

CHAPTER 118  
STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

**261—118.1(15) Purpose.** The purpose of the strategic infrastructure program is to assist projects that develop commonly utilized assets that provide an advantage to one or more private sector entities or that create necessary physical infrastructure in the state of Iowa, and such projects are not adequately provided by the public or private sectors.

[ARC 8453C, IAB 12/11/24, effective 1/15/25]

**261—118.2(15) Definitions.**

*“Authority”* means the economic development authority created in Iowa Code section 15.105.

*“Board”* means the members of the economic development authority appointed by the governor and in whom the powers of the authority are vested pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.105.

*“Council”* means the Iowa innovation council established pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.117A, any panel or committee composed of members of the council, or a committee appointed pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.117A(7) as enacted by 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2385.

*“Director”* means the director of the economic development authority.

*“Financial assistance”* means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 15.102.

*“Program”* means the strategic infrastructure program established in this chapter.

*“Strategic infrastructure”* means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 15.313.

*“Vertical improvement”* means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 15J.2.

[ARC 8453C, IAB 12/11/24, effective 1/15/25]

**261—118.3(15) Program eligibility and application requirements.** To be eligible for financial assistance under the program, an applicant shall do all of the following:

**118.3(1)** The applicant must propose to invest in strategic infrastructure and describe how each element in Iowa Code section 15.313(4) “b” is satisfied.

**118.3(2)** The applicant must describe in detail the nature, scope, design, and goals of the proposed strategic infrastructure project, including the relationships of the entities and individuals involved.

**118.3(3)** The applicant must describe the proposed financing structure for the proposed infrastructure project, including the sources of funds and the proposed uses of the funds.

[ARC 8453C, IAB 12/11/24, effective 1/15/25]

**261—118.4(15) Application submittal and review process.**

**118.4(1)** The authority will develop a standardized application process and invite applicants with strategic infrastructure projects that may be eligible for the program to apply. To apply for assistance under the program, an applicant shall submit an application to the authority in the form and manner prescribed by the authority.

**118.4(2)** Applications will be accepted on a continuing basis and processed by authority staff. Applications will be reviewed in the order received by the authority.

**118.4(3)** The authority may refuse to accept incomplete applications or may refuse to accept applications because of insufficient funds.

**118.4(4)** The council will score applications according to the criteria specified in rule 261—118.7(15) and make recommendations to the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.313(3). The board will take final action on all applications for financial assistance.

[ARC 8453C, IAB 12/11/24, effective 1/15/25]

**261—118.5(15) Application scoring criteria.** The criteria under which each application will be scored are:

**118.5(1)** The overall quality of the proposed strategic infrastructure project, including the project’s estimated economic impact. The council will consider the structure of the proposed strategic infrastructure project and the partnerships proposed to be formed.

**118.5(2)** The extent to which the commonly utilized asset proposed by applicant benefits one or more private sector entities and the extent to which the commonly utilized asset creates necessary physical

infrastructure in the state. More points will be awarded to proposed strategic infrastructure projects demonstrating greater benefits or benefits to more entities and to proposed strategic infrastructure projects demonstrating more critical necessary physical infrastructure.

**118.5(3)** The extent to which the proposed strategic infrastructure project provides benefits that are not adequately provided by the public or private sectors.

**118.5(4)** The importance of the vertical infrastructure improvement developments, facilities and equipment upgrades, or the redevelopment or repurposing of underutilized property or other assets that are proposed, the extent to which the proposed strategic infrastructure project will attract additional public or private sector investment, and the likelihood that the proposed strategic infrastructure project will result in broad-based prosperity in the state of Iowa.

**118.5(5)** The sufficiency of the proposed strategic infrastructure project's financing structure, the feasibility of the sources of funds, and the appropriateness of the proposed uses of the funds. The council will consider a proposed strategic infrastructure project's overall financing gap and the total amount of funds leveraged from other sources.

[ARC 8453C, IAB 12/11/24, effective 1/15/25]

#### **261—118.6(15) Award administration and reporting.**

**118.6(1)** *Notice of award.* Successful applicants will be notified in writing of an award of financial assistance, including any conditions and terms of the award.

**118.6(2)** *Contract administration and amendments.* The authority will prepare a contract for each award approved by the board. The contract will reflect the terms of the award and may include other terms and conditions reasonably necessary for implementation of the program pursuant to this chapter. Substantial amendments to a contract must be approved by the board. Substantial amendments include the amount of financial assistance, the length of the contract, and the terms of a settlement following an event of default. Other changes or amendments to the contract may be negotiated by the authority with the approval of the director.

**118.6(3)** *Disbursement of funds.* The authority will disburse funds to a strategic infrastructure project only after a complete application has been received, an award has been recommended by the council and approved by the board, a contract has been executed between the applicant and the authority, and all applicable conditions for disbursement have been met, including the submission of documentation pertaining to the eligible expenditures. Disbursement of funds under the contract will be on a reimbursement basis for expenses incurred by the applicant as provided under the contract.

**118.6(4)** *Reporting.* An applicant receiving assistance under the program shall submit any information reasonably requested by the authority in sufficient detail to permit the authority to prepare any reports required by the authority, the board, the general assembly or the governor's office.

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These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 15.313.

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