E Source

Illinois Solar for All

PY 2024-2025 Results Webinar

In partnership with:

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RESEARCH CONSULTANTS, LLC

Agenda

1. PY24-25 Approach
2. PY24-25 Results
   - Program Overall
   - Subprogram Findings
3. IPA Responses to the Evaluation Results

Ways to Provide Input

- Email questions or comments to ILSFAEvaluation@esource.com
- Use this QR Code to submit questions or comments to our online form

QR Code to form link

PY24-25 Approach

ILSFA Objectives

> "...**bring photovoltaics to low-income communities** in this state in a manner that maximizes the development of new photovoltaic generating facilities, to create a **long-term, low-income solar marketplace** throughout this State, to integrate through interaction with stakeholders, with **existing energy efficiency initiatives**, and to **minimize administrative costs.**"

Why Evaluation?

- ➢ Examine how well the program is accomplishing its goals to make solar more affordable, create a statewide solar marketplace, and deliver long-term bill savings, environmental, electric grid, and community benefits.
- ➢ Understand coordination between a broad array of governmental organizations, market actors, non-profits, community organizations, and Illinois residents.
- ➢ Assess how effectively and efficiently the program is at accomplishing its goals. Make recommendations to improve processes to help program be more successful.

Objective Criteria:

- Number of projects installed
- Total installed capacity in kilowatts
- Average cost per kilowatt of installed capacity
- Number of jobs or job opportunities created
- Economic, social, and environmental benefits created
- Total administrative costs

Project Overview

*Please note that all impact results are based on modeled estimates—except for capacity and cost information—which come from program tracking data

Process Evaluation

Evaluating the overall program operations and participants' experiences.

Impacts:* **Jobs & Economic**

Evaluating jobs created, economic impacts to employee compensation and GDP, tax impacts, and household spending impacts.

Impacts:* **Bill**

Evaluating participants' annual bill savings in dollars compared to the cost to acquire solar.

Impacts:* **Electricity**

Assess quantity of projects, capacity, average system cost, capacity factor, energy produced, and peak load reduced for approved and energized projects.

Impacts:* **Environmental**

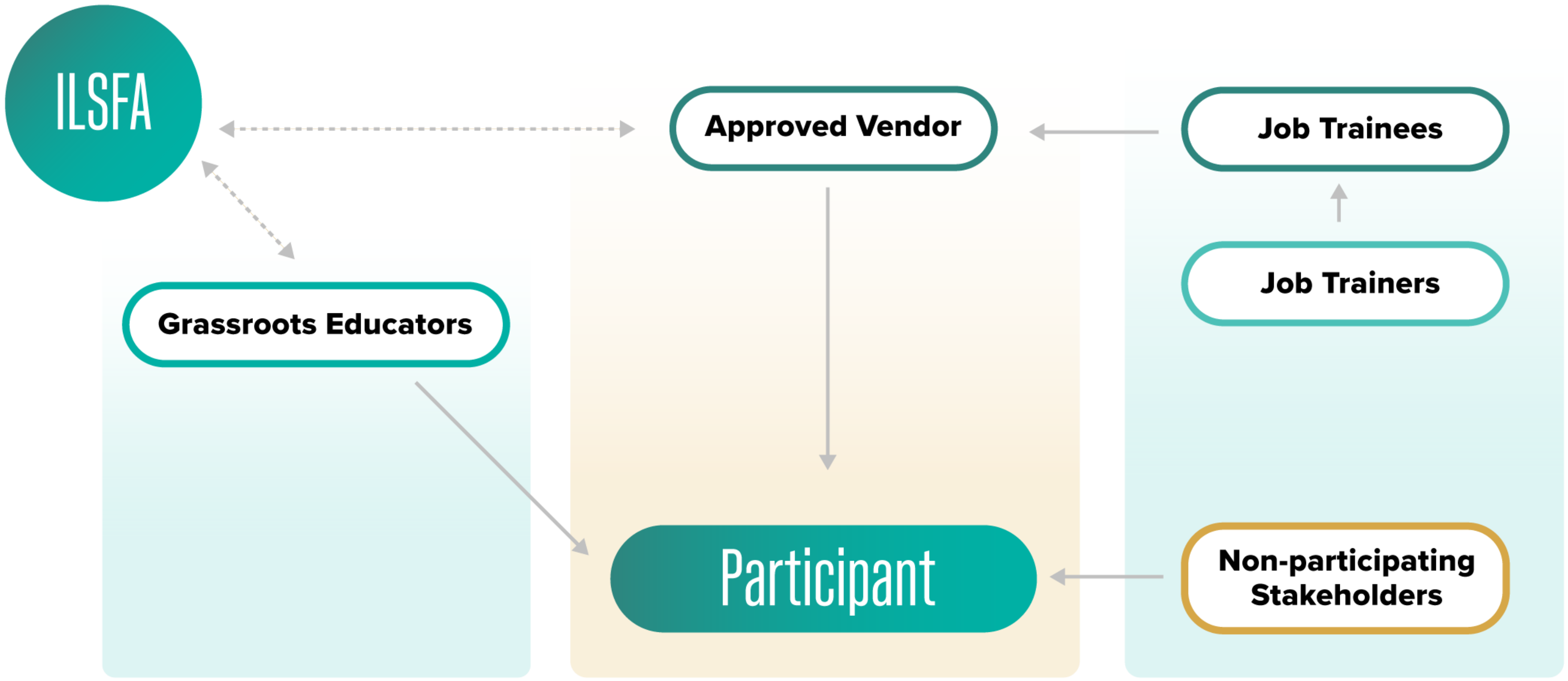
Evaluating reduced pollutants, including greenhouse gases, NOx, and SO2.

