

Impaired and Impacted Stream Initiative (IISI) Changes



Impaired & Impacted Streams Initiative (IISI)

Program Background:

- Late 1990s, the SWCC created an opportunity for select districts to survey waters impaired by agricultural sediment on state 303(d) list (initiated by NCASWCD)
- Pilot study completed on six impaired streams in Anson, Union, Craven, Clay, Surry, and Rockingham counties
- Grant funds obtained to fund survey-identified BMP projects on ag lands



Impaired & Impacted Streams Initiative (IISI)

Program Background:

- Survey opened for use by all districts; more grants funds obtained to implement identified projects
- In 2007 the SWCC began annually earmarking a portion of ACSP funds for the Impaired & Impacted Streams Initiative



Existing IISI Eligibility Criteria and Allocation Process

- Current eligibility criteria for District participation:
 - Complete one or more IISI survey responses (surveys last 5 yrs)
 - Request IISI funds annually through Strategic Plan submittals
- Annual IISI allocations for eligible districts follow ACSP fund allocation guidelines and procedures in rule (02 NCAC 59D .0103)
- No mid-year voluntary return and re-allocation process is available for IISI funds



IISI Workgroup

Objectives:

- Determine potential changes to IISI funding request processes
- Determine potential changes to IISI funding eligibility/allocation processes
- Identify training/planning resources to develop for the IISI program
- Make recommendations to the TRC



Opportunities for Program Improvements

- See approximately 30% rollover of IISI funds annually
- Annual IISI allocations per district are low (\$5K - \$12K)
- Significant District interest in setting up a mid-year voluntary return of IISI funds for supplemental allocations (Feb. 2022 surveys)
- Long survey with redundant or unneeded questions
- 30% of Districts receiving IISI funds have multiple surveys (4+) diluting targeted BMP implementation
- Most Districts receiving IISI funds are not completing targeted outreach in locally-determined IISI watersheds (Feb. 2022 surveys)
- No performance parameter in place to discourage requesting and not using IISI funds



Workgroup Activity

- Considered district survey results (Feb. 2022), successful program implementation needs, opportunities for improvement, feasible and reasonable changes to implement
- Updated FY24 IISI program survey – fewer questions, fix confusion areas, capture only most useful data
- Made program change recommendations considered by TRC and SWCC



Approved IISI Program Changes

- A mid-year voluntary return and re-allocation process for IISI funds will be implemented in FY2024 ([runs in conjunction with ACSP Spring Supplemental Allocation](#))
- District eligibility criteria for participation in the IISI program has been updated
 - Phased roll out will begin in FY2024

Annual IISI allocations for eligible districts will continue following ACSP fund allocation guidelines and procedures set in rule (02 NCAC 59D .0103)



IISI District Eligibility Updates – FY2024

- **NEW** Complete the FY2024 IISI Survey ; previous submitted surveys will not be accepted
 - Twenty-one questions total
 - Data/materials required to be consulted are linked
 - New resources available on IISI webpage
- **EXISTING** Survey responses must indicate:
 - Impairment or water quality degradation from agricultural activity



New Resources on IISI website:

Survey Tutorial Videos

[Tutorial Video #1](#) **NEW** - to help you complete water quality concerns questions

[Tutorial Video #2](#) **NEW** - to help you complete resource needs and district activity questions

Materials and Resources

The following materials were prepared to assist Districts in completing the online survey and all necessary steps to successfully request Impaired and Impacted Streams Initiative funds for the upcoming program year.

