
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Regional Sports Authorities

Purpose and History

The appropriation for Regional Sports Authorities funds promotion of youth sports, high school athletics, the Special Olympics, and other nonprofessional sporting events. The funds are used for marketing and other promotional efforts to attract youth sports, high school athletics, or other sporting events to Iowa communities. In addition, the funds are used for venue rental, facility conversion, equipment rental, timing systems, field preparation, and other expenses related to hosting various sporting events.

2007 Iowa Acts, chapter [219](#) (FY 2008 Infrastructure Appropriations Act), created the statutory authority for Regional Sports Authority districts. The legislation authorized the establishment of up to 10 districts and provided a process for the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to certify the districts annually. Funding is awarded to Convention and Visitors Bureaus (CVBs) for the applicant areas. A CVB applicant may apply for certification of a Regional Sports Authority district that includes more than one city and more than one CVB within the district area.

2012 Iowa Acts, chapter [1018](#) (Economic Development Policy Changes Act), amended the statute to require the IEDA to certify the districts on a competitive basis if more than 10 applications are received in any certification year. In addition, the revised statute requires the IEDA to consider the economic impact to the State of the activities proposed in the application, the geographic diversity of the districts applying, and any other factors the IEDA deems relevant.

Districts and Events

Some examples of the events that are promoted and brought to Iowa through the Regional Sports Authorities include: the Iowa Special Olympic Winter Games, Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympics, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II Women's Basketball National Championship, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Super Regional Wrestling Tournament, Iowa Summer Games Sports Festival, NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships, RAGBRAI XL 40th Anniversary Celebration, Mid States Fall Horse Show, Mississippi River High School Rodeo, and Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union State Volleyball Tournament.

State Funding

Initial funding was provided from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) in FY 2008. Each certified district typically receives an equal share of the appropriation in a fiscal year.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [15E.321](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [261—38](#)

More Information

Tourism Office of the Iowa Economic Development Authority: www.traveliowa.com
Regional Sports Authority District Program: industrypartners.traveliowa.com/regional-sports-authority
LSA Staff Contact: Maria Wagenhofer (515.281.5270) maria.wagenhofer@legis.iowa.gov

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