

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IWRC Seed Fund Program 2015-2024

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Illinois Water Resources Research Center (IWRC) administers a competitive seed funding program designed to support innovative water resources research projects at Illinois institutions. Over a ten-year period (2015-2024), the program has made significant investments in research and education.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Financial Performance:

• Total Program Investment:	\$	8,516,278
• Average Cost per Project:	\$	110,601
• Average Cost per Student Trained:	\$	28,014

Research Scope:

• Number of Projects Funded:	77
• Number of Institutions Served:	16

Education Impact:

• Total Students Trained:	304
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Degree Level Distribution:

- PhD Students:	118
- Master's Students:	52
- Undergraduate Students:	127
- Post-Doctoral Researchers:	7

RECENT PERFORMANCE (2020-2024)

The five-year period from 2020-2024 demonstrates continued program activity:

• Investment Level:	\$	7,319,144
• Projects Funded:		47
• Students Trained:		186

CONCLUSIONS

The IWRC Seed Fund Program continues to serve as a catalyst for water resources research and education across Illinois. The program successfully:

- ✓ Provides seed funding for innovative research projects
- ✓ Supports graduate and undergraduate student training
- ✓ Reaches all regions of Illinois through diverse institutions
- ✓ Enables development of preliminary data for larger federal grants
- ✓ Advances understanding of critical water resources issues

Data Source: Corrected analysis as of November 24, 2025