Impacts:* **Social**

Assess extent to which communities are directly benefitting from investments.

Who We Collected Feedback From

- For the PY24-25 evaluation, we collected feedback from all groups except for job trainers
- We will speak to job training administrators as part of the PY25-26 evaluation
- We spoke with staff from the IPA and Elevate to understand program administration and implementation



Evaluation Results

Types of Impacts Assessed

PY24-25 Impacts

Approved Projects

- Projects that were awarded funding in PY24-25
- Represent projected impacts

Energized Projects

- **PY24-25 energized projects:** Projects that were fully constructed, connected to the grid, and delivering benefits (received final approval) by the end of PY24-25
- **New PY24-25 energized projects:** Projects that received final approval during PY24-25 (excludes projects energized in prior years)
- Represent modeled actual impacts

In PY24-25, 108 projects were approved and energized in the same year, meaning they fell into both the PY24-25 approved and PY24-25 energized project analysis categories: 106 Residential (Small) projects and two Non-Profit/Public Facilities (NP/PF) projects.

PY24-25 Statewide Impacts

Approved Projects

- 29.5 MW_{AC} of solar added to the grid
- 49.8 GWh in the first year of production by these arrays

Energized Projects

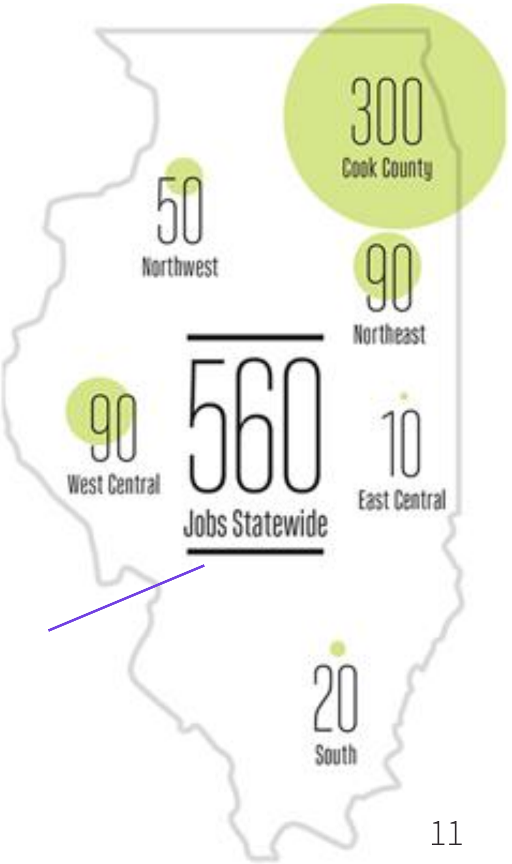
- $116 million in bill savings over the lifetime of the systems
- Over $63 million in estimated GDP impacts

