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CLIMATE  
BANK**

**Illinois Solar for All Expansion  
Storage and Enabling Upgrades Grants Working Group  
December 17, 2024**

# USEPA GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND: SOLAR FOR ALL COMPETITION WINNING APPLICATION DESIGNED FROM STAKEHOLDER INPUT



**\$156,000,000**  
federal funding



**aligned**  
with CEJA and IL policy

## **INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION:**

IFA, ICC, DCEO, IL EPA, IPA, IHDA, IDOT, DNR

## **STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION**

More than 150 different entities between Nov 2022 and Application

## SOLAR FOR ALL EXPANSION PURPOSE

100% of Solar for All Expansion program funding must be used to enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy or benefit from zero-emission technologies, such as solar energy.

### Purpose

Each program seeks to fill a gap identified by stakeholder engagement beginning with CEJA and continuing until Illinois made the proposal in late 2023.

Each program is intended to enable low income and disadvantaged communities to deploy or benefit from zero-emission technologies, such as solar energy.

The entire purpose of the US EPA Solar for All program is to improve equitable access to zero-emission technologies and the clean energy economy.

Equity should be woven throughout these program designs. If you don't see it, or see provisions that are inequitable, Please Say Something!

## WORKING GROUPS

Illinois Climate Bank will convene working groups to assist in designing the Illinois Solar for All Expansion Programs.

# Storage and Enabling Upgrade Grant Working Group - Scope

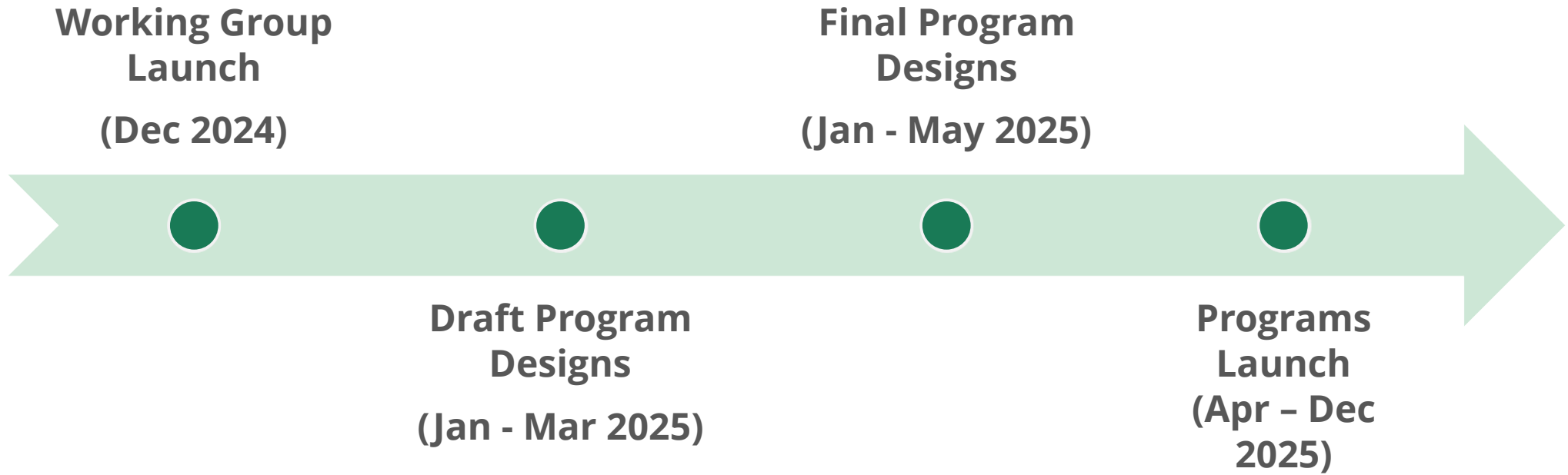
## We Will Cover:

Creation of two new grant programs that will be coordinated with Illinois Solar for All: Energy Storage grants and Enabling Home Upgrade grants.

# TIMELINE

Illinois Climate Bank will convene working groups to assist in designing the Illinois Solar for All Expansion Programs.

All SFA Expansion Programs will be launched by EOY 2025.





### SUMMARY

The Illinois Climate Bank will work with the Illinois Power Agency to deploy a Solar for All Enabling Upgrades grant program. The Enabling Upgrades grant program will provide up to \$12,000 per household to address necessary deferred maintenance, health & safety repairs, or electrical panel upgrades necessary to install a solar photovoltaic system and, optionally, an energy storage system at a household in a low-income or disadvantaged community.

The Enabling Upgrades grant program will be offered alongside Illinois Solar for All RECS.

The program will work to ensure projects maximize all available incentives offered by utilities or as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act.

### OPEN QUESTIONS

- Interaction with other programs
- What upgrades will it fund

### up to \$12,000

grants for enabling upgrades for residential solar

### key elements

- Enabling upgrades must support the deployment of solar for households in low-income or disadvantaged communities
- Projects supported could be electrical panel upgrades, roof repairs, mold and asbestos abatement, or other investments necessary to enable the deployment of the solar project
- Leverages IL Solar for All incentives for residential sub-program

## Enabling Home Upgrades Grant Program:

- Clarifying Questions?
- What are the most important upgrades to fund to enable solar installation on homes in low-income and disadvantaged communities? What spending caps should apply, if any?
- Enabling Upgrades must be linked to solar installations. How might the program's processes do that effectively, given that the upgrades may be installed by contractors who are not Approved Vendors?
- Are there similar programs in other states that we should know about?

## Energy Storage



### SUMMARY

The Illinois Climate Bank will work with the Illinois Power Agency to deploy a Solar for All Energy Storage grant program. The Energy Storage grant program will provide up to \$7,500 per household to add energy storage to solar photovoltaic systems for households located in low-income or disadvantaged communities.

Energy storage systems will be encouraged to be designed to work in concert with a solar array to provide a resilient source of power for the residence for 12 hours during an extreme heat or cold event or other grid outage.

The amount of the incentive will be dependent on the size of the energy storage system (in kW and kWh) and will coordinate with any distributed generation rebate incentives offered utilities and accepted by customers.

Priority will be given to eligible households with residents reliant on electricity-dependent durable medical and assistive equipment (DME) and devices.

### OPEN QUESTIONS

- How to address multifamily?
- Data to target program to residents dependent on medical (DME) devices
- Eligible equipment

### GRANT PROGRAM

#### up to \$7,500

grants for enabling energy storage additions to residential Solar for All

#### key elements

- Energy storage must be paired with the deployment of solar for households in low-income or disadvantaged communities
- Leverages IL Solar for All incentives for residential sub-program



## Energy Storage Grant Program:

- Clarifying Questions?
- How can we ensure this program reaches residents who use electricity-dependent durable medical and assistive equipment and devices? What data is needed? Who has that data?
- Energy Storage grant projects must be linked to solar installations. How might the program's processes do that effectively?
- Are there limits needed on the types or size of equipment that can be installed using this grant?

## NEXT STEPS

- Completing similar sessions with all 5 working groups.
- Draft program designs released for comment in early spring.

## NEXT STEPS

### Contact Information:

For more information or further questions, please contact the Illinois Climate Bank at:

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