

265—32.4 (16,83GA,SF376) Local infrastructure competitive grant program. The board shall assist in the development and completion of public construction projects relating to disaster relief and mitigation and to local infrastructure by overseeing and providing approval of the administration of a local infrastructure competitive grant program, as set forth herein.

32.4(1) Iowa jobs program review committee. The Iowa jobs program review committee shall comprise five members, consisting of the following members of the Iowa jobs board: three of the general public members, as appointed to the review committee by the Iowa jobs chair, the executive director of the Iowa finance authority (or designee), and the director of Iowa workforce development (or designee). The review committee shall comply with Iowa Code chapter 21 and with Iowa Code sections 69.16 and 69.16A. From its public members, the review committee shall elect a chair and a vice chair. Two-thirds of the review committee members eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum authorized to act in the name of the review committee.

32.4(2) Eligible applicants. Eligible applicants for Iowa jobs local infrastructure competitive grant program funds shall be Iowa cities, Iowa counties, and public organizations.

32.4(3) Eligible projects and forms of assistance. For a project to be eligible to receive a competitive grant from the board, the project must be a public construction project in the state of Iowa with a demonstrated substantial local, regional, or statewide economic impact. Financial assistance shall be awarded only in the form of grants. An applicant for a competitive grant shall not receive more than \$50 million in financial assistance from the Iowa jobs restricted capitals fund.

a. Any award of a competitive grant to a project shall be limited as follows:

(1) Up to 75 percent of the total cost of a project for replacing or rebuilding existing disaster-related damaged property; or

(2) Up to 50 percent of the total cost for all other projects.

b. The authority, with the approval of the chair and vice chair of the Iowa jobs board, shall have the ability to make technical corrections to an award that are within the intent of the terms of a board-approved award.

32.4(4) Ineligible projects. The board shall not approve an application for a competitive grant for either of the following purposes:

a. To refinance a loan existing prior to the date of the initial financial assistance application.

b. For a project that has previously received financial assistance under the local infrastructure competitive grant program, unless the applicant demonstrates that the financial assistance would be used for a significant expansion of such a project.

32.4(5) Threshold application requirements. To be considered for a competitive grant, an application shall meet all of the following threshold requirements:

a. Prior to filing an application, the applicant must file, on the form and in the manner prescribed by the authority, a notice of intent to apply not less than 20 days prior to submitting its application;

b. The application must be submitted by an eligible applicant, must be complete and on forms or in the format specified for such purpose by the authority (the authority may, in its discretion, require the use of a Web-based application format), and must be received by the authority by the applicable deadline;

c. The proposed project must be for the development and completion of one or more public construction projects relating to disaster relief and mitigation or to local infrastructure;

d. There must be demonstrated local support for the proposed project;

e. The proposed public construction project must have a demonstrated substantial local, regional, or statewide economic impact; and

f. The application must coordinate any federal funds with state, local, and private funds and shall avoid any duplication of benefits that would limit or cause the loss of federal funding.

Prior to submitting an application to the review committee, the authority may contact the applicant to clarify information contained in the application. An application may be amended one time prior to being sent to the review committee. Applications may be otherwise amended with the approval of a majority of the review committee.

32.4(6) Application procedure.

a. Applications shall be reviewed and scored in rounds. The deadline for submission for the first round of applications shall be August 3, 2009. Subsequent rounds shall be quarterly. Applications for each such round shall be due not later than January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of each year, respectively.

b. Subject to availability of funds, applications will be reviewed by IFA staff on an ongoing basis. Applications will be reviewed by staff for completeness and eligibility. If additional information is required, the applicant shall be requested, in writing, to submit additional information. For applications that meet the threshold requirements, authority staff shall submit to the members of the review committee a copy of the application along with a review, analysis, and evaluation of complete applications.

c. The review committee members will score the applications according to the criteria set forth in subrule 32.4(7), and IFA staff shall compile the scores. To be eligible for a grant, a proposed project must receive a minimum score of at least 100 points. The review committee shall meet at least quarterly to review the ratings. Those applications meeting the minimum criteria shall be referred to the Iowa jobs board with a recommendation of final approval, denial, or deferral.

d. Once an application has been referred to the Iowa jobs board, the applicant may, upon request of the applicant and at the discretion of the chair of the board, make a presentation to the board. The board may impose reasonable limitations on the length and format of such presentations.

e. If the board determines that an application should be approved, the board shall send the application to negotiations. Negotiations shall be conducted by IFA staff, who may work in cooperation with members of the Iowa jobs board. The negotiators shall negotiate the terms and conditions of a grant agreement to recommend to the board.

f. Following negotiations, the negotiating team shall report back to the Iowa jobs board as to whether it was able to agree with the applicant on the terms of a proposed grant agreement and, if so, the proposed terms and conditions resulting from the negotiations. The Iowa jobs board shall then vote, without further substantive revision, on whether to agree to the negotiated terms.

g. If the negotiated terms are agreed to by the Iowa jobs board, a grant agreement memorializing the negotiated terms shall be executed by the chair or vice chair of the Iowa jobs board.

h. Application resources for the Iowa jobs program are available at the Iowa jobs Web site: www.ijobsiowa.gov.

i. IFA may provide technical assistance as necessary to applicants. IFA staff may conduct on-site evaluations of proposed projects.

32.4(7) Application review criteria. The Iowa jobs program review committee shall evaluate and rank applications based on the following criteria:

a. *The total number and quality of jobs to be created and the benefits likely to accrue to areas distressed by high unemployment (0-40 points).* The number of jobs created and other measures of economic impact to areas distressed by high unemployment, including long-term tax generation, shall be evaluated. Rating factors for this criterion include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

(1) Number of jobs. The number of jobs reasonably projected to be created or retained and the number of hours anticipated for each such job shall be compared and ranked.

