

Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative Report

2024-2025 PROGRAM YEAR

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Executive Summary

The Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative (“Initiative”) makes additional incentives available to Illinois Solar for All (“ILSFA”) Approved Vendors that complete roof and electrical repairs necessary for solar installations on owner-occupied income-eligible homes within the Illinois Solar for All: Residential Solar (Small) sub-program. The Initiative was implemented in the 2023-2024 program year (“PY2023-2024”) and continued into the 2024-2025 program year (“PY2024-2025”) pursuant to the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan.

This report summarizes the second year of the Initiative, which saw a significant increase in projects submitted, from 13 in PY2023-2024 to 206 in PY2024-2025, surpassing the Initiative’s goal of 50-75 projects and meeting the budget for this program year. It builds on lessons learned from the first year of the Initiative, outlines the changes implemented for PY2024-2025, and highlights key findings from PY2024-2025. These findings include ongoing challenges in securing external home repair funding, a misalignment between self-reported homeowner needs and Approved Vendor submitted projects, and a continued, widespread need for solar-readiness repairs within the ILSFA program.

Changes to the Initiative’s design for the second year of the Initiative, such as raising cost caps for both roof and electrical repairs, introducing a \$450 administrative fee per project, and streamlining external funding requirements, played a vital role in the uptake of project submissions. These design updates, along with targeted outreach by the ILSFA Program Administrator and an increased number of ILSFA Approved Vendors participating in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program, helped the Initiative expand its geographic reach and overall impact in PY2024-2025.

Initiative Overview

The Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative supports income-eligible, owner-occupied homes in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program by addressing roof and electrical repair needs. Since its start in 2023, the Initiative has been offering Renewable Energy Credit (“REC”) adders to ILSFA Approved Vendors to cover these home repairs. Additionally, the Initiative also connects homeowners with existing home repair programs in Illinois, coordinating with the entities that operate these home repair programs to better understand the availability of outside funding in the state.

The Program Administrator released the Initiative design for stakeholder feedback in May 2023 and launched the Initiative at the start of The 2023-2024 program year. Following the first year of the Initiative, the Program Administrator released the Home Repairs and Upgrades Initiative Report Program Year 2023-2024 and a request for stakeholder feedback in July 2024.¹ The second year of the Initiative officially launched for PY2024-2025 in September 2024.

GOALS

The Initiative has two main goals: to increase participation in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program and to collect data on the frequency and extent of home repair needs for solar readiness from Approved Vendors and homeowners. To meet this need, the Program Administrator aimed to support 50-75 projects with the Initiative in PY2024-2025.

Learnings from PY2023-2024

Participation in the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative was low in PY2023-2024, with only two Approved Vendors submitting a total of 13 projects. To gain insight into this low engagement, the Program Administrator conducted one-on-one meetings with Approved Vendors and sent out an Approved Vendor survey in PY2023-2024. Despite the low participation in the Initiative, survey data showed that 92% of vendors who responded² encounter roof and/or electrical repair needs in income-eligible homes, with about half seeing these needs in 50% or more homes. Informal outreach and engagement with Approved Vendors found similar results, with most Approved Vendors indicating a need for electrical and roof repairs within income-eligible homes. Many vendors cited barriers such as high upfront costs, increased risks associated with unexpected construction costs, and excessive administrative work as challenges to participating in the Initiative. The Program Administrator found that Approved Vendors

¹ View the [stakeholder feedback](#).

² 12 out of 95 Approved Vendors responded to the PY2023-2024 Survey.

were hesitant to participate in the Initiative despite the clear need for home repair assistance. These challenges were particularly pronounced for small and emerging businesses. The Program Administrator also found that the limited number of Approved Vendors participating in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program most likely contributed to lower participation in the Initiative in PY2023-2024.

When asked for feedback on the Initiative, Approved Vendors recommended raising the cost caps, especially for roof repairs, to encourage broader participation. Additionally, Approved Vendors reported encountering other repairs outside of roof and electrical needs, like HVAC, windows, and tree removal, that often need to be addressed before solar installation.

The projects submitted in PY2023-2024 revealed a clear trend: 12 out of 13 focused on lower-cost electrical repairs, while only one project involved a roof repair. However, the Program Administrator found that this pattern does not reflect the actual needs of prospective participants. Among the 34 prospective ILSFA participants identified as needing home repairs in PY2023-2024, 18 (53%) required electrical repairs, 13 (38%) needed roof repairs, and 3 (9%) needed both. This demonstrated significant demand for both types of repairs.

To understand the availability of external funding opportunities for home repairs in the state, the Program Administrator conducted research and outreach to a variety of home repair programs in Illinois.³ It found that access to external home repair funding in the state was limited due to long waitlists, strict eligibility requirements, short application windows, and burdensome administrative processes. Nearly half of the programs listed by the Program Administrator in the [External Funding List](#) had confirmed waitlists, many exceeding six months or even a year. Furthermore, geographic and demographic eligibility restrictions excluded many ILSFA participants, especially those in urban areas like Chicago. Despite support from the Program Administrator, no ILSFA participants in PY2023-2024 successfully secured external funding for needed repairs. These systemic barriers highlight the need for additional funding for home repairs, which contribute to making residences solar-ready.

Updates from PY2023-2024 to PY2024-2025

The Program Administrator proposed the following updates to the Illinois Power Agency for PY2024-2025 based on findings from PY2023-2024 and stakeholder feedback from July 2024:

³ These programs include Federal, State of Illinois, city, and non-profit programs.

- Eliminating the need for written communications from prospective participants regarding requests for external funding
- Adding tree alteration to the list of eligible repairs and upgrades available in the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative⁴
- Increasing the cost cap for electrical repairs and upgrades from \$4,000 to \$6,550
- Increasing the cost cap for roofing and structural repairs and upgrades from \$10,000 to \$14,000
- Adding an administrative flat fee for each Home Repair Project

The following updates were included in the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative Design for PY2024-2025:

- Eliminating the need for written communication regarding requests for external funding
- Increasing the cost cap for electrical repairs and upgrades from \$4,000 to \$6,550
- Increasing the cost cap for roofing and structural repairs and upgrades from \$10,000 to \$14,000
- Adding a \$450 administrative flat fee for each Home Repairs and Upgrades project

The following update was not included in the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative Design for PY2024-2025, per repairs and upgrades supported under the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan:

- Adding tree alteration to the list of eligible repairs and upgrades available in the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative

Initiative Implementation

EXTERNAL FUNDING

The first step of the Initiative is to try to connect homeowners with external funding opportunities for their home repairs. When projects are submitted with the Initiative and/or homeowners reach out to the Program Administrator, indicating they need home repairs, the Program Administrator checks to see if external funding is available for that homeowner. As noted above, the Program Administrator eliminated the need for written communication regarding external funding for this program year. Thus, prospective participants were no longer required to show written proof that they reached out to external funding sources for their home repair needs. The Program Administrator conducted this research and verification on behalf of the homeowner.

All available external funding opportunities are included in the [External Funding List](#), which is updated periodically by the Program Administrator. Details on eligibility requirements, contact information, website links, waitlist information, and more are

⁴ Tree alteration was not included as an update to the Initiative for the 2024-2025 program year. As the authority of the Home Repairs Initiative supports repairs and upgrades directly required to conduct solar installations, tree alteration was deemed an ineligible repair item per the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan.

included for each home repair program. The Program Administrator updated the External Funding List three times in PY2024-2025, in September 2024, November 2024, and May 2025. The current External Funding List as of May 2025 includes 36 different programs, including various federal, state, and local programs, including programs offered by Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and nonprofit organizations. The Program Administrator has been conducting outreach with the various home repair programs on the External Funding List since the start of the Initiative to better understand the availability of home repair programs in the state, as well as facilitate program coordination between ILSFA and the various programs. This deeper understanding of the availability of home repair programs throughout the State has enhanced the ILSFA program's ability to support homeowners seeking repair assistance. As such, the ILSFA program will remove the requirement for written proof of communication with external programs for PY2025-2026 to enable timely access to repair assistance.

