

Solar Training Pipeline Program

Information Session: Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Is there a certain hourly wage that you would like participants to earn by completing this training?**
 - No, a minimum hourly wage isn't specified in the RFP.
2. **Once the person has completed the training and wants to stay in the field for further training, would that be considered a placement?**
 - Yes.
3. **This is an RFP to train for solar installer positions?**
 - Not exclusively. We anticipate that the bulk of openings will be in installation, but these are not the only type of possible jobs.
4. **Are there any established curricula for this industry available to be used or purchased?**
 - The Illinois Solar Energy Association has a list of existing training programs: <https://www.illinoissolar.org/educationalprograms>.
5. **Is there a desired length for responses?**
 - Yes. The Grant Central application has character limits for each response.
6. **What is the grant period?**
 - Four years.
7. **Are you looking for each of the grants to have a minimum number of trainees?**
 - Though there is no minimum number of trainees specified in the RFP, the statute sets a goal of 2,000 job placements for individuals from the priority groups by 2029. The program should be designed to contribute to this goal.
8. **How many grants do you anticipate awarding?**
 - It depends on the number of proposals, geographic coverage, and scale of partnerships.
9. **The maximum request amount is \$1 million, is there any stretch?**
 - No. The maximum request amount is \$1 million over the four-year grant period.
10. **Are there age or education requirements for trainees?**
 - No. Applicants can define their own eligibility requirements.
11. **Who is eligible to be a lead applicant?**
 - Any private sector, government, or nonprofit entity, except those that are already receiving funding from ComEd for other workforce development initiatives mandated by the Future Energy Jobs Act.
12. **Can wages for the training program be paid by the grant? Is there a minimum wage set?**
 - The funding can be used to pay wages, but there is no minimum set in the grant. Applicants can set their own wage requirements.
13. **Is there a way to get the list of contractors doing installation projects for Illinois Solar for All?**

- No, these contractors have not been determined yet.
- 14. Are there specific quotas or percentages for trainees from the priority groups?**
 - No.
- 15. Is there any relationship between the RFI previously issued by ComEd and this RFP?**
 - Yes, the RFI responses were used to shape the RFP and evaluation criteria.
- 16. During the office hours, can the RFI be discussed?**
 - Yes.
- 17. Can stipends be paid to trainees and/or employers for on-the-job training?**
 - Yes, both are acceptable.
- 18. Is there any kind of focus or priority given to those programs that are designed to help those communities in which they're set up?**
 - While this is not the main priority of the program, that context is important and helpful.
- 19. Can applicants partner with training providers that are NOT listed on the Solar Training Network that is mentioned in the RFP?**
 - Yes. The Solar Training Network is just listed for reference in the RFP.
- 20. I have attempted to use the EJSCREEN tool and associated instructions but I'm still unclear if our population would meet the environmental justice community requirement.**
 - If the EJSCREEN Tool is not giving a clear sense of whether your communities qualify, please refer to the "overburdened community" definition on page 4 of the RFP to describe the program's recruitment from environmental justice communities. It is more qualitative and open to interpretation.

Please contact The Chicago Community Trust for support with any technical issues while using GrantCentral: 312.616.8000 or info@cct.org