

567—107.16(82GA, HF2700) Independent redemption center grant program. An independent redemption center grant program is established in the department, with funds provided from the independent redemption center grant fund established in the state treasury and under the authority of the natural resources department. The purpose of the program is to award grants for improvements to independent redemption centers. No grant shall exceed \$15,000 for any redemption center. The department shall issue awards in accordance with the availability of moneys in the independent redemption center grant fund.

107.16(1) Goals. The goals of the program are to enable independent redemption centers to become more:

a. Sustainable. This goal includes measures that help independent redemption centers continue to operate and succeed. Such measures include, but are not limited to, physical improvements to sites owned by independent redemption centers or equipment purchases that can help reduce operational costs.

b. Convenient. This goal includes measures that help independent redemption centers better serve customers.

c. Accessible. This goal includes measures that enable customers to more easily use independent redemption centers' services.

107.16(2) Application. The department shall develop an application for redemption centers to complete and submit to the department in order to apply for a grant under this program. The application shall include, but not be limited to:

a. An explanation of how the grant will enable the redemption center to become more sustainable, convenient or accessible.

b. A statement and substantiation of the specific amount of grant funds that will be expended to pay for the improvement or improvements.

c. If the applicant's beverage container redemption function is one part of a business enterprise that includes one or more other commercial activities that are not beverage container redemption, a clear explanation must be provided as to how the proposed grant-funded improvement or improvements will be implemented exclusively for the beverage container redemption function.

107.16(3) Eligibility. To be eligible for the independent redemption center grant program, a redemption center must meet both of the following criteria:

a. Have no affiliation with or in any way be a subsidiary of a dealer, a distributor, or a manufacturer.

b. Have been in business prior to July 1, 2008. A redemption center registered with the department as an approved redemption center, unapproved redemption center, redemption center for a dealer or registered redemption center prior to July 1, 2008, meets this criterion. A redemption center that was not registered with the department prior to July 1, 2008, must provide documentation that the redemption center was in business prior to July 1, 2008.

107.16(4) Evaluation of applications. The department will evaluate all eligible grant applications submitted in the manner prescribed in the application. The applications will be evaluated based on their compatibility with the goals of the program.

a. Physical improvements to a site owned by an independent redemption center or equipment purchases that will improve the sustainability, convenience, or accessibility of a redemption center will receive highest consideration. Although a cash match is not required, applications that include statements of cash match will be evaluated more favorably.

b. Labor costs associated with improving the sustainability, convenience or accessibility of a redemption center will receive secondary consideration.

c. Direct cash payments for general compensation will not be considered.

107.16(5) Grant denial. An application may be denied for reasons that include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. The applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements set forth in subrule 107.16(3).

b. The applicant does not provide sufficient information requested for the application proposal.

c. The project is not consistent with the goals of the program.

d. Funds are insufficient to award financial assistance to all qualified applicants.

e. The applicant has not met contractual obligations of previous grant awards.

f. The department received the application after the deadline stated in the application.

107.16(6) *Grant contracts, reporting and accountability.* Each grant awarded under this program shall be conveyed by means of a contract with each grantee. The department shall develop and provide the form of the grant contracts, which shall include, at a minimum:

a. A description and explanation of the improvement or improvements being funded, including a statement of cash match, if any, that will be expended by the grantee.

b. The dollar amount of the grant award and the manner in which funds will be transferred.

c. The requirement for the grantee to submit to the department a report following the implementation of the funded improvement or improvements. The report shall state how the grant funds, and cash match, if any, were expended in the execution of the contract and shall include copies of any supporting documents.

d. The department's remedies in the event of a grantee's breach of contract.