

# Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

**February 17, 2026, 2–3:30 p.m.**

## **Meeting Purpose:**

Topics discussed at Advisory Committee meetings aim to stimulate discussion and explore ideas to advise the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) on updates to the Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) program, with the goal of increasing participation in the ILSFA program across Illinois.

**2 P.M. INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA OVERVIEW (5 MINS)**

**2:05 P.M. ICEBREAKERS (5 MINS)**

**2:10 P.M. LAST MEETING RECAP AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
UPDATES (5 MINS)**

- Advisory Committee Governing Docs Ad Hoc Committee Status

**2:15 P.M. TOPIC 1: ILSFA GRASSROOTS EDUCATION (35 MINS)**

**SPEAKER: GRASSROOTS EDUCATION TEAM, ILLINOIS SOLAR FOR ALL**

- Areas Covered:
  - What is Grassroots Education?
  - Purpose of Grassroots Educators: How Grassroots Educators Have Historically Supported the Illinois Solar for All program

**2:50 P.M. TOPIC 2: PARTICIPANT REFERRAL PROCESS/  
PARTICIPANT PIPELINE (35 MINS)**

**SPEAKER: ALEXANDRIA CEDERGREN, ILLINOIS SOLAR FOR ALL**

- Areas Covered:
  - What is the participant referral process/participant pipeline?
  - How is the process currently performing?

**3:25 P.M. CLOSING (5 MINUTES)**



## AGENDA BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Topic 1	Illinois Solar for All Grassroots Education
Background	<p><b>What is an ILSFA Grassroots Educator?</b></p> <p>A Grassroots Educator is a non-profit community-based organization that subcontracts with the ILSFA Program Administrator. As part of their subcontract, the Grassroots Educator engages with and informs their community members about the benefits of ILSFA to grow the solar marketplace for income-eligible households and communities.</p> <p>Grassroots Educators utilize their in-depth knowledge of the ILSFA program to implement solar education campaigns throughout Illinois, with a focus on Environmental Justice Communities.</p> <p><b>Purpose of the Grassroots Educator</b></p> <p>Section 1-56(b)(3) of the IPA Act instructs the IPA to direct up to 5% of available funds to support community-based groups and organizations “to assist in community-driven education efforts related to the Illinois Solar for All Program.”</p> <p>CEJA expanded this language to include “other activities deemed to be qualified by the IPA.”</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Section 8.15 of the 2024 Long Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan.</p> <p><b>How Grassroots Educators Have Historically Supported ILSFA</b></p> <p>Grassroots Educators, chosen by a competitive bid through a public Request for Proposals (RFP) process, sign a sub-contract with the ILSFA Program Administrator based on the campaign in their RFP application. The Grassroots Educator’s campaign aims to spread the word about ILSFA to its respective communities with a preset set of activities detailed in the Scope of Work section of each Grassroots Educator’s sub-contract.</p> <p>Although Grassroots Education campaigns are not limited to the promotion of the Illinois Solar for All: Residential Solar (Small) sub-program, the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program has historically been the most promoted by Grassroots Educators.</p> <p>Grassroots Educators must maintain neutrality in promoting all active Approved Vendors operating in their communities.</p>



<b>Discussion</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How can we best use Grassroots Educators in the program now that the program's popularity has increased and the demand has exceeded the budget availability, particularly in the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program?</li><li>2. How can Grassroots Educators maintain momentum and continue to support the goals of the program during periods when there are no active solar offers to connect households to?</li><li>3. What would an effective Grassroots Education campaign look like when there aren't available opportunities for participation in the area? What would the desired outcomes be? What funding and scope considerations should there be?</li><li>4. Is the current list of activity types still relevant and inclusive of community needs?</li><li>5. Are there additional activities that should be considered, or activities that should be removed from the list?</li></ol>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Participant Referral Process/Participant Pipeline</b>
<b>Background</b>	<p>To address barriers to participation in the ILSFA program and to facilitate the connection of potential income-eligible households with Approved Vendors, the IPA and ILSFA Program Administrator created a referral process for interested Residential Solar (Small) participants in 2021.</p> <p>Since its implementation, the process has seen little success, as it has only directed potential participants to active vendors with standard offers. The program also encounters barriers at the income verification stage.</p> <p>To further spur interest in the ILSFA program and ease participant acquisition costs for Approved Vendors, the IPA proposed in the filed 2026 Long Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan to expand the current referral process through a participant pipeline for the Residential Solar (Small) and Community Solar sub-programs, with the intent to have an ILSFA program-maintained list of participants who have already been income-verified.</p> <p>The next step is to consider better approaches to connecting income-verified households by expanding the current referral process into a more robust participant pipeline.</p> <p><b>Current Referral Process</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Approved Vendors with standard offers agree to participate in the referral process.</li><li>2. Participants complete income verification through the ILSFA website and opt into the referral process.</li><li>3. Participants receive their eligibility letter outlining that they should expect to hear from an Approved Vendor within one week.</li></ol>



	<p>4. Once participants are verified as income-eligible, their basic information is added to a shared Excel document with participating vendors, and the Approved Vendors are notified.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 2025-2026 Approved Vendor Manual, Section 4.1, pg. 40.</p>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What barriers should be considered and addressed for Approved Vendors participating in the referral process?</li><li>2. What would a referral process need to be reliable enough for Approved Vendors to utilize the ILSFA program's referral list instead of keeping their own referral lists?</li><li>3. How would a program-level waitlist need to function to reduce the need for project-level waitlists, provide quality referrals for Approved Vendors, and minimize waiting periods for a qualified household?</li><li>4. As noted in the challenges, how do we enforce the five-day response requirement for Approved Vendors? What are the consequences if the Approved Vendors don't comply?</li><li>5. To implement the process in a neutral fashion and better direct referrals, what are the potential pros and cons of letting the participant decide on the types of offers they are willing to accept?</li></ol>