[MS Word Document Impaired and Impacted Streams and Watershed Survey](#) **NEW** - available for download to help you prepare responses prior to completing the online form

[Impaired and Impacted Streams Initiative Funding Request Process](#) **NEW** - flowchart identifying the steps to successfully participate in the IISI program



IISI District Eligibility Updates – FY2024

- **NEW** Complete all IISI-related questions in Strategic Plan submittal
 - Prioritize up to three HUC-12 scale watershed(s)
 - Affirm those watersheds are prioritized in the district's ACSP ranking form
 - Affirm there are outstanding CS/II requests in those watersheds
- **EXISTING** Request IISI Funds through Strategic Plan



IISI District Eligibility Updates – FY2024

- **NEW** Demonstrate high utilization of IISI allocations either through encumbrance totals by fiscal year end **OR** voluntary return of funds prior to mid-year supplemental allocations.
 - DSWC to begin tracking IISI allocation encumbrance and voluntary returns in FY2024
 - Plan to be phased in gradually (fully by FY2026) allowing time for districts to improve performance
 - 70% utilization with one recent FY allocation in last 2 years
 - 85% utilization with two recent FY allocations in last 2 years
 - Eligible regardless if no II allocation in last 2 fiscal years



IISI Utilization Criteria – Example District

Program Year	Fiscal Year	IISI Allocation	IISI Encumbrance or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	IISI Funding Returned at Fiscal Year End	% Encumbered to Contracts or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	Comments
July 1, 2023 – Jun 30, 2024	2024	\$10,000	\$7,000 +	\$3,000	70%	
July 1, 2024 – Jun 30, 2025	2025	\$10,000	\$7,000 —	\$3,000	70%	Received an allocation in FY25 because encumbered/ returned 70% of allocation before end of FY24.

\$14,000 = 70% utilization
\$20,000

Would this district be eligible to receive an IISI allocation in Fiscal Year 2026?

- A. Yes**
- B. No**



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July 1, 2024 – Jun 30, 2025	2025	\$10,000	\$7,000	\$3,000	70%	Received an allocation in FY25 because encumbered/ returned 70% of allocation before end of FY24.

No.

- 1. District received two allocations in the last two fiscal years**
- 2. Utilization % of the COMBINED two-year allocation is less than 85%**



IISI Utilization Criteria – Example District

Program Year	Fiscal Year	IISI Allocation	IISI Encumbrance or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	IISI Funding Returned at Fiscal Year End	% Encumbered to Contracts or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	Comments
July 1, 2024 – Jun 30, 2025	2025	\$10,000	\$7,000 +	\$3,000	70%	Received an allocation in FY25 because encumbered/ returned 70% of allocation before end of FY24.
July 1, 2025 – Jun 30, 2026	2026	\$0	N/A -	N/A	N/A	Did not receive an allocation in FY26 because only encumbered/returned only 70% (not 85%) of the total allocation amount in FY24 and FY25 before the end of each fiscal year. (\$14,000/\$20,000 = 70%)

$\frac{\$7,000}{\$10,000} = 70\% \text{ utilization}$

Would this district be eligible to receive an IISI allocation in Fiscal Year 2027?

- A. Yes**
- B. No**



IISI Utilization Criteria – Example District

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July 1, 2025 – Jun 30, 2026	2026	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	Did not receive an allocation in FY26 because only encumbered/returned only 70% (not 85%) of the total allocation amount in FY24 and FY25 before the end of each fiscal year. (\$14,000/\$20,000 = 70%)

Yes.

- 1. District received 1 allocation in last two FY (FY25 and FY26)**
- 2. District encumbered/returned 70% of FY25 allocation**



IISI Utilization Criteria – Example District

Program Year	Fiscal Year	IISI Allocation	IISI Encumbrance or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	IISI Funding Returned at Fiscal Year End	% Encumbered to Contracts or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	Comments
July 1, 2025 – Jun 30, 2026	2026	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	Did not receive an allocation in FY26 because only encumbered/returned only 70% (not 85%) of the total allocation amount in FY24 and FY25 before the end of each fiscal year. ($\$14,000/\$20,000 = 70\%$)
July 1, 2026 – Jun 30, 2027	2027	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$9,000	10%	Received an allocation in FY27 because only received one allocation in the last two fiscal years and encumbered/returned 70% of that single allocation in FY25. ($\$7,000/\$10,000 = 70\%$)

No 1) One allocation received in last two FY 2) Encumbered/returned <70% allocation



