

Adopted: March 25, 2011
Reaffirmed: March 25, 2016

Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency Investment Guidelines

Public Authorities Law (PAL) requires each public benefit corporation to adopt investment guidelines regarding the investing, monitoring and reporting of funds of the corporation and annually review and approve such guidelines (section 2925 of PAL).

Investing

The primary investment objective for managing funds of the IURA is to preserve capital and comply with all applicable regulations and requirements pertaining to the funds managed. A secondary investment objective is to maximize interest earned on monies managed by the IURA. A tertiary investment objective is to deposit investment funds in qualified financial institutions that meet the financial needs of residents and businesses within the IURA service area. An additional consideration is ease of administration and services offered by depository institutions, such as the availability of internet banking, including on-line documentation of cancelled checks and account balances, and free wire transfers.

Because the IURA acts as a pass-through of grant funds from federal agencies to end users, the grant funding source agency may establish special requirements for management of such funds. For instance, the US Department of Housing & Urban Development requires that all bank interest earned on HUD funds be remitted to the US Treasury annually.

Agency monies may be invested in obligations of the US Treasury or deposited in federally insured commercial banks, trust companies, or credit unions, preferably institutions located within the City of Ithaca and the urban renewal project boundary area. Agency monies may be deposited in the above-listed institutions in demand accounts and certificates of deposit.

Collateral is required for demand deposits and certificates of deposit at a minimum of 100% of all deposits not covered by federal deposit insurance. Obligations that may be pledged as collateral are obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of New York State and its municipalities and school districts.

Signatories on deposit accounts shall be designated by resolution of the IURA. Only a designated signatory is authorized to establish investment accounts. Two signatures of designated signatories shall be required on all checks issued by the IURA.

Monitoring

Investment statements shall be reconciled with the general ledger on a monthly basis. The reconciliation shall be reviewed by staff to verify that the investment statements and the IURA balance sheet match on a monthly basis.

No less than annually, the Agency shall review its investment guidelines and its investments.

Reporting

An independent auditor shall review IURA investments on an annual basis as part of the independent audit of financial statements. The IURA shall review the independent audit and address any recommendations, concerns or findings.