

**261—23.7 (15) Requirements for the economic development set-aside fund.****23.7(1) Restrictions on applicants.**

*a.* Applicants shall apply only for direct loans or forgivable loans to make to private businesses for the creation of new jobs or the retention of existing jobs that would otherwise be lost. Eligible activities include infrastructure projects in direct support of economic development activities.

*b.* The maximum grant award for individual business assistance applications from any city or county is \$1,000,000.

*c.* For a project to be eligible for assistance, jobs created or retained shall meet the qualifying wage described in the annual action plan.

*d.* At least 51 percent of the permanent jobs created or retained by the proposed project shall be taken by or made available through first consideration activities to persons from low- and moderate-income families.

*e.* Projects must maintain a minimum ratio of one permanent job created or retained for every \$20,000 in CDBG funds awarded.

*f.* Terms of conventional loans proposed for the project must be consistent with terms generally accepted by conventional financial institutions.

*g.* Applications must provide evidence of adequate private equity.

*h.* Applications must provide evidence that the EDSA funds requested are necessary to make the proposed project feasible and that the business requesting assistance can continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future if assistance is provided.

*i.* The authority shall not consider applications proposing business relocation from within the state unless evidence exists of unusual circumstances that make the relocation necessary for the business' viability.

*j.* No significant negative land use or environmental impacts shall occur as a result of the project.

**23.7(2) Application procedure.** Application forms and instructions shall be available at [iowagrants.gov](http://iowagrants.gov). The authority shall accept EDSA applications at any time and shall review applications on a continuous basis. The authority shall take action on submitted applications within 60 days of receipt. Action may include funding the application for all or part of the requested amount, denying the applicant's request for funding or requesting additional information from the applicant for consideration before a final decision is made.

**23.7(3) Review criteria.** The authority shall review applications and make funding decisions based on criteria described in the annual action plan. Review criteria typically include:

*a.* Impact of the project on the community.

*b.* Appropriateness of the jobs to be created or retained by the proposed project.

*c.* Appropriateness of the proposed wage and benefit package available to employees in jobs created or retained by the proposed project.

*d.* Degree to which EDSA funding would be leveraged by private investment.

*e.* Degree of demonstrated business need.