FY2025

IMPAIRED & IMPACTED STREAMS INITIATIVE FUNDING REQUEST PROCESS

${f 1.}$ Watershed & Water Quality Data Gathering

- Review the <u>DSWC IISI Survey Webmap FY25</u> 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 <u>IISI Impact List FY2025 Webmap</u> created to assist Districts with determining streams with deteriorating water quality that are not on the state 303(d) list.
- If needed, review <u>additional resource links located on the IISI</u> 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 <u>Sheet</u> (more resources are available on the NC NRCS eFOTG).

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.

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

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.

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

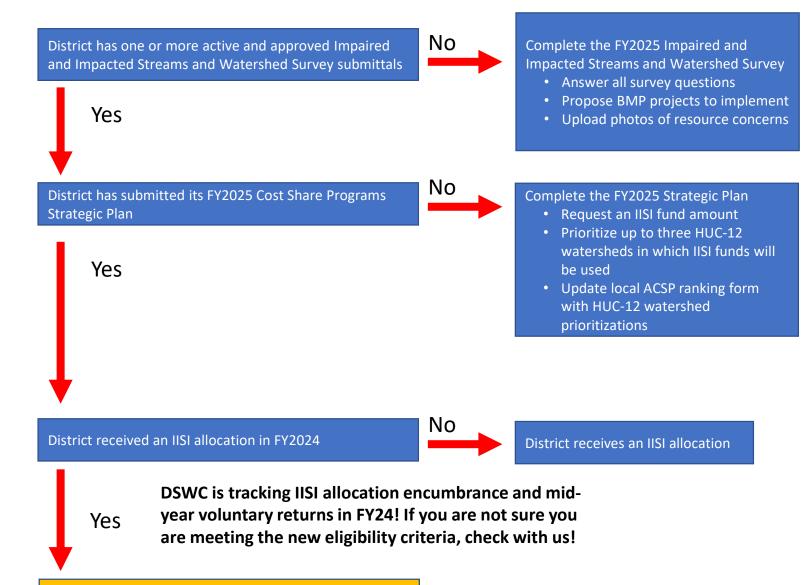
- Districts can or may voluntarily return all or portions of IISI allocations through a mid-year voluntary return process beginning in FY2024.
- Returning IISI funds through mid-year voluntary return processes will not impact district eligibility for future participation in this initiative.
- Supplemental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





FY2025

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



NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

If the District received an IISI allocation in FY2024, the District has demonstrated a **70% utilization** of its FY24 IISI allocation either through <u>encumbrance</u> totals by fiscal year end **OR** <u>voluntary return</u> of funds prior to mid-year supplemental allocations.



District receives an IISI allocation



Request IISI funds next fiscal year. District will not receive an IISI allocation for the upcoming year.

Next year (FY26) Districts that received an IISI allocation in FY24 <u>and</u> FY25 must demonstrate an 85% utilization of their combined IISI allocations for FY24 and F25!



