

Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

March 17, 2026, 2–3:00 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. SPECIAL TOPIC 1: UTILITY LOW-INCOME DISCOUNT RATES (40 MINS)

SPEAKER: LAWRENCE KOTAWA, CHIEF ENGINEER, ELEVATE

- Areas Covered:
 - What is the Low-Income Discount Rates Program?
 - Purpose of Grassroots Educators: How Grassroots Educators Have Historically Supported the Illinois Solar for All program

2:45 P.M. QUESTIONS (10 MINUTES)

SPEAKER: JENNIFER SCHMIDT, SENIOR MANAGER PROGRAM, ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY

Areas Covered:

- See the questions below in the background and context section.

2:50 P.M. CLOSING (5 MINUTES)

AGENDA BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Topic	Utility Low Income Discount Rate
Background	<p><u>What is the LIDR program?</u></p> <p>ComEd’s LIDRs rolled out in January 2026, with Ameren’s LIDR expected to rollout in October. Eligible households with income up to 300% FPL will receive a discount rate between 5-80% off their electric utilities. The goal is to keep energy costs below 3% (non-heating) or 6% (heating) of income, effectively decreasing a household’s energy burden.</p> <p><u>Impact of LIDR on ILSFA</u></p> <p>The biggest impact we see to the program seems to be with the Residential Solar (Small) sub-program, where participation in ILSFA while receiving LIDRs (depending on tier) could become financially burdensome to the customer - as compared to not participating and receiving LIDRs. Customers receiving LIDRs also receive LIHEAP benefits, so the stacked assistance applied to their electric utility account significantly reduces their bill. Depending on the discount tier and solar offer, participating in solar could result in higher out-of-pocket costs when paired with a LIDR.</p>
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the introduction of LIDs, and households having a reduced energy burden, do we believe there will be continued income-eligible interest in pursuing Residential or Community Solar to further reduce their costs? Are there other benefits that come up as key motivators the Program should promote? 2. The LIDR makes predicting the actual out-of-pocket savings a customer sees very difficult, impacted by both usage offset by the system and the customer’s LID level, which can change in the future with household income changes. ComEd and Ameren’s implementation of LIDs will not work in the same way. 3. Communicating savings to customer: If future savings is unpredictable, is projecting out savings without the application of an LIDR in the Disclosure Forms still useful? 4. Messaging: How can savings be promoted if extremely difficult to predict?