

**261—174.6 (15) Qualifying wage threshold requirements—effective on or after July 1, 2014.** 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2448, (“the Act”) became effective on July 1, 2014. Among other things, the Act changed the qualifying wage thresholds applicable to HQJP and repealed the EZ program. As of July 1, 2014, the qualifying wage thresholds described in this rule shall be in effect.

**174.6(1) Enterprise zone (EZ) program.** The qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to the EZ program is 90 percent of the laborshed wage. The wage threshold described in this subrule continues to apply to agreements entered into before July 1, 2014. However, no new agreements may be entered into on or after July 1, 2014.

**174.6(2) High quality jobs program (HQJP).** The qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to HQJP is 120 percent of the laborshed wage unless subrule 174.6(3) or 174.6(4) applies to a project.

**174.6(3) HQJP projects in distressed areas.**

*a.* Notwithstanding subrule 174.6(2), the qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to an HQJP project may be lowered to 100 percent of the laborshed wage if the eligible business is located in an economically distressed area.

*b.* For purposes of this subrule, “economically distressed area” means a county that ranks among the bottom 33 of all Iowa counties, as measured by either the average monthly unemployment level for the most recent 12-month period or the average annualized unemployment level for the most recent five-year period.

*c.* The authority will update the list of economically distressed areas according to the same schedule as the qualifying wage thresholds are updated pursuant to subrule 174.2(1) and will apply the provisions of subrule 174.2(2) to the list of economically distressed areas in the same manner.

**174.6(4) HQJP projects at brownfield or grayfield sites.**

*a.* Notwithstanding subrule 174.6(2), the qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to an HQJP project may be lowered to 90 percent of the laborshed wage if the eligible business is located at a brownfield site. The qualifying wage threshold for a brownfield site may be lowered to 90 percent regardless of where the project site is located as long as the project meets the requirements of a brownfield site.

*b.* Notwithstanding subrule 174.6(2), the qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to an HQJP project may be lowered to 100 percent of the laborshed wage if the eligible business is located at a grayfield site. The qualifying wage threshold for a grayfield site may be lowered to 100 percent regardless of where the project site is located as long as the project meets the requirements of a grayfield site.

*c.* The authority may consult with the brownfield redevelopment advisory council established pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.294 in order to make a determination as to whether a project site meets the requirements of a brownfield site or grayfield site for purposes of this subrule. The determination as to whether a project site qualifies as a brownfield or grayfield site shall be within the discretion of the authority. In making such determinations, the authority will attempt to apply the same definition in substantially the same manner as similar definitions are applied by the brownfield redevelopment advisory council.

*d.* A project that does not meet the requirements of a brownfield site or grayfield site will be presumed to be a greenfield site.

**174.6(5) Economic development set aside (EDSA) program.** Rescinded IAB 6/24/15, effective 7/29/15.