COST CAPS

Given the increases for both the electrical and roofing and structural cost caps for the second year of the Initiative, the adjusted cost caps in PY2024-2025 were as follows: up to \$6,550 for electrical work and up to \$14,000 for roofing work with a maximum cost of \$21,000 for eligible repairs and/or upgrades.

ELECTRICAL REPAIRS:

Item or Fee	Maximum Cost
Required Permit Fee(s)	Up to \$150
Main Service Panel Replacement or Upgrade	Up to \$3,000
Meter and Riser Replacement or Upgrade	Up to \$1,700
Main Service Panel Grounding	Up to \$300
Water Grounding (100/200 amps)	Up to \$700/\$1,400

Figure 1. The electrical cost caps for the PY2024-2025 Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative.

ROOFING AND STRUCTURAL REPAIRS:

Item or Fee	Maximum Cost per Unit	Maximum Cost
Required Permit Fee	--	Up to \$500
Solar-Related Roof Work	Up to \$200 per sq. ft.	Up to \$3,000
Full Roof Replacement	--	Up to \$12,000
Sister Rafters	Up to \$100 per rafter	Up to \$2,000

Figure 2. The roofing and structural cost caps for the PY2024-2025 Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative.

PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS

In PY2024-2025, 44 total prospective participants came to the Program Administrator independent of an Approved Vendor in need of some type of roof and/or electrical home repairs. In comparison, last program year, the Program Administrator was aware of 34 total prospective participants in need of home repairs. This increase may be due to familiarity with the Initiative, the updated ILSFA website with a dedicated Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative [webpage](#), support from Grassroots Educators, and/or referrals from other ILSFA participants. Once connected, the Program Administrator explored external funding options for the homeowners. When external funding was determined unavailable, the Program Administrator provided the homeowners with contact information for the Approved Vendors participating in the Initiative. To the Program Administrator's knowledge, none of the 44 homeowners were able to secure external funding. Figure 3 below illustrates the counties of residence of prospective participants in need of home repairs, while Figure 4 presents a comparison of where prospective participants from both the previous and current program years reside. As with last program year, there is a significant concentration of homeowners in need of repairs located in Cook County.

County	Number of Prospective Participants in Need of Home Repairs
Cook	22
St. Clair	1
Fulton	1
Jackson	1
Saline	1
Sangamon	1
Vermillion	1
Winnebago	1
Unknown	15

Figure 3. Chart showing the counties where prospective participants in PY2024-2025 reside.

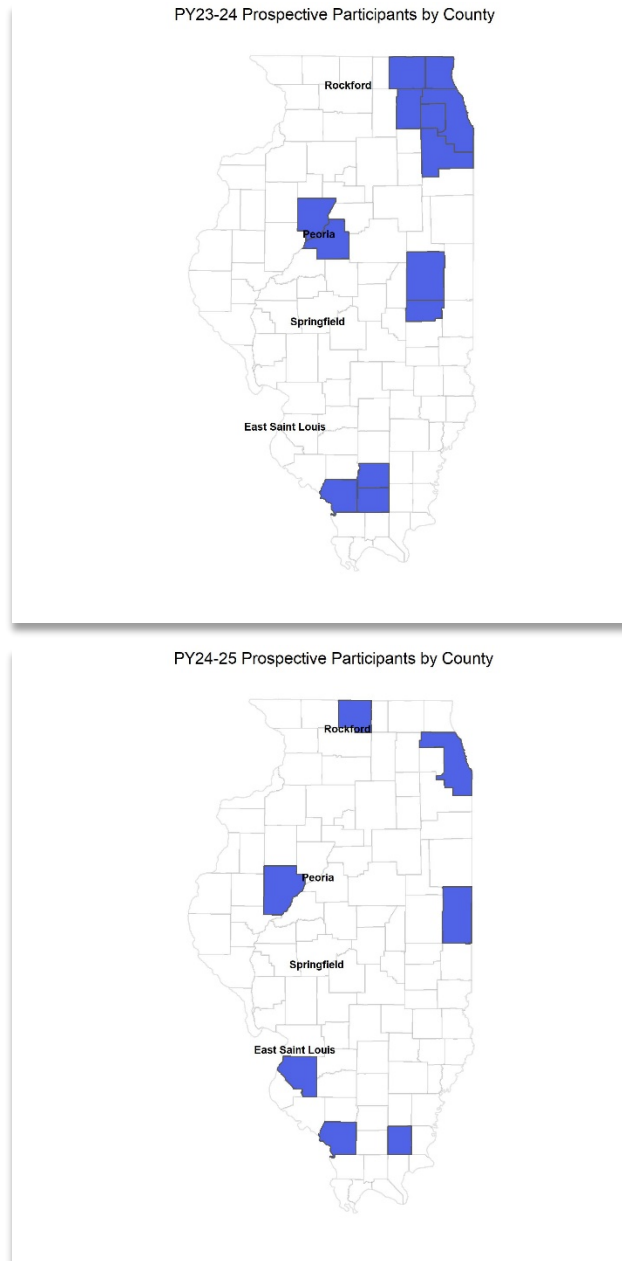


Figure 4. PY2023-2024 and PY2024-2025 maps showing the Illinois counties where ILSFA prospective participants needing home repairs reside

The Program Administrator became aware of the majority of the homeowners without an Approved Vendor connection, 32 out of 44, during the final four months of the program year, from February through May 2025. This aligns with the overall trend of increased submissions in both the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program and the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative, driven by a rise in the number of Approved Vendors participating in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program this year.

Out of the 44 total homeowners, 27 self-reported needing roof repairs (61%), eight self-reported needing electrical repairs (18%), and seven self-reported needing both roof and electrical repairs (16%). This shows that most homeowners needed either roof repairs or both roof and electrical repairs. However, a participant's perception of their home repair needs may be incomplete and requires the AV to do a formal site assessment. The Program Administrator has found that it is not always easy to tell what home repairs are needed. For example, two homeowners contacted the Program Administrator during this program year, believing they needed home repairs; one thought they needed electrical repairs, and the other thought they needed roof repairs. However, after undergoing a site suitability assessment with an Approved Vendor, it was determined that no repairs were necessary for solar readiness for either property. This shows that the site assessments performed by Approved Vendors are a critical step in the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative.