First-Year Emissions Reductions Equivalent to

6,271 Homes Powered for a Year

3,871 Cars Taken Off the Road for a Year

Demand for New Jobs



PY24-25 Overall Performance

- Residential Solar (Small) awarded 72% of its incentives. Residential Solar (Large) continued to face difficulties in participation.
- Non-Profit/Public Facilities continued steady participation and awarded almost all its incentives.
- Community Solar increased its capacity with several large projects and awarded 77% of its incentives.
- The Home Repairs pilot fully allocated its budget.

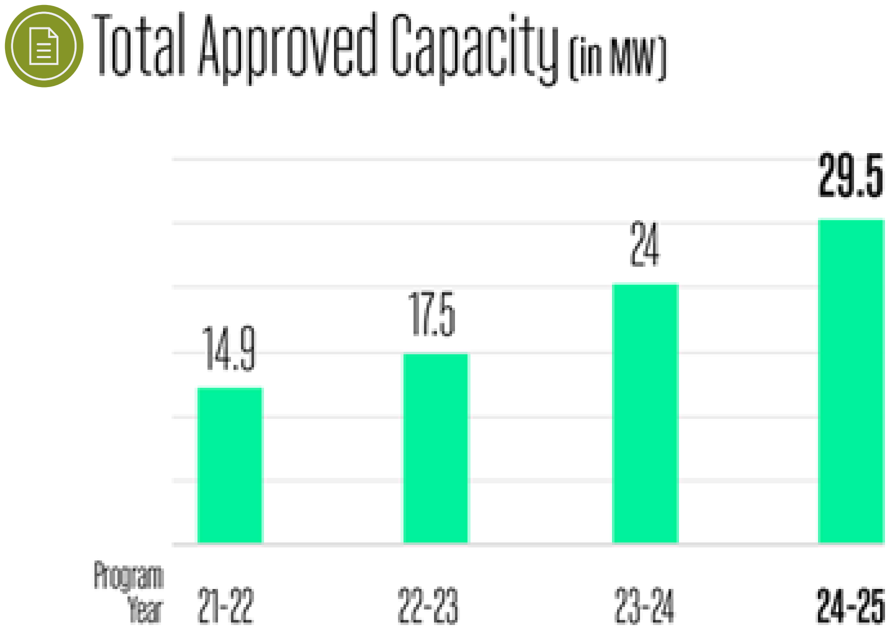
Sub-program	PY24-25 Total Budget	PY24-25 Incentive Value of Approved Projects	% Budget Allocated to Incentives
Residential Solar (Small)	$30,146,606	$21,567,364	72%
Residential Solar (Large)	$30,146,606	$389,798	1%
Non-Profit/ Public Facilities	$17,617,773	$15,982,593	91%
Community Solar	$48,092,555	$36,987,766	77%

