261—200.5(15J) Program eligibility and application requirements. To be eligible for benefits under the program, an applicant shall meet all of the following requirements:

200.5(1) *Area suitable for development.* An applicant must be a municipality and must have an area suitable for development within the boundaries of the municipality, or, in the case of a joint board, the combined boundaries of the incorporated cities or counties that established or designated the joint board, that has been proposed for designation as a reinvestment district under the program. Only areas that meet the following requirements will be approved for designation as a reinvestment district:

a. The area must consist only of parcels of real property that the governing body of the municipality determines will be directly and substantially benefited by development in the proposed district. In order to establish that this criterion is met, a municipality should submit information such as an estimate of the expected increase in valuation or other data that lends itself to a quantitative assessment of the extent to which the real property will benefit.

b. The area must be in whole or in part either an economic development enterprise zone designated under 2014 Iowa Code chapter 15E, division XVIII, immediately prior to July 1, 2014, or an urban renewal area established pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 403. In order to establish that this criterion is met, a municipality should submit maps of the proposed area as well as maps of the existing enterprise zone or urban renewal area. A municipality should also submit copies of the local ordinance or resolution establishing the enterprise zone or the urban renewal area.

c. For districts approved before July 1, 2018, the area must consist of contiguous parcels and must not exceed 25 acres in total. For districts approved after July 1, 2020, the area must consist of contiguous parcels and must not exceed 75 acres in total. For purposes of this subrule, "contiguous" means parcels that are physically connected. Parcels connected by streets or other rights-of-way will be considered physically connected for purposes of this rule. In designating an area that includes a right-of-way, an applicant may include an area that is less than the full width of the right-of-way, but the applicant shall not include less than 60 feet of the right-of-way's width.

d. For a municipality that is a city or for a city that has established or designated a joint board, the area must not include the entire incorporated area of the city.

e. The area must not be located in whole or in part within another district established under this chapter.

200.5(2) *Proposed district plan.* An applicant must submit a proposed district plan. A proposed district plan must be approved by resolution of the governing body of the municipality and must state the governing body's intent to establish a district. A copy of this resolution should be submitted with the proposed district plan. The proposed district plan must also include all of the following:

a. A finding by the governing body that the area in the proposed district is an area suitable for development. This finding should be supported by the information required under subrule 200.5(1).

b. A legal description of the real estate forming the boundaries of the area to be included in the proposed district along with a map depicting the existing parcels of real estate located in the proposed district.

c. A list of the names and addresses of the owners of record of the parcels to be included in the proposed district. If, at the time an application is submitted, the parcels are not yet acquired or one or more parcels within the district are under consideration for a project, then the names and addresses of the owners of record of all parcels under consideration shall be submitted with the understanding that final board approval shall be contingent upon all parcels' being acquired and identified by address prior to final board approval and establishment of the commencement date.

d. A list of all projects proposed to be undertaken within the district, a detailed description of those projects, and a project plan for each proposed project. Each project plan shall clearly state the estimated cost of the proposed project, the anticipated funding sources for the proposed project, the amount of anticipated funding from each such source, and the amount and type of debt, if any, to be incurred by the municipality to fund the proposed project, and shall include a proposed project feasibility study conducted by an independent professional with expertise in economic development and public finance. The project plan for the project that proposes the largest amount of capital investment among all proposed projects within the district shall include an estimate of the date that construction of the

project will be completed and of the date that operations will begin at the project. The feasibility study shall include projections and analysis of all of the following:

(1) The amount of gross revenues expected to be collected in the district as a result of the proposed project for each year that the district is in existence.

(2) A detailed explanation of the manner and extent to which the proposed project will contribute to the economic development of the state and the municipality, including an analysis of the proposed project's economic impact. The analysis shall include the same components and be conducted in the same manner as the economic impact study required under paragraph *"e"* of this subrule.

(3) An estimate of the number of visitors or customers the proposed project will generate during each year that the district exists.

(4) A description of the unique characteristics of the proposed project. The description should include an explanation of why the unique characteristics of the proposed project cause the project to be of a unique nature, within the meaning of that term as it is defined in rule 261—200.2(15J).

e. An economic impact study for the proposed district conducted by an independent economist retained by the municipality. The economic impact study shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

(1) Contain a detailed analysis of the financial benefit of the proposed district to the economy of the state and the municipality.

(2) Identify one or more projected market areas in which the district can reasonably be expected to have a substantial economic impact.

(3) Assess the fiscal and financial impact of the proposed district on businesses or on other economic development projects within the projected market area.

200.5(3) *Additional conditions.* In addition to the requirements described in subrules 200.5(1) and 200.5(2), a municipality shall demonstrate to the board's satisfaction that all of the following additional conditions are met:

a. The area of the municipality proposed to be included in the district must meet the requirements of subrule 200.5(1).

b. The projects proposed to be undertaken in the district must be of a unique nature and must be likely to have a substantial beneficial impact on the economy of the state and the economy of the municipality. If, in the judgment of the board, an applicant's proposed district plan is not of a unique nature or will not result in benefits claimed, the board may decline to approve a proposed district plan or may defer a proposed district plan until amendments are made.

c. The proposed funding sources for each proposed project must be feasible.

d. At least one of the projects proposed to be undertaken in the district must include a capital investment of at least $10 million.

e. The total amount of proposed funding from new tax revenues to be remitted to the municipality from the fund for all proposed projects in the proposed district plan must not exceed 35 percent of the total cost of all proposed projects in the proposed district plan.

f. The amount of proposed capital investment within the proposed district related to retail businesses in the proposed district must not exceed 50 percent of the total capital investment for all proposed projects in the proposed district plan.

g. The applicant must have submitted an application under the preapplication process described in rule 261—200.4(15J) and, as part of a provisional funding decision by the board, must have been approved for a provisional maximum benefit amount.

h. The proposed district plan must meet a minimum score under the criteria described in rule 261—200.6(15J).

i. While multiple districts within a single municipality are not prohibited under the program, the size of any one district is limited by paragraph 200.5(1)*"c"* and overlapping districts are prohibited by paragraph 200.5(1)*"e."* Therefore, the board will consider whether the approval of an additional district is appropriate given the particulars of the proposed additional district and the goals of the program. If a municipality proposes an additional district, the board, at its discretion, may accept the application and score it, or if the board determines that approval of an additional district would not serve the goals of the program, the board may reject the application without scoring it.

j. The applicant is not requesting a plan amendment to increase the maximum benefit amount for an already approved district. While it is within the discretion of the board to increase the maximum benefit amount of an approved district, the board will carefully scrutinize whether an increase is justified by circumstances such as greater investment or improved projects within the district and whether any change in the maximum benefit amount serves the goals of the program.

200.5(4) *Application materials and submission.*

a. A municipality interested in applying for funding under the program shall submit a preapplication and a final application to the board for approval and, when applying, shall provide the information described in this chapter or any other information the board or the authority may reasonably require in order to process the application.

b. Information on submitting an application under the program may be obtained by contacting the economic development authority. The contact information is:

Iowa Economic Development Authority
Business Finance Team
businessfinance@iowaeda.com
www.iowaeda.com

[**ARC 1175C**, IAB 11/13/13, effective 12/18/13; **ARC 5319C**, IAB 12/16/20, effective 1/20/21]