

FY2028

IMPAIRED & IMPACTED STREAMS INITIATIVE FUNDING REQUEST PROCESS

1. Watershed & Water Quality Data Gathering

- Review the [DSWC IISI Survey Webmap – FY28](#) 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 FY2028 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 16, 2027

- 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, 2027

- 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
- *** ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ***** Districts that received an IISI allocation in FY26 and FY27 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 (FY26 OR FY27) must have demonstrated a **70% utilization** of the allocation. Districts that did not receive an IISI allocation in FY26 or FY27 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 FY28.**
- 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 FY28 IISI funds will in part depend on district utilization of IISI allocations:

- 85% utilization required if II funds were received in FY26 AND FY27
- 70% utilization required if funds were received in FY26 OR FY27



FY2028

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

District has one or more active and approved Impaired and Impacted Streams and Watershed Survey submittals

Check Approved Survey List ([Link Here](#))

No

Complete the FY2028 Impaired and Impacted Streams and Watershed Survey

- Answer all survey questions
- Propose BMP projects to implement
- Upload photos of resource concerns

Yes

District has submitted its FY2028 Cost Share Programs Strategic Plan & updated its local ACSP Ranking Form

No

Complete the FY2028 Strategic Plan

- Request an IISI fund amount
- Prioritize up to three HUC-12 watersheds in which IISI funds will be used for water quality restoration
- Add the three prioritized watersheds by name AND 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) AND assign points in the local ACSP ranking form

Yes

District received an IISI allocation in FY2026 and/or FY2027

No

District receives an IISI allocation

Yes

DSWC is tracking IISI allocation encumbrance and mid-year voluntary returns! If you are not sure if your District is meeting the new eligibility criteria, check with DSWC!

II UTILIZATION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

If the District received an IISI allocation in FY2026 AND FY2027, the District must demonstrate an **85% utilization** of the combined total of those allocations either through contract encumbrance totals by fiscal year end OR mid-year voluntary return of II funds prior to supplemental allocations. Districts that received only one IISI allocation in the last two years (FY26 OR FY27) must have demonstrated a **70% utilization** of their IISI allocation.

No

District will not receive an IISI allocation for the upcoming year. Request II funds when next eligible in one to two fiscal years.

Yes

District receives an IISI allocation