(2) Quality of jobs. The wages to be paid for each position to be created or retained, the average benefits (including health benefits) to be provided, as well as other subjective qualitative factors, such as work conditions and safety, shall be compared and ranked.

(3) Other benefits likely to accrue to areas distressed by high unemployment, such as the degree to which the project enhances the quality of life in a region and contributes to the community's efforts to retain and attract a skilled workforce.

In order to be eligible for funding, proposals must score at least 20 points on this criterion.

b. *Financial feasibility, including the ability of projects to fund depreciation costs or replacement reserves, and the availability of other federal, state, local, and private sources of funds (0-40 points).* The feasibility of the proposed project shall be evaluated. Rating factors for this criterion include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) A financial analysis of the project, which shall include a description of sources of funding, project budget, and detailed projections of the project's revenues and expenses for the projected useful life of the project;

(2) An analysis of the operational plan, which shall provide detailed information about how the proposed project will be operated and maintained, including a time line for implementing the project;

(3) The availability of other federal, state, local, and private sources of funds for the project.

In order to be eligible for funding, proposals must score at least 20 points on this criterion.

c. Sustainability and energy efficiency. The sustainability and energy efficiency of the proposed project shall be evaluated. Rating factors for this criterion include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Sustainability (0-20 points). The extent to which the project has taken sustainability planning principles into consideration.

1. The project shall be evaluated based on the following specific factors:

- Efficient and effective use of land resources and existing infrastructure by encouraging compact development in areas with existing infrastructure or capacity to avoid costly duplication of services and costly use of land; conservation of open space and farmland and preservation of critical environmental areas; and promotion of the safety, livability, and revitalization of existing urban and rural communities. Compact development maximizes public infrastructure investment and promotes mixed uses, greater density, bicycle and pedestrian networks, and interconnection with the existing street grid.

- Provision for a variety of transportation choices, including public transit and pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

- Construction and promotion of developments, buildings, and infrastructure that conserve natural resources by reducing waste and pollution through efficient use of land, energy, water, and materials.

- Capture, retention, infiltration and harvesting of rainfall using storm water best management practices such as permeable pavement, bioretention cells, bioswales, and rain gardens to protect water resources.

- The extent to which project design, construction, and use incorporate renewable energy sources including, but not limited to, solar, wind, geothermal, and biofuels, and support the following state of Iowa plans and goals: (1) office of energy independence's Iowa energy independence plan; and (2) general reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Alternatively, in lieu of being evaluated on each of the criteria set forth above, projects which are designed to receive certification (either platinum level, gold level, silver level, or basic LEED certification) from the United States Green Building Council in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System version 3.0, and which comply with the requirements of ASHRAE 90.1-2007, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, published by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, 1791 Tullie Circle, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329, shall receive 20 points.

(2) Energy efficiency (0-20 points). The extent to which the project has taken energy efficiency planning principles into consideration.

1. In the case of new construction, whether the project is designed to meet the current state building energy code. The application for the project must include a letter from the engineer or architect to IFA certifying whether the proposed construction meets the current state building energy code. Additionally, the application should address whether the proposed project is designed to meet energy star standards. If the project is of such a nature that the current state building energy code does not apply to it, the letter shall so state.

2. In the case of rehabilitation of existing structures, an energy audit conducted by a certified energy rater should be provided on each building prior to the preparation of the final work rehabilitation order to determine the feasibility of meeting the requirements of the current state building energy code

and energy star standards prior to the start of the rehabilitation. If it is determined to be feasible to meet the current state building energy code standards and energy star standards, appropriate specifications will be written into the work order. If it is not feasible to meet the requirements of the current state building energy code and energy star standards (or either of them), the application will provide information indicating what effective and cost-effective energy improvements will be included as a part of the rehabilitation project.

d. Benefits for disaster recovery (0-40 points). The likely benefits for disaster recovery of the proposed project shall be evaluated. Wherever applicable, rating factors for this criterion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Whether the proposed project replaces or repairs a structure or facility damaged by the disaster and incorporates measures for reducing or eliminating future disaster losses;
- (2) Whether the proposed project would help achieve the community's or region's overall post-disaster recovery vision;
- (3) Whether the proposed project benefits the economic recovery of individuals, businesses, or nonprofit organizations.

e. The project's readiness to proceed (0-40 points). The readiness of the project to proceed shall be evaluated. Wherever applicable, rating factors for this criterion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Whether all engineering and architectural work required for construction to begin has been completed;
- (2) Whether all financing for the project (other than competitive grant funds awarded under this chapter) has been committed and is available;
- (3) Whether all real property interests (including easements and temporary construction easements) necessary for the construction of the project have been acquired;
- (4) Whether all necessary governmental approvals, at the federal, state, and local levels (including, but not limited to, zoning variances, building permits, approval from the Army Corps of Engineers, etc.), have been obtained;
- (5) Whether the project has demonstrated a reasonable likelihood of incurring at least 10 percent of the project's total projected development cost within three months of execution of the grant award agreement.

f. General scoring criteria.

- (1) In instances where a given criterion is not applicable to a proposed project due to the nature of the project, the review committee members may adjust scoring so that the project is not disadvantaged as a result of the inapplicable criterion. For example, if an earthen levee is proposed as a means of flood control, it should not lose points relative to other proposed projects because it does not comply with the current state building energy code (which does not apply to earthen levees).
- (2) Any proposed project that is identified in an Iowa great places agreement, pursuant to Iowa Code section 303.3C, shall have an additional two points added to its cumulative point total.