

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:	\$2,711,544
Average Cost per Project:	\$35,215
Average Cost per Student Trained:	\$23,176

Research Scope:

Number of Projects Funded:	77
Number of Institutions Served:	12

Education Impact:

Total Students Trained:	117
<i>Degree Level Distribution:</i>	
- PhD Students:	39
- Master's Students:	24
- Undergraduate Students:	52
- Post-Doctoral Researchers:	2

RECENT PERFORMANCE (2020-2024)

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

Investment Level:	\$2,026,150
Projects Funded:	47
Students Trained:	58

CONCLUSIONS

- 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