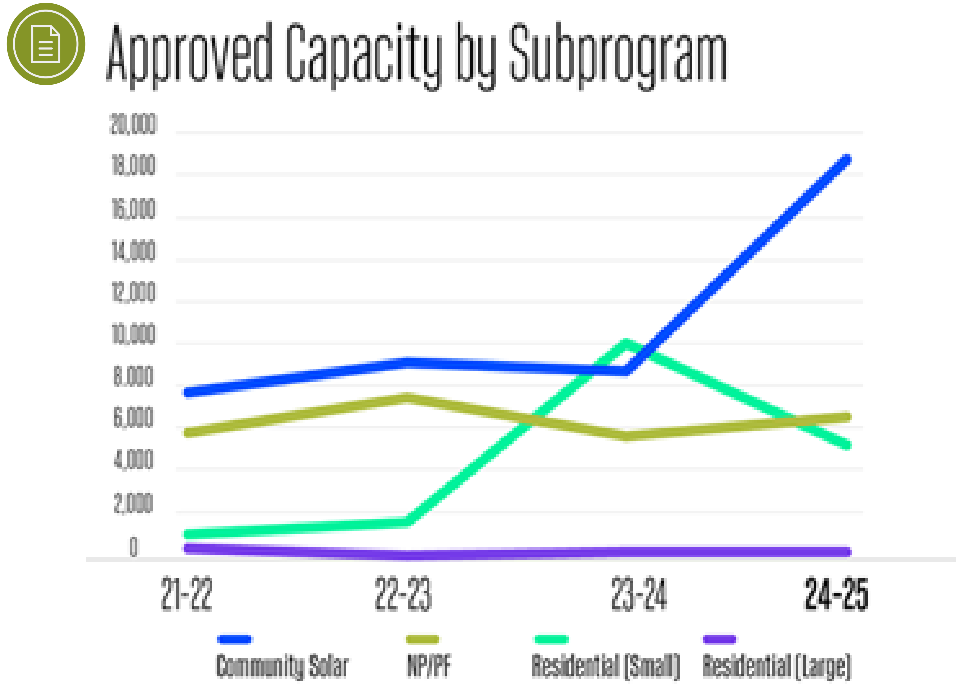
Sources: Illinoissfa.com- Illinois Solar for All Sub-Program Budgets for 2024-2025 Announced. Accessed March 18, 2026; Program Year 2024-2025 Tracking Data

Program Trends

PY21-22 through PY24-25

- ILSFA entered a period of growth in PY24-25.
- Most projects in ILSFA are part of the Residential Solar (Small) subprogram
- The Community Solar subprogram accounts for the most new approved solar capacity

