

261—174.6(15) Qualifying wage threshold requirements—effective on or after July 1, 2014. As of July 1, 2014, the qualifying wage thresholds described in this rule shall be in effect.

174.6(1) Enterprise zone (EZ) program. The qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to the EZ program is 90 percent of the laborshed wage. The wage threshold described in this subrule continues to apply to agreements entered into before July 1, 2014. However, no new agreements may be entered into on or after July 1, 2014.

174.6(2) High quality jobs program (HQJP). The qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to HQJP is 120 percent of the laborshed wage unless subrule 174.6(3) or 174.6(4) applies to a project.

174.6(3) HQJP projects in distressed areas.

a. Notwithstanding subrule 174.6(2), the qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to an HQJP project may be lowered to 100 percent of the laborshed wage if the eligible business is located in an economically distressed area.

b. For purposes of this subrule, “economically distressed area” means a county that meets at least three of the following criteria:

(1) The county ranks among the 33 Iowa counties with the highest average monthly unemployment rates for the most recent 12-month period based on the applicable local area unemployment statistics produced by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) The county ranks among the 33 Iowa counties with the highest average annualized unemployment rates for the most recent five-year period based on the applicable local area unemployment statistics produced by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(3) The county ranks among the 33 Iowa counties with the lowest annual average weekly wages based on the most recent quarterly census of employment and wages published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(4) The county ranks among the 33 Iowa counties with the highest family poverty rates based on the most recent American Community Survey five-year estimate released by the United States Census Bureau.

(5) The county ranks among the 33 Iowa counties with the highest percentage population loss. Percentage population loss shall be calculated by comparing the most recent population estimate produced by the United States Census Bureau to the most recent decennial census released by the United States Census Bureau, except for a calendar year in which the decennial census data is released, in which case the percentage population loss shall be calculated by comparing the population in the decennial census released that calendar year to the population in decennial census released ten years prior.

(6) The county ranks among the 33 Iowa counties with the highest percentage of persons 65 years of age or older based on the most recent American Community Survey five-year estimate released by the United States Census Bureau.

c. The authority may designate a county that does not meet at least three of the criteria in paragraph 174.6(3) “*b*” as an economically distressed area if a business located in the county experiences a layoff or a closure that has a significant impact on a community within the county.

(1) Factors the authority will consider in determining whether a layoff or closure has a significant impact on a community within the county include, but are not limited to, total number of employees impacted, percentage of the applicable laborshed impacted, number of employees impacted as a percentage of population, current unemployment rate, and unemployment rate including the employees affected by a layoff or closure.

(2) A city or county shall request designation of a county as an economically distressed area pursuant to this paragraph in writing. Such requests are subject to approval by the board. Requests may be made simultaneously with a project application that would qualify for a lower qualifying wage threshold requirement pursuant to this subrule if the request is approved.

d. The authority will update the list of economically distressed areas, including those designated pursuant to paragraph 174.6(3) “*c*,” according to the same schedule as the qualifying wage thresholds

are updated pursuant to subrule 174.2(1) and will apply the provisions of subrule 174.2(2) to the list of economically distressed areas in the same manner.

174.6(4) HQJP projects at brownfield or grayfield sites.

a. Notwithstanding subrule 174.6(2), the qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to an HQJP project may be lowered to 90 percent of the laborshed wage if the eligible business is located at a brownfield site. The qualifying wage threshold for a brownfield site may be lowered to 90 percent regardless of where the project site is located as long as the project meets the requirements of a brownfield site.

b. Notwithstanding subrule 174.6(2), the qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to an HQJP project may be lowered to 100 percent of the laborshed wage if the eligible business is located at a grayfield site. The qualifying wage threshold for a grayfield site may be lowered to 100 percent regardless of where the project site is located as long as the project meets the requirements of a grayfield site.

c. The authority may consult with the brownfield redevelopment advisory council established pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.294 in order to make a determination as to whether a project site meets the requirements of a brownfield site or grayfield site for purposes of this subrule. The determination as to whether a project site qualifies as a brownfield or grayfield site shall be within the discretion of the authority. In making such determinations, the authority will attempt to apply the same definition in substantially the same manner as similar definitions are applied by the brownfield redevelopment advisory council.

d. A project that does not meet the requirements of a brownfield site or grayfield site will be presumed to be a greenfield site.

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