

**261—51.5(15E) Application scoring criteria.**

**51.5(1) *Application scoring.*** A scoring committee will be composed of at least one representative of the authority appointed by the director, at least one representative of the department appointed by the secretary, and two additional members mutually agreed upon by the director and the secretary. The committee will evaluate the applications and give them an average numerical score between 0 and 100. The board may not approve a grant for an application that receives an average score of less than 75 points.

**51.5(2) *Scoring criteria.*** The criteria under which each application will be scored are:

*a.* The extent to which the project benefits local small-scale farmers by creating or expanding opportunities to market processed meat under private labels or by providing greater flexibility or convenience to have animals processed: 25 points. Projects that increase processing capacity or efficiency will receive more points.

*b.* The extent to which the project establishes an essential community asset: 25 points. Projects that are likely to negatively impact existing meat processing businesses will receive fewer points. The committee may also consider the extent of any likely negative impact.

*c.* The sufficiency of the proposed project's financing structure, the feasibility of the sources of funds, and the appropriateness of the proposed uses of the funds: 15 points.

*d.* The extent to which the applicant has planned for long-term use of the project and the likelihood of long-term use: 15 points.

*e.* The number and quality of jobs to be created by the applicant as a result of the project: 10 points. Projects that create more jobs or higher quality jobs will receive more points. Factors the committee will consider in assessing the quality of jobs include, but are not limited to, wages and benefits.

*f.* The financial need of the applicant: 10 points. Applicants that received a business improvement grant from the department for expenses incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 1, 2020, will receive fewer points.

[ARC 5971C, IAB 10/6/21, effective 9/17/21]