

FY2025

IMPAIRED & IMPACTED STREAMS INITIATIVE FUNDING REQUEST PROCESS

1. Watershed & Water Quality Data Gathering

- Review the [DSWC IISI Survey Webmap – FY25](#) which includes the most recent Integrated Report (IR) Water Quality Data, watersheds with current IISI surveys, and HUC 12 watersheds statewide
- Review recent watershed or basin plans:
 - [Watershed Action Plan Mapper](#)
 - [9-element Plan Mapper](#)
 - [NC Watershed Restoration Plans webpage](#)
- Review DSWC's [IISI Impact List FY2025 Webmap](#) created to assist Districts with determining streams with deteriorating water quality that are not on the state 303(d) list.
- If needed, review [additional resource links located on the IISI website](#).
- Review other stream and watershed data including aerial imagery in watershed (historical and recent), USGS gage station data, topographic maps, fish and wildlife species databases, etc.
- Consider resource concerns staff have documented or been approached to address in the watershed as well as cooperator interests and perspectives.
- Document resource concerns through photos and field notes. Consider completing one or more stream walks/visual assessments.
 - [Stream Visual Assessment Protocol \(SVAP2\) Summary Sheet](#) (more resources are available on the NC NRCS eFOTG).

2. Review Data, Formulate Alternatives, & Make Decisions

- Compare watershed/water quality data for different streams and watersheds in your county.
- Formulate which watersheds your District could prioritize in the upcoming fiscal year for BMP installation using Impaired and Impacted Streams Initiative (IISI) funds. Consider the following questions:
 - Which watersheds/streams in your county have the most degraded water quality?
 - What is contributing to the degradation?
 - Which watersheds/streams have the greatest opportunity for Agriculture Cost Share Program BMP implementation based on landowner/cooperator interest?
- Discuss information with your District Board. Decide which HUC-12 watersheds (up to three) your district will prioritize in the next fiscal year for BMP installation using IISI funds.

3. Complete Online Survey by April 12, 2024

- Complete the IISI Survey available on the [IISI webpage](#) if:
 - Your district does not have an active and approved IISI survey on file with DSWC; or
 - Your district wants to submit an IISI survey for another HUC 12 watershed
- Use collected stream and watershed data to answer survey questions.
- Describe and upload any field photos/notes from field visits or stream walks/visual assessments performed in the selected watershed.

4. Complete Strategic Plan by June 1, 2024

- To be eligible to receive Impaired and Impacted Streams Initiative funds, in annual Strategic Plans districts must:
 - Request an amount of IISI funds for the upcoming fiscal year
 - Prioritize up to three HUC-12 watersheds in which funds will be used
 - Affirm there are outstanding Agriculture Cost Share Program/IISI requests in prioritized watersheds
 - Affirm implementation in prioritized watersheds is reflected in the local ACSP ranking form
- *****NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA***** Districts that received an IISI allocation in FY24 must have demonstrated a **70% utilization** of its FY24 IISI allocation either through **encumbrance** totals by fiscal year end **OR** **voluntary return** of funds prior to mid-year supplemental allocations. Districts that did not receive an IISI allocation in FY24 do not have to meet this criteria.

5. Begin Outreach & Contracting

- The Soil and Water Conservation Commission allocates IISI funds to districts at the start of the fiscal year based on Strategic Plan requests.
- If your district has difficulty encumbering IISI funds to contracts, consider completing targeted outreach.

6. Mid-Year Voluntary Return & Supplemental Allocation

- Districts can or may voluntarily return all or portions of IISI allocations through a mid-year voluntary return process beginning in FY2024.
- Returning IISI funds through mid-year voluntary return processes will not impact district eligibility for future participation in this initiative.
- Supplemental allocations of IISI funds may be available to districts mid-program year. Supplemental allocations of IISI funds will follow the [Agriculture Cost Share Program supplemental allocation policy/process](#).

*****DSWC is tracking allocation encumbrance and voluntary return of IISI Funds*****

Eligibility for IISI funds will depend on district utilization of IISI allocations:

- **(To be phased in FY2026)** 85% utilization required if funds requested annually
- 70% utilization required if funds requested biannually



FY2025

DISTRICT ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN IMPAIRED AND IMPACTED STREAMS INITIATIVE (IISI)

