

15F.304 Vision Iowa program application review.

1. Applications for assistance under the program shall be submitted to the department. For those applications that meet the eligibility criteria, the department shall provide a staff review and evaluation to the vision Iowa program review committee referred to in subsection 2 and the board.

2. A review committee composed of eight members of the board shall review vision Iowa program applications submitted to the board and make recommendations regarding the applications to the board. The review committee shall consist of members of the board listed in section 15F.102, subsection 2, paragraphs "d" through "h".

3. When reviewing the applications, the review committee and the department shall consider, in addition to other criteria established in this subchapter, all of the following:

a. Whether wages, benefits, including health benefits, safety, and other attributes of the project would improve the quality of other existing regional or statewide cultural, recreational, entertainment, and educational activities or employment in the community.

b. The extent to which the project would generate additional attraction and tourism opportunities.

c. The ability of the project to produce a long-term, tax-generating economic impact in excess of the proposed financial assistance from the vision Iowa fund.

d. The geographic diversity of the project in combination with other proposed projects.

e. The investment of the city, county, or region in the overall project.

f. Other funding mechanisms.

g. The long-term economic viability of the project.

h. The extent to which the project has taken the following planning principles into consideration:

(1) Efficient and effective use of land resources and existing infrastructure by encouraging development in areas with existing infrastructure or capacity to avoid costly duplication of services and costly use of land.

(2) Provision for a variety of transportation choices, including pedestrian traffic.

(3) Maintenance of a unique sense of place by respecting local cultural and natural environmental features.

(4) Conservation of open space and farmland and preservation of critical environmental areas.

(5) Promotion of the safety, livability, and revitalization of existing urban and rural communities.

4. Upon review of the recommendations of the review committee, the board shall approve, defer, or deny the applications. If an application is approved, the board may enter into an agreement with the applicant to provide financial assistance authorized under section 15F.302.