Subd. 13.Grants and loans for economic development projects; requirements. (a) Prior to awarding any grants or approving loans from any fund or account from which the commissioner has the authority under law to expend money, the commissioner must evaluate applications based on criteria including, but not limited to:

(1) job creation or retention goals for the project, including but not limited to wages and benefits, and whether the jobs created are full time, part time, temporary, or permanent;
(2) whether the applicant's stated job creation or retention goals can be adequately measured using methods established by the commissioner;
(3) how and to what extent the project proposed by the applicant is expected to impact the economic climate of the Iron Range resources and rehabilitation services area;
(4) how the applicant would meet match requirements, if any; and
(5) whether the project for which a grant or loan application has been submitted meets the written objectives, priorities, and policies established by the commissioner.

(b) The commissioner, if appropriate, may include incentives in loan and grant award agreements to promote and assist grant recipients in achieving the stated job creation and retention objectives established by the commissioner.

(c) For all loans and grants awarded from funds under the commissioner's authority pursuant to this chapter, the commissioner must:

(1) maintain a database for tracking loan and grant awards;
(2) maintain an objective mechanism for measuring job creation and retention;
(3) verify achievement of job creation and retention goals by grant and loan recipients;
(4) monitor grant and loan awards to ensure that projects comply with applicable Iron Range resources and rehabilitation policies; and
(5) verify that grant or loan recipients have met applicable matching fund requirements.