

# FY2026

## IMPAIRED & IMPACTED STREAMS INITIATIVE FUNDING REQUEST PROCESS

### 1. Watershed & Water Quality Data Gathering

- Review the [DSWC IISI Survey Webmap – FY26](#) 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 FY2026 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 ACSP 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 ACSP BMP installation using regular cost share and IISI funds.

### 3. Complete Online Survey by April 11, 2025

- 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, 2025

- 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
  - Add the three prioritized watersheds by name and 12-digit code and assign points in their local Agriculture Cost Share Program ranking form
  - Affirm there are outstanding Agriculture Cost Share Program/IISI requests in prioritized watersheds
- **\*\*\*NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*\*\*** Districts that received an IISI allocation in FY24 and FY25 must have demonstrated an **85% utilization** of the combined total of those allocations either through encumbrance totals by fiscal year end **OR** voluntary return of funds prior to mid-year supplemental allocations. Districts that received only one IISI allocation in the last two years (FY24 OR FY25) must have demonstrated a **70% utilization** of the allocation. Districts that did not receive an IISI allocation in FY24 or FY25 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 now voluntarily return all or portions of IISI allocations through a mid-year voluntary return process. Supplemental allocation requests mid-year can also be submitted through this process.
- **Returning IISI funds through mid-year voluntary return processes will not impact district eligibility for requesting IISI funds in FY26.**
- The voluntary return and supplemental allocation of IISI funds follows the [Agriculture Cost Share Program supplemental allocation process as outlined in policy](#).

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

Eligibility for FY26 IISI funds will in part depend on district utilization of IISI allocations:

- 85% utilization required if II funds were received in FY24 AND FY25
- 70% utilization required if funds were received in FY24 OR FY25



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