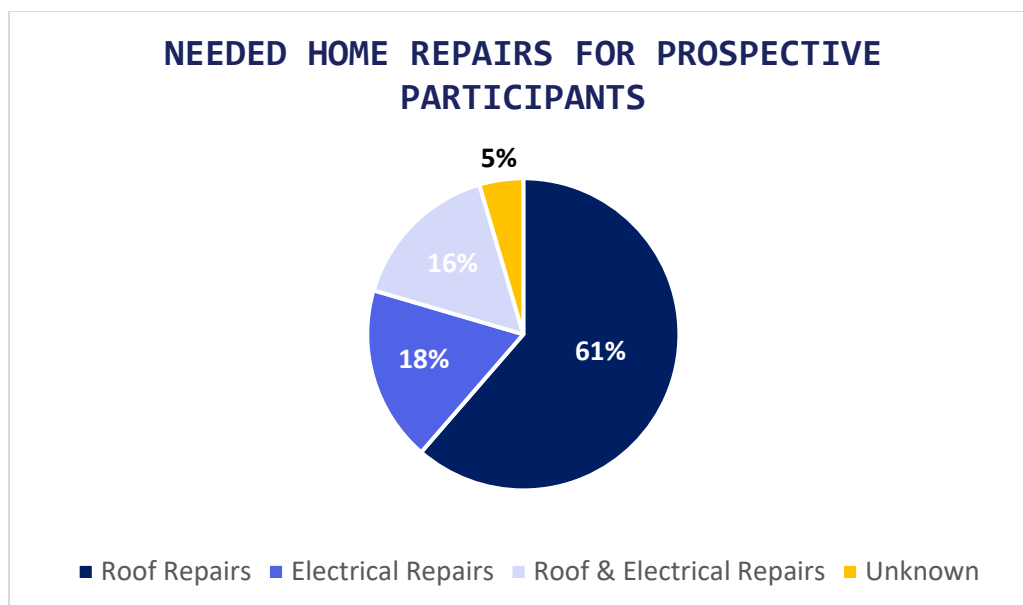


Figure 5. Chart showing the type of repairs needed for prospective participants in PY2024-2025.

For two of the 44 homeowners (5%), it is unknown what kind of repairs they need, as they did not indicate with their initial contact and have been unresponsive since. Five of the 44 homeowners have informed the Program Administrator that they connected with an Approved Vendor participating in the Initiative and are working to get their home repairs and solar installations. Of the 44 homeowners that the Program Administrator has become aware of as needing home repairs, more than half became unresponsive after the initial email exchange. Nonetheless, the Program Administrator has continued to follow up with all prospective participants via both email and phone, regardless of

their responsiveness. Additionally, the Program Administrator provides ongoing updates to these individuals whenever new Approved Vendors join the Initiative.

APPROVED VENDOR OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

In the first year of the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative, only two Approved Vendors participated. In response, the Program Administrator has made a concerted effort to educate and actively engage more Approved Vendors to participate in PY2024-2025. This effort included scheduling one-on-one meetings and attending Approved Vendor Office Hours to provide direct support. This program year, the Program Administrator held 22 one-on-one meetings with Approved Vendors focused on increasing participation and addressing any questions or concerns about the Initiative. The Program Administrator has found that new ILSFA Approved Vendors require multiple meetings to onboard them to the Initiative fully. Additionally, one of the participating Approved Vendors needed an ongoing weekly check-in meeting to provide guidance and support. The Program Administrator also attended three Approved Vendor Office Hours to engage Approved Vendors further this program year.

To collect information and feedback about the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative and to understand the frequency and extent of home repairs needed in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program, an Approved Vendor Questionnaire was created and disseminated in January 2025 to 32 Approved Vendors participating in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program. 13 Approved Vendors responded to the Questionnaire. Findings from this Questionnaire will be discussed in the Key Findings section below. For a full list of questions included in the Questionnaire, please see the Appendix.

Key Findings

EXTERNAL FUNDING

External funding continued to be difficult for participants to acquire in this program year. Additionally, the Program Administrator saw a drop in the number of external funding programs available. The External Funding List published in November 2024 included 47 programs, while the May 2025 version included 36. Many home repair programs rely on grant funding distributed on a rolling basis, resulting in frequent instances where funding is not available. Similar to the last program year, the Program Administrator has found that external funding exists, but many programs have extensive waitlists, limited availability, and substantial paperwork. Out of the 36 programs listed on the External Funding List, 25 (69%) programs have a waitlist, and 11 (31%) do not keep a waitlist.

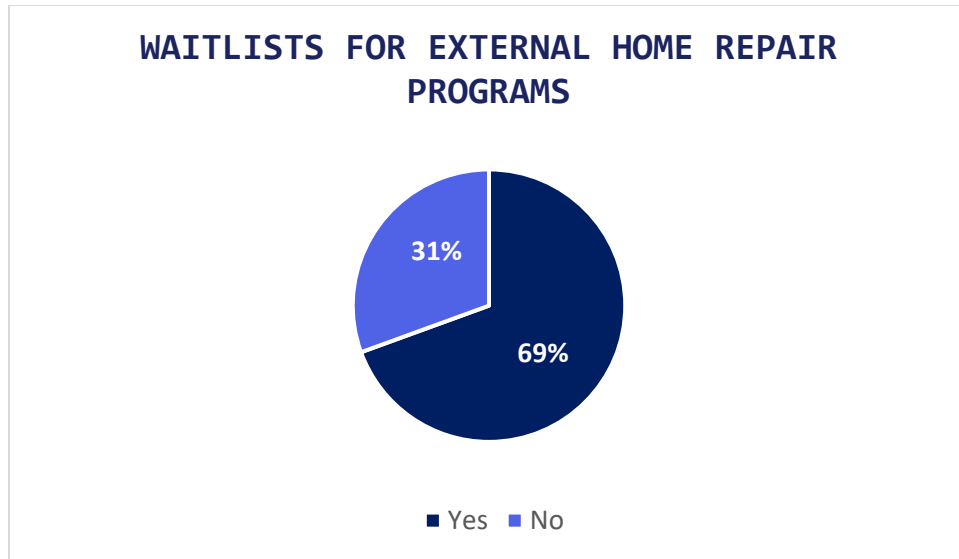


Figure 6. Graph showing the number of external programs on the External Funding List with a waitlist.

Of the 25 programs that have a verified waitlist, 18 were unable to say exactly how long their waitlist is; six had a waitlist of at least two years, and one had a waitlist of at least one year. The limited information around waitlist lengths contributes to the difficulty of accessing external home repair funding.

Despite the fact that 31% of programs listed do not have a waitlist, the Program Administrator is not aware of any PY2024-2025 homeowners who have been able to secure external funding. This is due to geographic limitations, as a majority of these programs are not statewide; rather, some are specific to certain cities and towns, the availability of loans instead of grants, and additional requirements for participation. However, the Program Administrator identified two PY2023-2024 homeowners who have been working with external home repair programs to cover their home repairs. As of spring 2025, the repairs were not completed.

SUBMITTED PROJECTS

Nine Approved Vendors submitted 206 projects for Part I submission with the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative this program year, exceeding the goal of 50-75 projects established for PY2024-2025. Twenty-seven of those 206 were dropped by the Approved Vendors, and 179 projects moved into Project Selected this program year. These 179 projects amount to \$1,531,200 in total home repair value and \$7,364,954.39 in total projected REC value. In other words, \$1,531,200 of the Residential Solar (Small) sub-

program went towards electrical and roofing, and structural repairs, supporting 179 projects that totaled \$7,364,954.39 in REC incentives.⁵

The average home repair value for projects that are beyond the stage of Project Selection in PY2024-2025 was \$8,613 per project. The average electrical repair was \$3,976, and the average roofing/structural repair was \$13,156 per project, while the average home repair value for projects that utilized both electrical and roofing/structural repairs was \$18,589.

Type of Home Repair	Home Repair Cost Cap	Average Home Repair Incentive Value	Average Solar Incentive Value	Total Project Value	Percent Home Repair Incentive
Roof Repairs	\$14,000	\$13,156 +	\$35,677 =	\$48,833	28.7%
Electrical Repairs	\$6,550	\$3,976 +	\$31,950 =	\$35,926	11.1%
Roof and Electrical Repairs	\$21,550	\$18,589 +	\$31,785 =	\$50,374	36.9%

Figure 7. Chart showing the average home repair value, average solar incentive value, and average total project cost compared with the total cost cap and type of home repair.

