



COOK COUNTY SUN AND SAVE RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Program Administrator Partner Questions

This resource has been prepared by the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) to provide answers to questions posed about the Cook County Sun and Save Program Administrator partner application. Questions and answers have been made available to the public on the Cook County website on September 23, 2022. Additional questions may be emailed to environment@cookcountyil.gov but answers are not guaranteed.

Q: One of the required attachments for the RFP is a 501(c)(3) IRS Determination letter. Does this mean the lead contractor needs to be a non-profit?

A: No, you do not need to be a non-profit. The County is a pass-through entity, and we are looking for someone to administer the program, so the only fees kept by the Program Administrator would be to directly administer the program. If your agency is a for-profit and you are selected to be the Program Administrator partner and the County moves forward in the process with you, there will be methods to ensure compliance for federal awards made to for-profit subrecipients which may include pre-award audits, monitoring during the agreement and post-award audits.

Q: Is there a supplier diversity (DBE) requirement or goal?

A: We want to maximize the participation of diverse vendors and will be working with the Program Administrator to ensure that this occurs.

Q: What is the source of the overall \$3MM program budget? Is there a target budget per household for the solar installation, or target number of installations/households served?

A: The source of the Cook County Sun and Save program's budget is the American Rescue Plan Act. Cook County allocated \$3,085,155 to this program.

We are asking the applicants to submit as part of the application what they think is the appropriate budget for a 6.5kW solar installation, detail out the programmatic costs and then assess how many households could be reached based on those parameters and the given budget for this program.



Q: How as a homeowner can I apply for the solar program?

A: Currently, the County is looking for a Program Administrator partner for the Cook County Sun and Save program. Details about how Cook County homeowners can participate in this program will be released in Spring 2023 on www.cookcountyil.gov/service/solar-energy

Q: The \$3 million includes all program admin fees and installation fees, correct? Passed through the county?

A: Yes, the County is passing through the \$3,085,155 allocated to this program, which includes all of the program administration fees and program costs, including installation fees.

Q: Do you anticipate any funding being made available for addressing pre-solar barriers - old roofs, out of code wiring, etc.?

A: Yes, there will be funding made available to address some of the pre-solar barriers. One of the primary objectives of this program is to provide minor structural improvements for income-qualified Cook County residents where necessary for the solar installation to have the greatest impact on utility bills and cost burden. The determination of what those pre-solar barriers that would be covered by this program's funding will be made by the County and the Program Administrator after the Program Administrator is on board.

Q: Is there an estimate for the number of projects that will be included in the program?

A: We are asking the applicants to submit as part of the application what they think is the appropriate budget for a 6.5kW solar installation, detail out the programmatic costs and then assess how many households could be reached based on those parameters and the given budget for this program.

Q: What are the incentives per project?

A: This program will cover the cost of the installation for residents who are at or below 120% Area Median Income (AMI)—reaching income-qualified households throughout both the suburbs and the city of Chicago. Eligibility will be based on income thresholds, with understanding that the IL Solar for All program services residents at or below 80% AMI.



Q: *Will there be exclusivity with the solar installer for these projects?*

A: It will be dependent on the Program Administrator partner selected and what they feel is best for program effectiveness.

Q: *Do we include solar installers as part of our team when submitting our materials, or is the selection of solar installers/the technical team a separate process?*

A: Please include any potential members of the program team when submitting the application materials. If there will be subcontractors for the program, the applicant's response must include a description of which portion(s) of the services will be subcontracted out, the names and addresses of potential subcontractors, and the expected amount of money each will receive under the Contract.