

I-Jobs Water Quality Fund

The I-Jobs bill (SF 376) allocated \$55 million to a new Water Quality Financial Assistance Program administered by IFA. The bill states that \$35 million will go to communities with populations less than 10,000 for water quality and wastewater projects. The remaining \$20 million will go to communities with populations over 10,000 for water or wastewater projects.

The following is a brief overview of the program.

1. Every grant recipient also receives a SRF loan. This facilitates our review and disbursement process. It also matches grants with low-interest loans. Therefore, the projects must be eligible for SRF.
2. All projects will be prioritized based on the environmental benefit of the project. This ensures that grants go to those projects with the most impact on water quality. The scores are the same as those used for SRF projects.
3. There are two funds:
 - a. One for communities under 10,000 population consisting of \$35 million
 - b. One for communities with a population over 10,000 consisting of \$20 million (there are 35 cities in Iowa with a population over 10,000. 25 have populations between 10,000 and 50,000. 10 have populations over 50,000)
4. For the small community fund:
 - a. Projects must be eligible for SRF (drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, etc.)
 - b. The funds will go to communities based on “affordability” criteria. The criteria will be the same as that used for the federal ARRA funds:
 - i. Median household income
 - ii. Estimated user rates as a percentage of household income
 - iii. Per capita debt of the system
 - iv. Unemployment rate
 - c. No small community can get a grant of more than \$2 million.
 - d. One application round with an application deadline of March 30 – awards announced in June.
5. For the larger community fund:
 - a. Projects must be eligible for SRF (drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, etc.)
 - b. No affordability criteria – just the environmental scoring
 - c. One application round with an application deadline of October 30 – awards announced in January

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