

IWRC SEED FUND FACT SHEET

ABOUT THE IWRC SEED FUND PROGRAM

The Illinois Water Resources Research Center (IWRC) Seed Fund Program provides competitive grants to support innovative water resources research at Illinois institutions. This one-time seed funding has enabled researchers to develop preliminary data that supports larger federal grant proposals.

KEY FINDINGS (2015-2024)

Total Investment
\$2,711,544 invested in 77 unique projects

Student Training
117 students trained across all degree levels

- 39 PhD students
- 24 Master's students
- 52 Undergraduate students
- 2 Post-Doctoral researchers

Institutional Reach
12 Illinois institutions served by the program

Research Distribution
Programs span diverse water resources research topics including water quality, water treatment, groundwater, flooding, and environmental remediation.

FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON (2020-2024)

Recent Focus (2020-2024)
\$2,026,150 invested in 47 projects
58 students trained

Investment Per Project
10-Year Average: \$35,215 per project
5-Year Average: \$43,110 per project

PROGRAM IMPACT

- Provides preliminary data for larger federal grant proposals
 - Supports graduate and undergraduate education
- Addresses critical water resources challenges in Illinois
 - Promotes collaboration across multiple institutions
 - Builds research capacity in underrepresented areas

Data corrected November 24, 2025 - Represents unique projects in the program