Most of the projects submitted with both roofing and structural repairs requested the maximum full roof replacement (\$12,000) or the full roof replacement with sister rafters (\$14,000). The completed electrical repairs showcased a broader range of repair types. Only 24 out of the 105 projects submitted with electrical repairs asked for the full \$6,550 budget, whereas 43 projects out of 48 submitted with roof repairs asked for the full \$12,000 roof replacement. As described in the table above, projects involving roof repairs averaged both a higher home repair incentive value and a higher proportion of home repair incentives compared to the total project incentives. The table below shows the number of projects that requested each type of electrical repair. Water grounding was the most popular, followed by main service panel grounding, meter and riser replacement and upgrade, and then main service panel replacement or upgrade.

⁵ The Total Projected REC Value includes the base REC price and the home repair value.

Electrical Repair Types Submitted	Projects-To-Date
Main Service Panel Replacement or Upgrade	85
Meter and Riser Replacement or Upgrade	94
Main Service Panel Grounding	96
Water Grounding (100/200 amps)	102

Figure 8. Chart showing the number of projects by type of electrical repair submitted.

One hundred and five out of the 179 projects were electrical repairs (59%), 48 projects were roof repairs (26%), and 26 projects were both electrical and roof repairs (15%). Similar to PY2023-2024, the majority of selected projects were electrical repairs. These repairs, in comparison to roof repairs, are typically less costly and take less time to complete. Additionally, Approved Vendors are more likely to have electricians on staff as opposed to roofers. The lack of roofers on staff may extend project timelines and add costs that Approved Vendors may be hesitant to take on. As seen earlier, prospective participants are more likely to self-report needing roof repairs as opposed to electrical repairs. This does not align with the types of repairs Approved Vendors are submitting through the Initiative. Thus, the ILSFA Program Administrator recognizes that submitted and selected projects with the Initiative may not be an accurate representation of all home repairs needed by ILSFA participants.

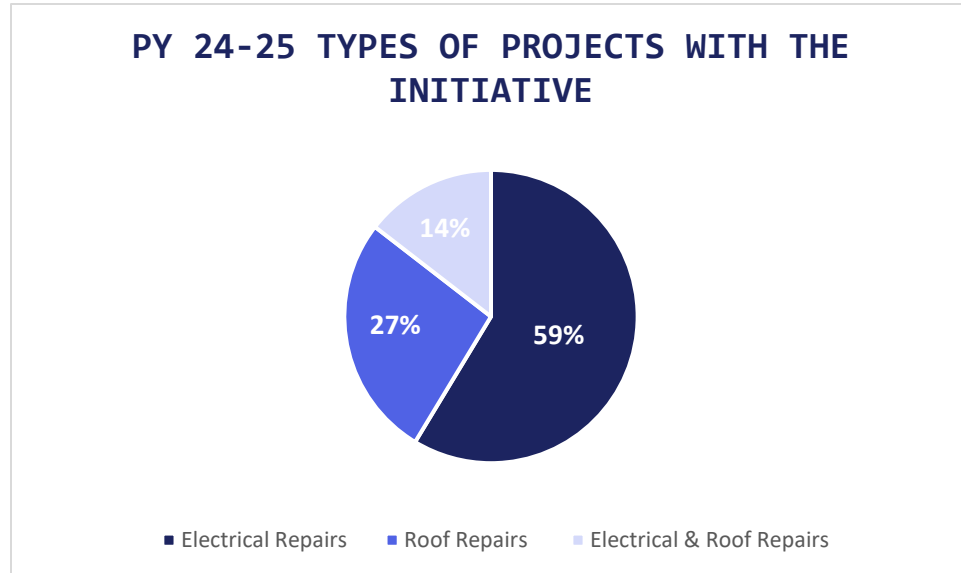


Figure 9. The types of repairs with the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative in PY2024-2025.

There has been a large increase in the number of submitted projects with the Initiative this program year. Familiarity with the Initiative and outreach performed by the Program Administrator helped increase participation. Additionally, the Approved

Vendors expressed that the raised cost caps for this program year and the added \$450 administrative fee were instrumental in increasing participation. Projects selected during this program year have also shown greater variety. In PY2023-2024, there was only one project submitted with roof repairs. In comparison, 47 projects this program year submitted roof repairs, and 26 projects submitted both roof and electrical repairs.

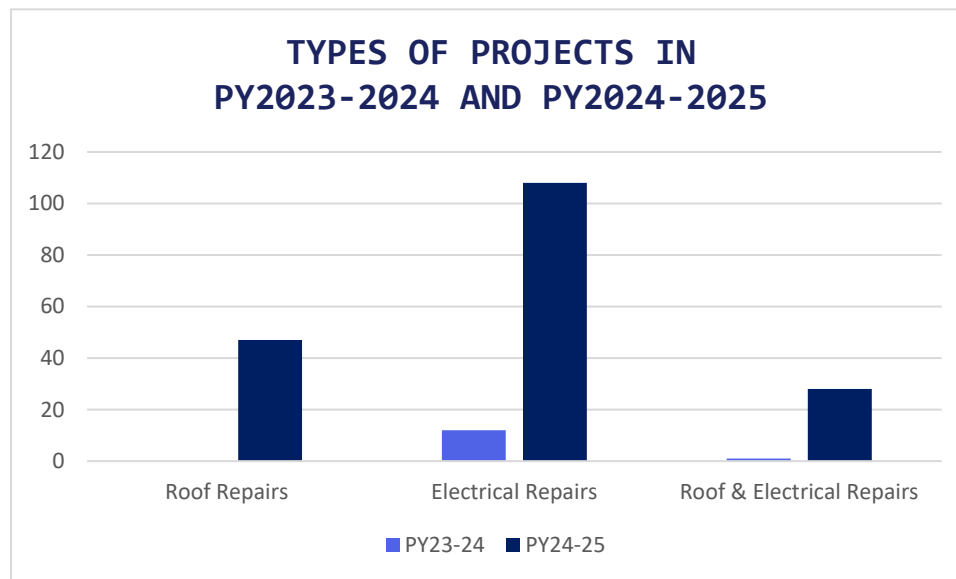


Figure 10. Types of projects in PY2023-2024 and PY2024-2025.

Approved Vendors were more willing to take on roof repairs in PY2024-2025. This could be because the roof cost cap increased from \$10,000 last program year to \$14,000 this program year, with the full roof replacement increasing from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Furthermore, compared to last year, Approved Vendors submitted more projects outside the Chicago metropolitan area. In the previous program year, 11 of the 13 submitted projects were located within the Chicago metro area.⁶ This year, while the majority of projects that were at or beyond the Projected Selected stage (137) were still within the Chicago metro area, a notable increase occurred outside the region, with 42 projects beyond its boundaries. This can be attributed to an increase in Approved Vendors participating in Central and Southern Illinois in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program as a whole.

⁶ The Chicago metropolitan region is defined in this report as Cook, Will, DuPage, Kane, and Lake County.

