

261—53.11(15) Modernization project component. The general program policies described in rule 261—53.6(15) are applicable to modernization projects. Exceptions to these general rules are identified in this rule. If there is a conflict between the general program policies and the modernization project component requirements as described in this rule, this rule will take priority. Applications must receive a minimum of 60 points to be recommended for funding.

53.11(1) Additional criteria and targeting for modernization projects. Modernization projects shall meet the following additional requirements:

- a. Applications for this component must be for businesses with projects that offer a quality economic opportunity to Iowans.
- b. The business shall demonstrate that it is modernizing and retooling to remain competitive.
- c. The business shall demonstrate how employee job skills are being enhanced through advanced training and educational opportunities.

53.11(2) Applications. Businesses applying for assistance under this component shall use the general business financial assistance application form provided by the department. The department may, at its option, transfer requests to a different financial assistance program administered by the department.

53.11(3) Project period. Rescinded IAB 7/4/07, effective 6/15/07.

53.11(4) Rating system. Eligible applications will be reviewed and rated using the following criteria:

a. *Strength of the business proposal.* Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Description of the business and the overall industry;
- (2) Description and feasibility of the modernization project;
- (3) Market identification and the business's current position in that market;
- (4) Project financial history and projections;
- (5) Total cost of the modernization project.

Maximum — 25 points.

b. *Job positions associated with the project.* Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Increase in job skills as a result of the project as measured by job training and educational opportunities;
- (2) Increased quality of the wages and benefits as a result of the project;
- (3) Number of jobs impacted by the project.

NOTE: For the modernization project component, CEBA funds will not be leveraged on a per-job basis.

Maximum — 25 points.

c. *Leverage of other additional funding sources.* The amount of the total project costs coming from sources other than CEBA modernization funds including, but not limited to, private equity investment, conventional loans, owner equity investment, or other acceptable forms of investment as determined by the department. Maximum — 15 points.

d. *Regional financial support.* The amount of the total project costs attributable to regional funding sources including, but not limited to, city, county, community college, chamber of commerce, economic development groups, utilities, or other regional sources, compared to the resources reasonably available from those sources. Maximum — 15 points.

e. *Potential for improved efficiency, capacity and competitiveness of the business.* Maximum — 10 points.

f. *Potential for future growth of the business and the industry.* Maximum — 10 points.

53.11(5) Application review and approval. Rescinded IAB 7/4/07, effective 6/15/07.