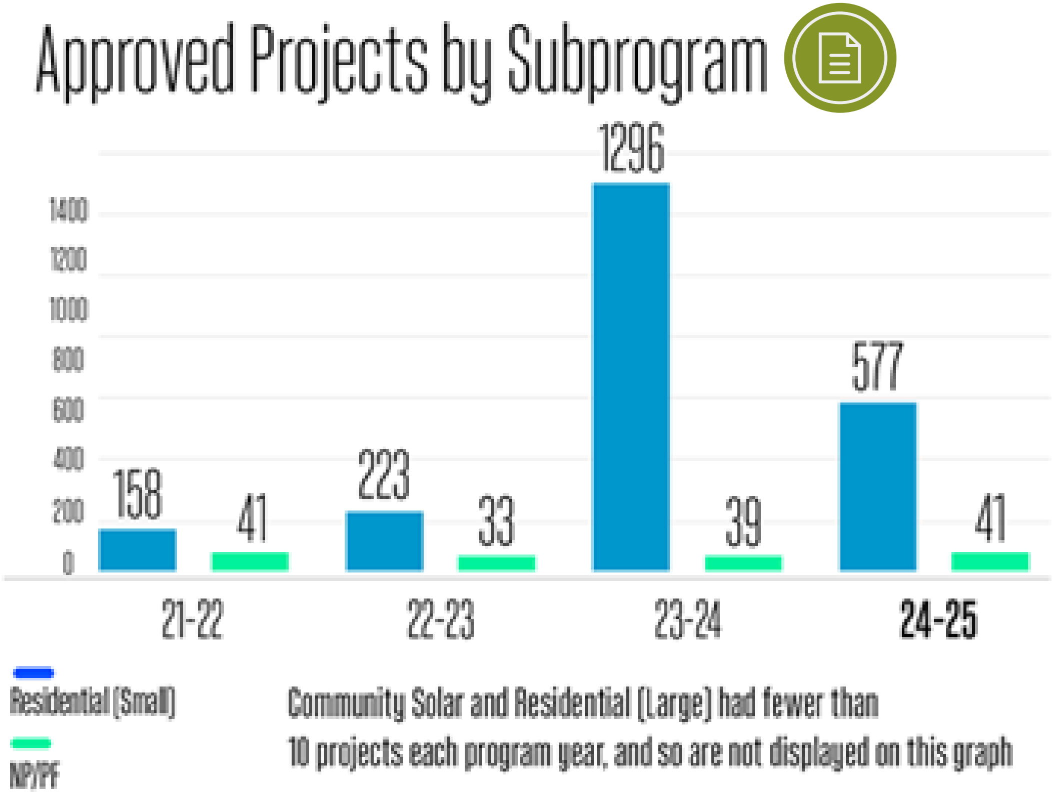




Drivers of Growth in Residential (Small) in PY24-25

There are several hypotheses around what drove the increase of projects in this subprogram, including:

- Uncertainty around federal incentives leading AVs to increasingly turn to state and local incentives
- The number of vendors submitting projects to the program increased, possibly driven by more support for small and emerging businesses within ILSFA, more outreach to vendors in central and southern IL, or the exit of a large AV from the Residential Solar (Small) market
- More effort invested in outreach in PY24-25 by certain AVs in the program



PY24-25 Participant Bill Savings

- Energized projects are estimated to deliver lifetime net savings of $116 million per year.
- Distributed generation customers continue to see higher bill savings than Community Solar customers.
- PV systems interconnected in Illinois on or after January 1, 2025, are subject to new net metering offerings which only credit supply charges, and not delivery charges or taxes/fees as they have in the past.

Project Type		Net Savings	Average Net Savings Percentage
Distributed Generation	Residential Solar (Small)	$128.07	91.0%
	Residential Solar (Large)	$76.91	79.0%
	Non-Profit/ Public Facilities	$1,751.18	56.5%
Community Solar		$40.62	31.9%

Note: The table shows average net savings percentage with respect to the participant's total electric bill without solar. This net savings percent metric is different than the savings percentage, which is based on the value of solar compared to how much the customer pays for solar (payments cannot exceed 50% of the value)

PY24-25 Approved Vendor Trends

- Vendor participation reached its highest level to date in PY24-25 with 25 unique AVs submitting projects
- PY24-25 also marked a notable influx of new vendors, with 17 AVs submitting projects for the first time
- Despite the increase in new vendors, project volume was still heavily concentrated among a few vendors

PY24-25 Vendor and Participant Challenges

Approved Vendors

- AVs continued to find program documentation and the AV portal difficult to navigate
- Small vendors continued to face barriers to participation, particularly:
    - Challenges securing upfront capital to finance projects before REC payments
    - Limited staff capacity to manage program paperwork

Participants

- One of participants' top concerns across all subprograms when deciding to enroll is thinking the program is a scam
- Residential Solar (Small) participants reported that the program was complex to navigate - finding an AV and the installation process were challenges
- Non-profit and public facilities participants requested more training or information on panel maintenance and troubleshooting

Grassroots Educator Experiences and Recommendations

Successes:

- Modest improvement in the management of the program and coordination with Elevate, including improved technical support and training sessions
- Updated program website that includes more information, is easier to navigate, and has more pages available translated into Spanish

Challenges:

- Limited participation opportunities due to lack of approved vendors accepting new projects in some parts of the state and limited availability of community solar subscriptions
- Lack of clarity on handoff to Elevate or AVs
- Grassroots Educators would like to have more materials focusing on solar basics, supporting NP/PF participants, and translated into Spanish
- Paperwork-heavy program

PY24-25 Key Program Recommendations

Create more structured participant support (such as a customer concierge or reaching out at project milestones)

Strengthen coordination among Approved Vendors, Grassroots Educators, Job Trainees, and the ILSFA program.