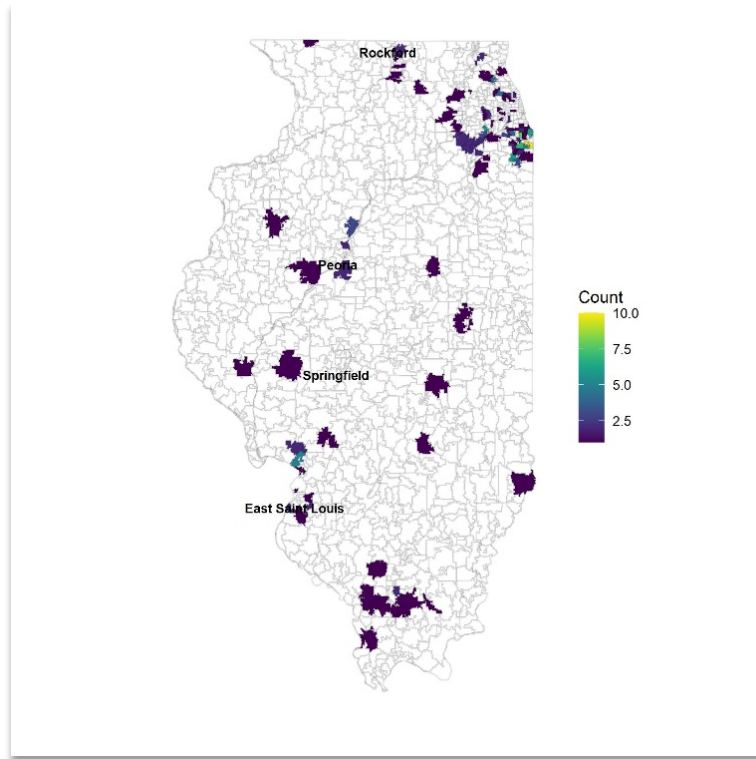


Figure 11. PY2024-2025 Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative: number of projects by zip code.

From one-on-one meetings with Approved Vendors, the biggest barriers and challenges for the Initiative were similar to the last program year: upfront costs, prolonged processes and delays, and unexpected costs. Some Approved Vendors did not have the capital to pay for home repairs upfront. Home repairs can add complexity to projects and delay timelines. One Approved Vendor noted that roof repairs can delay projects by 60-90 days. Outside of the roof and electrical repairs eligible within the Initiative, some Approved Vendors noted tree removal or trimming as a common needed home repair for solar-readiness in income-eligible homes. One Approved Vendor estimated that approximately 20% of ILSFA participants would benefit from tree removal or trimming, while another estimated the figure at 10–15%. They both noted that most of the time, tree trimming is needed rather than tree removal.

APPROVED VENDOR QUESTIONNAIRE

Similar to PY2023-2024, the Program Administrator sent a Questionnaire to Approved Vendors in PY2024-2025 to gather information on the frequency and extent of needed home repairs within the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program. The Program Administrator received responses from 13 out of 32 Approved Vendors. Out of those 13, seven responded that they were familiar with the Initiative and how to participate, and six responded that they knew about the Initiative but not how to participate (Figure 9).

No AV answered “no” to the question “Are you familiar with the Initiative and how to participate?”. This shows an increase in familiarity with the Initiative, as last year, five out of 13 respondents answered that they were neither familiar with the Initiative nor how to participate.

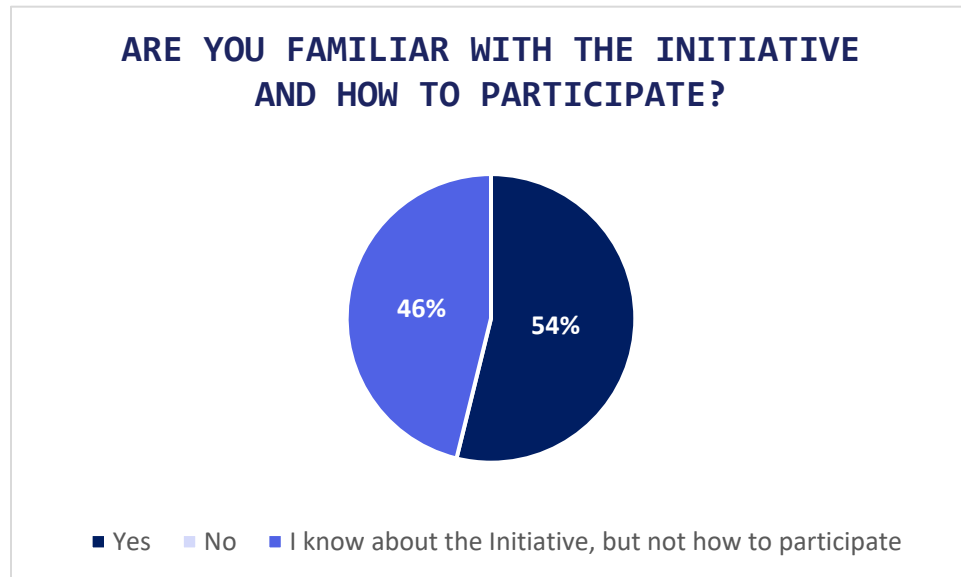


Figure 12. Approve Vendor responses to the question: Are you familiar with the Initiative and how to participate?

As noted above, the Questionnaire included a series of questions designed to help the Program Administrator better understand the home repair needs within ILSFA. When asked whether income-eligible homes require electrical or roof repairs to be solar-ready, 12 out of 13 Approved Vendors (92%) responded yes, while only one reported no need for either type of repair.

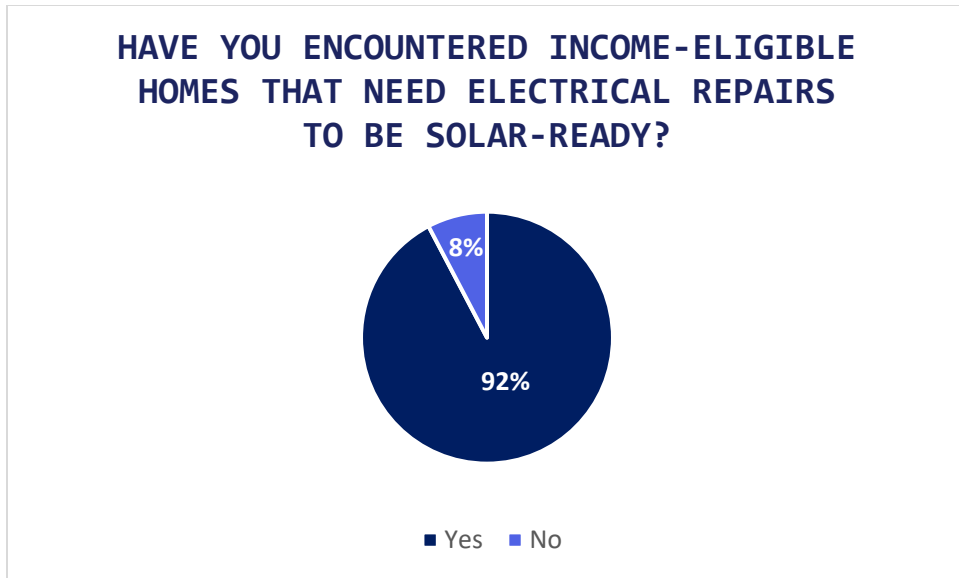


Figure 13. Approved Vendor responses to the question: Have you encountered income-eligible homes that need electrical repairs to be solar-ready?

