds of funding.

Question: For educational/ school districts, which grant opportunities would be appropriate for them to apply for? Additionally, would houses of worship be eligible for these grants and if so, which ones?

Response: For Climate Pollution Reduction Grants programs, the Stretch Code Adoption Grants are intended for units of local government. The Small Utility Clean Energy Planning grant is intended for municipal or electric utilities. We don't think either of these entities are the intended audience for these grants, but if you disagree, you are free to apply.

April 28, 2025 – May 2, 2025

Question: Can a municipality apply to the Stretch Codes Adoption grant more than once?

Response: The answer yes, municipalities may apply more than once, but the municipality must apply for a different eligible activity, and they may not duplicate GHG emissions. They would have to show how they would avoid “double counting” GHG emissions from both projects.

Question: Since it is a rolling deadline, are you anticipating another call for projects or is it hoped that all funds will be used on this call?

Response: The rolling deadline will depend on the number of qualified projects we receive. IFA is not committed to opening a second window for applications this year. If funds are not exhausted after the initial application window, a rolling window will be opened. If we receive enough qualified projects to expend the \$3.6M allocated for this round of funding, we will not open a rolling window this year. However, there will be another Stretch Code opportunity next year, as IFA has allocated \$3.6M across five years for a total of \$18M for this program.

Question: How much time does a municipality have to spend the funds if awarded?

Response: All awarded funds must be spent, and all project work and performance reporting will be within the federal performance period ending in fall 2029.

Question: Can a municipality phase their work over 2-3 years leading up to adoption of the stretch codes?

Response: The program allows for a phased approach. Municipalities can structure their project over multiple years, including incremental code modernization steps, as long as the project demonstrates a clear, structured process toward stretch code adoption and/or implementation within the performance period.

April 21, 2025 – April 25, 2025

There were no questions submitted this week.



The last day for question submission is May 16th at 5:00 PM CT.