Improve transparency around vendor availability and program timelines

Streamline documentation and Approved Vendor portal functionality

Subprogram Findings

PY24-25 Impacts: Residential Solar (Small)

Purpose

Install affordable, on-site panels for low-income residents on 1–4-unit dwellings with no upfront costs and guaranteed bill savings.

"I'm on a fixed income being disabled so it helps with everything in my monthly expenses."

– ILSFA Residential Solar (Small) Participant

Fast Facts

- Number of projects: 577 approved, 1,494 energized

Approved Projects

- Approved capacity installed: 5,018 kW_{AC} or 17% PY24-25 approved capacity
- 22%* of approved project funding awarded to projects in EJCs
- 77%* of projects in ComEd service territory

Energized Projects

- Average estimated bill savings: $128 per month or 91% of the bill

* Reported social impacts includes combined residential Solar small and large programs.

PY24-25 Impacts: Community Solar

"So grateful for this program; when I was contacted I had forgotten I had ever signed up. Thankfully, my name finally came up!"

– ILSFA Community Solar Subscriber

"I'm incredibly thankful for this program, so much that I start crying when I think about how helpful it's been."

– ILSFA Community Solar Subscriber

Purpose

Allow homeowners and renters to benefit from solar energy savings without having to install solar on their property. Participants can subscribe to community solar for guaranteed energy savings.

Fast facts

- Number of projects: 6 approved, 14 energized

Approved Projects

- Approved capacity installed: 17,965 kW_{AC} or 61% PY24-25 approved capacity
- 81% of approved project fund awarded to projects in EJCs
- 100% of projects in ComEd service territory

Energized Projects

- Average estimated bill savings: $41 per month or 32% of the bill

PY24-25 Impacts: Non-Profit/Public-Facilities

Purpose

Provides non-profit and public organizations with affordable on-site solar panels, with low or no upfront costs guaranteed bill savings.

Fast facts

- Number of projects: 41 approved, 118 energized

"The program is really fantastic, and we were excited that we qualified for it. It was not possible for us to install solar at this capacity without the program."

– ILSFA Non-Profit/Public Facility Participant

Approved Projects

- Approved capacity installed: 6,321 kW_{AC} or 23% of PY24-25 approved capacity
- 29% of approved project funds awarded to projects in EJCs
- 44% of projects in ComEd service territory

Energized Projects

- Average estimated bill savings: $1,751 per month or 57% of the bill

PY24-25 Impacts: Residential Solar (Large)

Purpose

Install affordable, on-site panels for low-income residents on 5+ unit dwellings with no upfront costs and guaranteed bill savings.

Fast Facts

- Number of projects: 2 approved, 4 energized

Approved Projects

- Approved capacity installed: 200 kW_{AC} or 1% of PY24-25 approved capacity

Energized Projects

- Average estimated bill savings: $77 per month or 79% of the bill

IPA Responses

IPA Responses to the PY24-25 Evaluation

- The IPA implemented the following changes based on previous evaluation recommendations

Implemented:

- Dedicated benefits for Small and Emerging Businesses including project selection priority and collateral deduction.
- Income Verification via Self-Attestation in Income-Eligible Communities. (Residential Small)
- Non-Profit/Public Facility sub-program eligibility expanded to census blocks adjacent to IECs/EJCs.
- Allowance for Approved Vendors to use the Minimum Equity Standard to meet job training requirements.
- Job trainee eligibility extended to five years.

Under Consideration:

- A referral process, creating a pipeline of participants to available AVs for the Residential Small and Community Solar sub-programs.
- Advance of Capital for Small and Emerging Business.
- Expanding the Non-Profit/Public Facility sub-program to encompass any Critical Service Provider that serves an IEC/EJC.
- Increasing roofing and electrical funding limits in the Home Repairs Pilot program.
- Updating the sub-program brochures into a tri-fold format.

Questions?

Thank you

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Ways to Provide Input

- Email questions or comments to ILSFAEvaluation@esource.com
- Use this QR Code to submit questions or comments to our online form

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