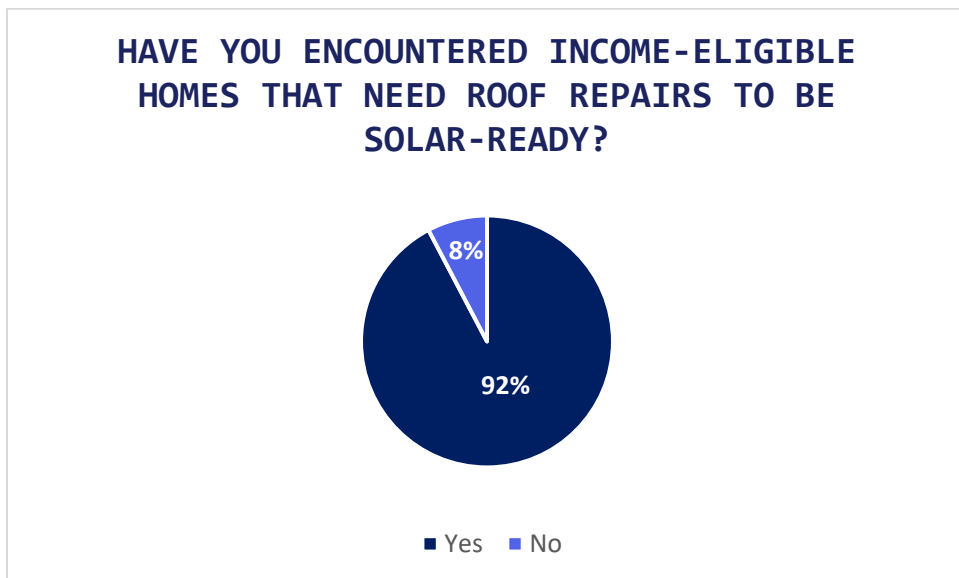


Figure 14. Approved Vendor responses to the question: Have you encountered income-eligible homes that need roof repairs to be solar-ready?

To better understand the frequency of needed home repairs, the Questionnaire asked how often Approved Vendors see the need for roof repairs and electrical repairs (Figures 14 and 15). A majority of Approved Vendors who responded see the need for both

electrical repairs and roof repairs in 25-75% of income-eligible homes.⁷ This indicates to the Program Administrator that while not all homes encountered by Approved Vendors require repairs, most Approved Vendors have encountered homes that require repairs to be solar-ready.

For electrical repairs, of the 13 Approved Vendors who responded, one reported that 0-25% of income-eligible homes require electrical repairs, five reported a need in 25–50% homes, four reported a need in 50–75% of homes, two reported a need in 75-100% of homes, and one chose “no response.”

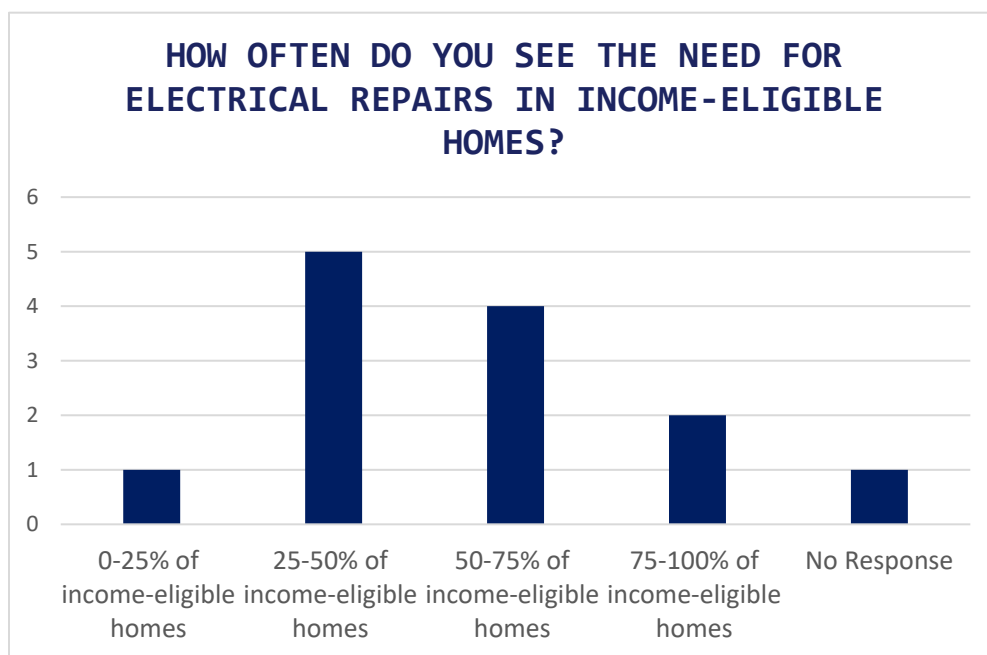


Figure 15. Approved Vendor responses to the question: Have you encountered income-eligible homes that need electrical repairs to be solar-ready?

For roof repairs, six out of the 13 Approved Vendors that responded indicated that they see the need for roof repairs in 25-50% of income-eligible homes. One reported that 0-25% of income-eligible homes need roof repairs, four responders reported a need for roof repairs in 50–75% of homes, one reported a need in 75–100% of homes, and one chose “no response.”

⁷ This statistic combines the categories of 25-50% of income-eligible homes and 50-75% of income-eligible homes from Figures 13 & 14. Nine out of 13 Approved Vendors see the need for electrical repairs in 25-75% of income-eligible homes, while 10 out of 13 Approved Vendors see the need for roof repairs in 25-75% of income-eligible homes.

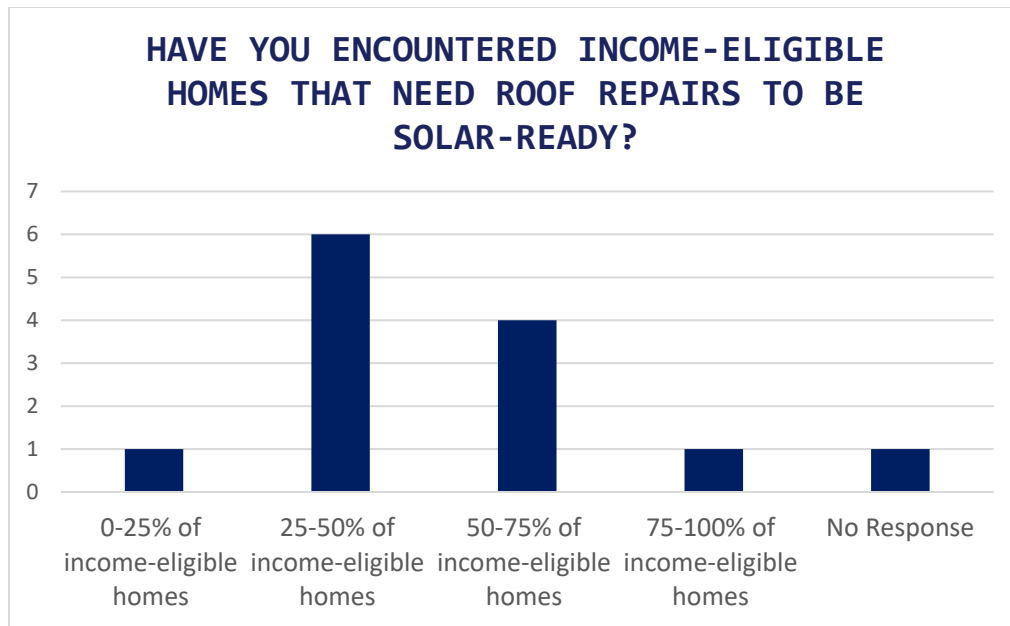


Figure 16. Approved Vendor responses to the question: Have you encountered income-eligible homes that need roof repairs to be solar-ready?

This shows that a significant number of ILSFA homeowners are in need of both electrical and/or roof repairs. This aligns with data collected from prospective participants discussed earlier. The Program Administrator recognizes that this data was only collected from 13 Approved Vendors. However, several of these Approved Vendors are active in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program and have submitted projects in PY2024-2025.

