

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

\$8,516,278 invested in 77 unique projects

Student Training

304 students trained across all degree levels

- 118 PhD students
- 52 Master's students
- 127 Undergraduate students
- 7 Post-Doctoral researchers

Institutional Reach

16 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)

\$7,319,144 invested in 47 projects
186 students trained

Investment Per Project

10-Year Average: \$110,601 per project
5-Year Average: \$155,726 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