

IRONED Grant Scoring Rubric

The following are the review criteria the review team will use to score each IRONED grant application. Each grant will be rated based on the criteria listed and given a score out of one hundred.

	Exemplary	Meets Expectations	Insufficient Evidence
(1) Project Readiness & Timeline – 30 Points Possible	<p>The project is fully shovel-ready with permits, plans, and contractors in place. The timeline clearly demonstrates completion of renovations within 12 months and tenant occupancy within 18 months. Implementation risks are minimal and well addressed.</p> <p>(21-30 Points)</p>	<p>The project appears ready to proceed and includes a generally achievable timeline that aligns with program requirements. Some details or minor risks remain, but overall readiness is sufficient to support completion within the required timeframes.</p> <p>(11-20 Points)</p>	<p>Project readiness is unclear or incomplete. The timeline is missing, unrealistic, or does not clearly meet program deadlines. Significant barriers or uncertainties may delay implementation or occupancy.</p> <p>(0-10 Points)</p>
(2) Feasibility – 20 Points Possible	<p>The application demonstrates strong overall feasibility, with clear evidence that the project can be completed successfully. The project team has relevant experience, appropriate staffing, and a sound management approach, with risks identified and mitigation strategies in place.</p> <p>(14-20 Points)</p>	<p>The project appears feasible and the applicant demonstrates adequate capacity to complete the work. Some risks or uncertainties are present but are not likely to prevent successful completion.</p> <p>(7-13 Points)</p>	<p>The feasibility of the project is uncertain. Applicant capacity, experience, or project management structure is unclear, and significant risks are not addressed.</p> <p>(0-6 Points)</p>
(3) Funding Need – 20 Points Possible	<p>The application clearly demonstrates that IRONED funds represent the final gap needed for project completion. All other funding sources are secured, the required cash match is documented, and the financial structure is realistic and complete.</p>	<p>The project shows a reasonable need for gap financing and most funding sources are identified. The match appears attainable, though documentation or clarity may be limited.</p>	<p>The need for IRONED funding as gap financing is unclear. The funding stack is incomplete, match funding is uncertain, or the financial plan lacks sufficient detail to demonstrate viability.</p>

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	(14-20 Points)	(7-13 Points)	(0-6 Points)
(4) Building Reuse & Alignment – 15 Points Possible	The project will return a vacant, underutilized, or dilapidated industrial or manufacturing building to productive use. A tenant is secured or strongly committed, and the project clearly aligns with the program’s goal of revitalizing industrial space. (11-15 Points)	The proposed renovation supports appropriate industrial or manufacturing use and aligns with program goals. A tenant is likely but not fully secured, and the reuse of the building appears reasonable. (6-10 Points)	The future use of the building is unclear or not well aligned with the program intent. Tenant plans are uncertain, and the project may not strongly support productive industrial reuse. (0-5 Points)
(5) Economic Impact & Community Benefit – 10 Points	The project demonstrates strong potential to create or retain jobs, stimulate economic activity, and provide meaningful benefits to the rural community. Long-term positive impacts are clearly described. (7-10 Points)	The project is expected to generate moderate economic benefits, including some job creation or business growth. Community benefits are described but not fully quantified. (4-6 Points)	Economic impact and community benefit are limited, unclear, or not well supported. Job creation or broader economic outcomes are minimal or uncertain. (0-5 Points)
(7) Project Budget – 5 Points	The budget is clear, reasonable, and aligned with eligible construction and renovation costs. Expenses are well justified. (4-5 Points)	The budget generally aligns with eligible costs and appears reasonable, though minor clarifications or adjustments may be needed. (2-3 Points)	The budget is unclear, includes ineligible costs, or lacks sufficient detail to determine whether expenses are reasonable and allowable. (0-1 Points)
Total: 100 Points			