In response to the question, “Which repairs are more common in income-eligible homes?” (Figure 17), Approved Vendors indicated that electrical repairs were slightly more common than roof repairs, with six selecting electrical repairs and four selecting roof repairs.

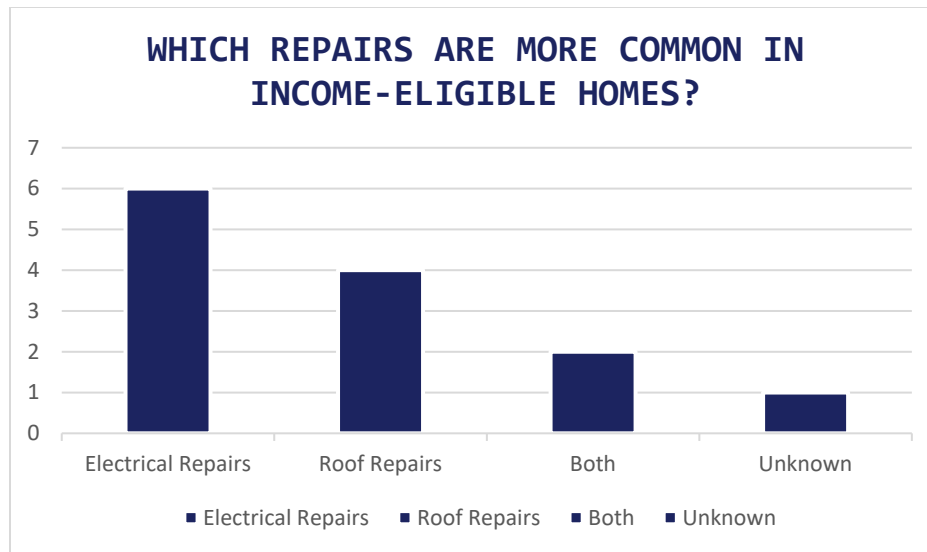


Figure 17. Approved Vendor responses to the question: Which repairs are more common in income-eligible homes?

This is reflected in the higher number of projects submitted with electrical repairs as opposed to roof repairs by Approved Vendors. However, it does not align with the repairs self-reported by prospective participants. As mentioned earlier, Approved Vendors may be more willing to take on electrical repairs as opposed to roof repairs due to cost and capacity. Approved Vendors may also identify electrical repair needs during site assessments that homeowners were not aware of. Regardless, the Program Administrator will continue to encourage Approved Vendors to work with homeowners who are in need of roof repairs.

When asked how many projects they have passed on with home repairs since becoming an ILSFA Approved Vendor, nine out of 13 answered that they have passed on 0-15 projects. Most vendors that participated in the Questionnaire are relatively new to ILSFA, becoming Approved Vendors within the last two years. This suggests that while Approved Vendors are frequently identifying home repairs in 25-75% of income-eligible homes, many of them have not yet had to decide to pass on a large number of these projects, possibly due to the limited volume of projects they've taken on so far or building familiarity with the program's resources and processes for handling this demand.

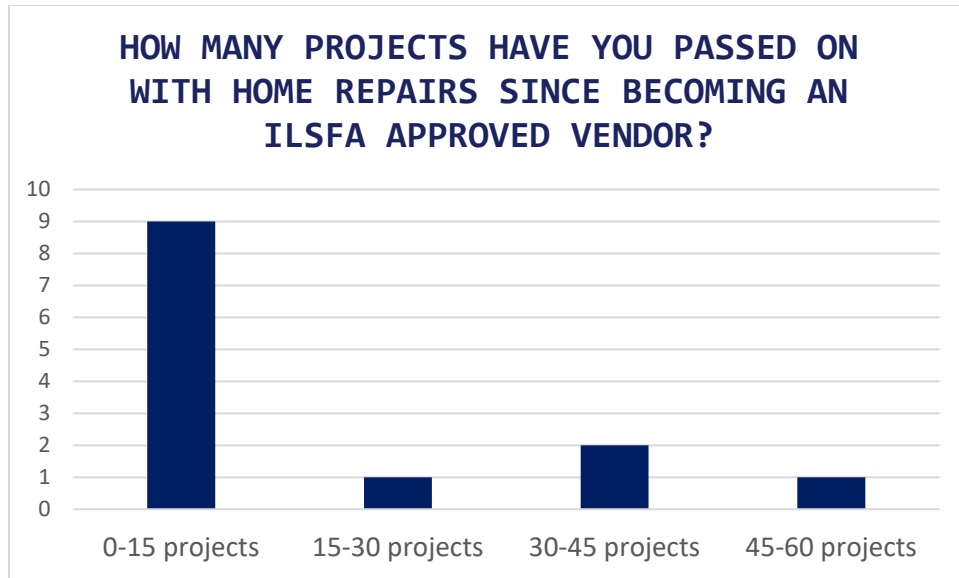


Figure 18. Approved Vendor responses to the question: How many projects have you passed on with home repairs since becoming an ILSFA Approved Vendor?

To determine whether there are common home repairs not currently covered by the Initiative, the Questionnaire asked Approved Vendors if there are additional repair types they feel should be included. Six responded “no,” four responded “tree/landscape alteration,” two responded “building structural repair,” and one responded “unknown.” The Program Administrator explored the possibility of adding tree alteration to the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative ahead of PY2024-2025. However, based on the eligibility criteria outlined in the 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan, it was determined that tree alteration does not qualify as an eligible repair under the Initiative.

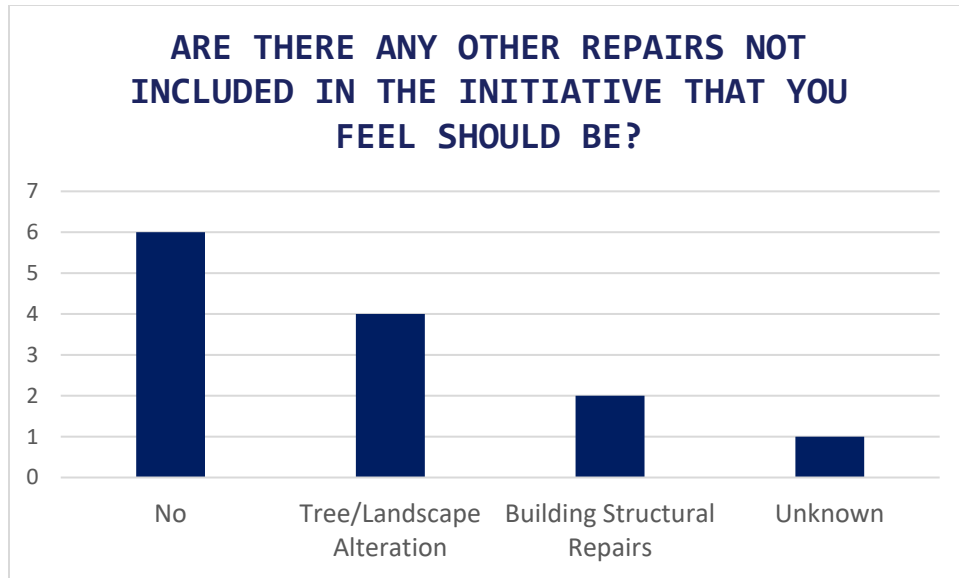


Figure 19. Approved Vendor responses to the question: Are there any other repairs not included in the Initiative that you feel should be?

To better understand the impact of home repairs on ILSFA projects, the Program Administrator asked, “How do additional repairs and upgrades affect the overall project timeline?” The most common response to this question was “delay the project 1-2 months.”⁸ This aligns with anecdotal information received from Approved Vendors in one-on-one meetings. Many cited the additional paperwork, potential arrangement with outside contractors, and construction time as contributing to the increased project timeline.

