
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Loess Hills Development and Conservation Fund

Purpose and History

The 1993 General Assembly established the Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority to protect natural resources in the deep loess soil region of western Iowa. The Authority is composed of 23 western Iowa counties identified in Iowa Code section [161D.1](#). Originally, the Authority used funding exclusively to support infrastructure projects intended to mitigate stream channel erosion.

In 1998, the General Assembly added an additional mission by creating the Loess Hills Alliance (LHA) within the Authority. The charge of the LHA is to “create a common vision for Iowa’s Loess Hills, protecting special natural and cultural resources while ensuring economic viability and private property rights of the region.” Concurrently, the Legislature created the Hungry Canyons Alliance (HCA) to continue the coordination of infrastructure projects. The Authority’s Board meets annually to oversee the LHA and HCA boards.

The 2021 General Assembly created the Loess Hills Development and Conservation Fund. The Fund is administered by the Authority. The Fund includes a Hungry Canyons account and a Loess Hills Alliance account. Appropriations are given to the Loess Hills Development and Conservation Fund instead of the Authority, LHA, or HCA.

Funding – Previous Related Programs

Prior to FY 2018, the Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority received appropriations primarily from the Environment First Fund (EFF), and occasionally from the General Fund. Total annual appropriations ranged from \$475,000 to \$600,000 from FY 2012 to FY 2017. Appropriations were ended in FY 2018.

From FY 2020 to FY 2021, an annual appropriation of \$50,000 was given to the Hungry Canyons account of the Loess Hills Fund from the General Fund. Annual appropriations were ended in FY 2022.

Funding – Loess Hills Development and Conservation Fund

In FY 2022, the Loess Hills Development and Conservation Fund received an appropriation of \$400,000 from the General Fund. This was the first appropriation this Fund received.

More Information

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship: iowaagriculture.gov
LSA Staff Contact: Austin Brinks (515.725.2200) austin.brinks@legis.iowa.gov

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [161D](#)

Budget Unit Number

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