IISI Utilization Criteria – Example District

Program Year	Fiscal Year	IISI Allocation	IISI Encumbrance or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	IISI Funding Returned at Fiscal Year End	% Encumbered to Contracts or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	Comments
July 1, 2026 – Jun 30, 2027	2027	\$10,000	\$1,000 +	\$9,000	10%	Received an allocation in FY27 because only received one allocation in the last two fiscal years and encumbered/returned 70% of that single allocation in FY25. (\$7,000/\$10,000 = 70%)
July 1, 2027 – Jun 30, 2028	2028	\$0	N/A —	N/A	N/A	Did not receive an allocation in FY28 because only received one allocation in the last two fiscal years (FY27) and only encumbered/ returned 10% (not the required 70%) of IISI funds in FY27 before fiscal year end. (\$1,000/\$10,000 = 10%)

\$1,000 = 10% utilization
\$10,000

Would this district be eligible to receive an IISI allocation in Fiscal Year 2029?

- A. Yes**
- B. No**



IISI Utilization Criteria – Example District

Program Year	Fiscal Year	IISI Allocation	IISI Encumbrance or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	IISI Funding Returned at Fiscal Year End	% Encumbered to Contracts or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	Comments
July 1, 2026 – Jun 30, 2027	2027	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$9,000	10%	Received an allocation in FY27 because only received one allocation in the last two fiscal years and encumbered/returned 70% of that single allocation in FY25. (\$7,000/\$10,000 = 70%)
July 1, 2027 – Jun 30, 2028	2028	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	Did not receive an allocation in FY28 because only received one allocation in the last two fiscal years (FY27) and only encumbered/ returned 10% (not the required 70%) of IISI funds in FY27 before fiscal year end. (\$1,000/\$10,000 = 10%)

No 1) One allocation received in last two FY 2) Encumbered/returned <70% allocation



IISI Utilization Criteria – Example District

Program Year	Fiscal Year	IISI Allocation	IISI Encumbrance or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	IISI Funding Returned at Fiscal Year End	% Encumbered to Contracts or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	Comments
July 1, 2027 – Jun 30, 2028	2028	\$0	N/A +	N/A	N/A	Did not receive an allocation in FY28 because only received one allocation in the last two fiscal years (FY27) and only encumbered/ returned 10% (not the required 70%) of IISI funds in FY27 before fiscal year end. (\$1,000/\$10,000 = 10%)
July 1, 2028 – Jun 30, 2029	2029	\$0	N/A —	N/A	N/A	Did not receive an allocation in FY29 because only received one allocation in the last two fiscal years (FY27) and only encumbered/returned 10% (not the required 70%) of IISI funds in FY27 before fiscal year end. (\$1,000/\$10,000 = 10%)

No utilization in last two years

Would this district be eligible to receive an IISI allocation in Fiscal Year 2030?

- A. Yes**
- B. No**



Criteria 3 Implementation – Example District

Program Year	Fiscal Year	IISI Allocation	IISI Encumbrance or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	IISI Funding Returned at Fiscal Year End	% Encumbered to Contracts or Returned through Mid-Yr Voluntary Return	Comments
July 1, 2027 – Jun 30, 2028	2028	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	Did not receive an allocation in FY28 because only received one allocation in the last two fiscal years (FY27) and only encumbered/ returned 10% (not the required 70%) of IISI funds in FY27 before fiscal year end. (\$1,000/\$10,000 = 10%)
July 1, 2028 – Jun 30, 2029	2029	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	Did not receive an allocation in FY29 because only received one allocation in the last two fiscal years (FY27) and only encumbered/returned 10% (not the required 70%) of IISI funds in FY27 before fiscal year end. (\$1,000/\$10,000 = 10%)

Yes 1) Has not received an allocation in the last two fiscal years



FY2024 Reminders

- Impaired and Impacted Stream Survey is LIVE on DSWC webpage - https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/watershed/impaired_impacted.html
- Surveys for ALL WATERSHEDS where II funds will be used in FY24 are **due June 1, 2023**
- New resources on filling out the survey are available
- Request II funds through your FY2024 Strategic Plan **due June 1, 2023**.



Questions?

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