⁸ The graph only shows nine responses because Approved Vendors were given the option to provide answers outside of the given choices.

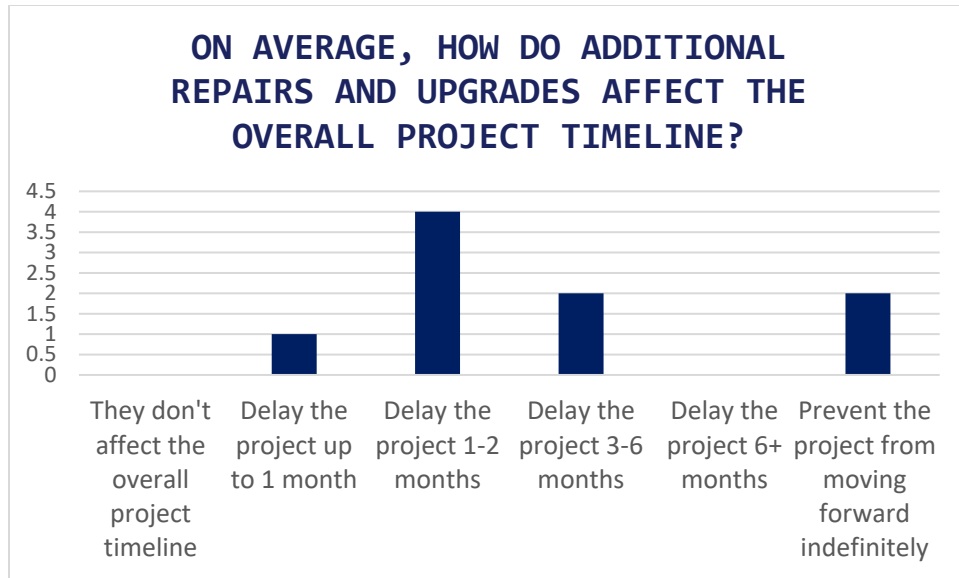


Figure 20. Approved Vendor responses to the question: Are there any other repairs not included in the Initiative that you feel should be?

Recommendations

Given the increased number of projects submitted to the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative, the Program Administrator recommends continuing the Initiative into the upcoming program years. As outlined in this report, there is a clear need for roof and/or electrical repairs within ILSFA. Given the increase in submissions during the current program year, for both the Initiative and the Residential sub-program overall, the Program Administrator anticipates that this upward trend will continue in future program years.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative made significant progress in PY2024-2025 with increased participation, improved outreach, and greater alignment between stakeholder feedback and program design. While accessing available external funding remained a barrier for homeowners, improvements to the Initiative design, such as increased cost caps and the introduction of an administrative fee, contributed to a notable rise in submitted projects from 13 in PY2023-2024 to 206 in PY2024-2025. This, along with targeted outreach and engagement done by the Program Administrator and an increase in participating ILSFA Approved Vendors, helped surpass the Initiative's goal of 50-75 projects for PY2024-2025. Not only did the Initiative reach more homeowners this program year by number, but it also substantially broadened its geographic reach to Central and Southern Illinois. Additionally, despite mismatches between homeowner-

reported repair needs and vendor-submitted repair types, the Initiative helped more homeowners with roof repairs compared to the first year of the Initiative.

The Program Administrator continues to learn about home repair needs within ILSFA as well as challenges Approved Vendors are facing to participation. Prospective participants self-reported more roof repairs, while Approved Vendors covered more electrical repairs. Upfront costs, project delays, and limited vendor capacity persisted despite adjustments to the Initiative's design. These findings highlight the importance of stakeholder engagement, including Approved Vendor and homeowner outreach, program coordination, and the Initiative design and improvement process.

Appendix

APPENDIX A. APPROVED VENDOR SURVEY

HOME REPAIRS AND UPGRADES INITIATIVE

The Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative provides additional incentives to Illinois Solar for All Approved Vendors to complete necessary electrical and/or roof repairs for homes to be solar-ready within the Illinois Solar for All: Residential Solar (Small) sub-program. This questionnaire is designed to gauge AV interest as well as to help us gather information for the Initiative. To learn more about the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative, please reach out to Kasia at Kasia.Machaj@elevatenp.org or go to www.illinoissfa.com/program/home-repairs-and-upgrades/

Q1 Please provide us with your name.

Q2 Please provide us with the name of your organization or company.

Q3 Please provide us with your email address.

Q4 Are you familiar with the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative and how you can participate?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I know about the Initiative, but not how to participate

Q5 Have you encountered income-eligible homes that need electrical repairs to be solar-ready?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q6 How often do you see the need for electrical repairs in income-eligible homes?

- ☐ 0-25% of income-eligible homes
- ☐ 25-50% of income-eligible homes
- ☐ 50-75% of income-eligible homes
- ☐ 75-100% of income-eligible homes

Q7 Have you encountered income-eligible homes that need roof repairs to be solar-ready?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q8 How often do you see the need for roof repairs in income-eligible homes?

- ☐ 0-25% of income-eligible homes
- ☐ 25-50% of income-eligible homes
- ☐ 50-75% of income-eligible homes
- ☐ 75-100% of income-eligible homes

Q9 On average, how do additional repairs and upgrades affect the overall project timeline?

- ☐ They don't affect the overall project timeline
- ☐ Delay the project up to 1 month
- ☐ Delay the project 1-2 months
- ☐ Delay the project 3-6 months
- ☐ Delay the project 6+ months
- ☐ Prevent the project from moving forward indefinitely
- ☐ Other

Q10 Roughly how many projects have you passed on since becoming an Approved Vendor with ILSFA because of needed roof and/or electrical repairs?

- ☐ 0-15 projects
- ☐ 15-30 projects
- ☐ 30-45 projects
- ☐ 45-60 projects
- ☐ 60-75 projects
- ☐ 75+ projects

Q11 Which repairs are more common in income-eligible homes?

- ☐ Electrical Repairs
- ☐ Roof Repairs
- ☐ Other

Q12 From your experience and knowledge, what type(s) of roof & structural repairs and/or upgrades are most commonly needed to make a home solar-ready?

- ☐ Leaks
- ☐ Punctures
- ☐ Decking or other work directly associated with solar installation
- ☐ Full roof replacement (includes tear off and replacement of a single layer of shingles)
- ☐ Sister Rafters
- ☐ I'm not sure
- ☐ Other

Q13 From your experience and knowledge, what type(s) of electrical repairs and/or upgrades are most commonly needed to make a home solar-ready?

- ☐ Main service panel replacement or upgrade
- ☐ Meter and riser replacement and upgrade
- ☐ Main service panel grounding

- ☐ Water Grounding (100/200 amps)
- ☐ I'm not sure
- ☐ Other

Q14 Are there any other types of home repairs and/or upgrades (outside of roof and electrical) that you frequently encounter on income-eligible homes that are a barrier to homes being solar-ready?

Q15 Are there any other repairs not included in the Initiative that you feel should be?

Q16 How much do the electrical repairs you typically encounter through ILSFA cost on average?

Q17 How much do the roof repairs you typically encounter through ILSFA cost on average?

Q18 Do you plan to participate in the Home Repairs and Upgrades initiative? If yes, an ILSFA team member will reach out to you.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q19 Can you share your reasons for not being interested in participating in the Initiative?

Q20 Is there anything else you'd like to share with us regarding home repairs and upgrades?