

## IPA Publishes Stakeholder Feedback - Equity Accountability System Assessment

April 17, 2024

The Illinois Power Agency (“IPA” or “Agency”) has published public comments on its proposed plan to assess the Equity Accountability System (“EAS”) and its impact on promoting equity and increasing participation of historically marginalized communities in Illinois’ clean energy economy. On March 20, the Agency requested stakeholder feedback to gather insights and recommendations from interested stakeholders. On April 10, the window for requested stakeholder feedback closed.

The Agency recognizes the significant interest surrounding the Equity Accountability System and, consequently, thanks stakeholders for their active involvement in our assessment process. The Request for Stakeholder Feedback, as well as the stakeholder comments solicited in this process, can be found on the [Stakeholder Engagement](#) page of the IPA website.

### Background

The Illinois Power Agency Act (“IPA Act”) establishes the objective of providing “priority access to the clean energy economy for businesses and workers from communities that have been excluded from economic opportunities in the energy sector, have been subject to disproportionate levels of pollution, and have disproportionately experienced negative public health outcomes.”<sup>1</sup> To advance that objective, the Act directs the Agency to establish an Equity Accountability System, which includes: (1) a [minimum equity standards](#) applicable to all applicants to the Illinois Shines Program, the Self-direct Program, and competitive procurements of Indexed RECs from utility-scale projects; (2) the [Equity Eligible Contactor category](#) within the Illinois Shines program; and (3) [optional bid adjustments](#) for competitive procurement processes that advance the equity goals of the Act.

The Agency thanks stakeholders for contributing their perspectives on the assessment process, including considerations on how to conduct the assessment, key stakeholders to engage, and strategies to enhance data collection methods.

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<sup>1</sup> 20 ILCS 3855/1-75(c-10).