



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Loan and Grant Opportunities

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With a mission to conserve, develop, protect and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) was created more than 75 years ago to provide policy direction on water issues.

To further its mission, the CWCB provides financial assistance to water providers and other entities in Colorado through loans and grants for a variety of water-related projects, studies, planning efforts, awareness campaigns and other activities.

The CWCB Website, www.cwcb.state.co.us, provides a wealth of information about the many loans and grants available through the agency, as well as specific information about the application process for each loan and grant. The following is a brief overview of the CWCB's funding programs.

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Water Project Loan Program

The Water Project Loan Program provides low-interest loans to agricultural, municipal and commercial borrowers for the design and construction of raw water projects, such as reservoirs, ditches and canals, pipelines, and diversion structures; water rights purchases; flood control; and hydroelectric projects. A minimum loan request of \$100,000 is recommended.

Who Can Apply

Any private or public entity that can contract with the state and that can establish and document the need for the project may apply for a loan. The project sponsor must show that the project is technically, economically, institutionally and financially feasible.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should:

1. Contact the CWCB's Finance Section at 303-866-3441 to discuss the schedules, deadlines and requirements.
2. Visit the CWCB Website to review the Water Project Loan Program Guidelines, which outline the steps for developing a Loan Feasibility Study.
3. Follow the online instructions to submit an Application and a Loan Feasibility Study to the CWCB's Finance Section.
4. Attend the CWCB Board meeting where the loan is presented for approval.

When to Apply

Loan requests under \$10 million may be submitted throughout the year. Loan requests \$10 million and greater must be submitted to the CWCB by August 1 each year.

Water Supply Reserve Account Program

The Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) Program provides grants and loans to assist Colorado water users in addressing their critical water supply needs. The funds help eligible entities complete water activities, which may include:

- Technical assistance regarding permitting, feasibility studies and environmental compliance;
- Studies or analysis of structural, nonstructural, consumptive and nonconsumptive water needs, projects or activities; and
- Structural and nonstructural water projects or activities.



For additional information, such as related forms and approval processes, visit the CWCB Website, www.cwcb.state.co.us.

The two types of Water Supply Reserve Account Grants are:

1. The Basin Account, which funds water activities from a basin roundtable. The CWCB evaluates applications for the Basin Account to ensure the Threshold Criteria outlined in the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines are met.
2. The Statewide Account, which funds water activities from a basin roundtable on a competitive basis. The CWCB evaluates applications for the Statewide Account using the Evaluation Criteria outlined in the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, and ensures each application meets the Threshold Criteria.

Who Can Apply

Eligible entities that may apply for grants or loans from the Program include:

- Public (Government)—municipalities, enterprises, counties and State of Colorado agencies
- Public (Districts)—special, water and sanitation, conservancy, conservation, irrigation and water activity enterprises
- Private Incorporated—mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations and non-profit corporations
- Private—individuals, partnerships and sole proprietors are eligible for Basin Funds but are not eligible for Statewide Funds
- Non-governmental organizations—typically non-profit but also includes for-profit corporations

For requests from the Statewide Account, applicants must demonstrate a 20 percent (or greater) match of the total grant request from other sources, including but not limited to Basin Funds.

How to Apply

Requests for funds from the Account must be approved by at least one of Colorado's nine basin roundtables. The request is then forwarded to the CWCB to evaluate and make final funding decisions.

Interested applicants should:

1. Review the WSRA Grant Criteria and Guidelines, which can be found on the CWCB Website.
2. Obtain written approval from the basin roundtable in which the activity will occur. Per Threshold Criteria #4, the letter must contain a description of how the water activity will assist in meeting the water supply needs identified in the basin roundtable's consumptive and/or nonconsumptive needs assessments.
3. Follow the online instructions to submit the Application form, statement of work, budget and schedule 60 days prior to the CWCB Board meeting.

Applicants also should plan to work with CWCB staff to address any issues or additional needs prior to CWCB Board review, as well as submit a W-9 and Insurance Certificate form, if requested.

When to Apply

Basin Account applications are accepted throughout the year 60 days prior to a bi-monthly Board meeting. Statewide Account applications are due 60 days prior to the September Board meeting.

Severance Tax Trust Fund Operational Account Grants

The Severance Tax Trust Fund Operational Account Grants Program exists primarily to provide grants for regional water resource planning studies and associated demonstration projects. The projects supported by the Severance Tax Trust Fund Operational Account must promote natural resource planning, management and development related to minerals, energy, geology and water.

Who Can Apply

Any private or public entity that can contract with the state and that can establish and document the need for the project may apply for funding.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should contact the CWCB's Finance Section at 303-866-3441. If the project or study is determined to be eligible for funding, applicants should follow the online instructions to complete the Application and submit it to the CWCB's Finance Section.

When to Apply

Applications are due January 31 each year with funds available 18 months later.



Construction Fund Non-Reimbursable Project Investment Grants

Funding for Non-Reimbursable Project Investments is very limited and utilizes money from the Construction Fund. The funds are to be used primarily for:

- Water-related projects or studies of statewide impact or importance.
- Feasibility Studies and projects designed to address statewide, region-wide or basin-wide water issues.

Who Can Apply

Any private or public entity that can contract with the state and that can establish and document the need for the project may apply for funding.

How to Apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the CWCB's Finance Section at 303-866-3441. If the project or study is determined to be eligible for funding, the applicant should follow the online instructions to complete the Application and submit it to the CWCB.

When to Apply

Applications are due by August 1 each year with funds available the following July.

Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Program

The Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Program provides up to \$1 million annually, in the form of loans or grants, for emergency drought-related water augmentation purposes to Colorado's agricultural water users.

Who Can Apply

Agricultural organizations located in areas where a drought disaster emergency has been proclaimed can apply.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should contact the CWCB's Finance Section at 303-866-3441. If the project is determined to be eligible for funding, the applicant should submit a letter to the CWCB with a requested dollar amount and a description of how those dollars will be spent.

When to Apply

Applications must be submitted within three months after the end of any fiscal year during which a drought was declared.

Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grants

The Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grants Program assists in developing and implementing creative alternatives to the traditional purchase and transfer of agricultural water. These alternative methods could include:

- Interruptible supply agreements
- Long-term rotational fallowing
- Water banks
- Deficit/partial irrigation practices
- Alternate cropping types

Who Can Apply

Any private or public entity that can contract with the state and that can establish and document the need for the project is eligible to apply for funds.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should review the Application on the CWCB Website and follow the online instructions to submit an Application.

When to Apply

Applications are due to the CWCB 60 days prior to the January Board meeting for consideration at the January meeting. If funds are not exhausted, the Board will determine when it will consider additional rounds of applications. Interested applicants should contact the CWCB's Water Supply Planning Section at 303-866-3441 for more information.

Technical Assistance Grants for Flood Response

Through the Program, CWCB staff provide expertise with pre- and post-flood mitigation efforts. The CWCB is capable of offering technical assistance to support community or multi-sponsor plans and projects aimed at reducing flood losses. This includes technical guidance for near- and long-term decision-making as a result of emergency flood conditions.

A limited amount of funds also are available most years from the CWCB to assist local governments with flood assessment, feasibility, design and planning needs. The funds are awarded to requesting local governments on a case-by-case basis, based on the amount of funds available in any particular year and the amount of money requested. Not all requests will be funded, but consideration will be given to all requests.

Who Can Apply

The funds are intended for local governments who are expected to provide a significant cost share toward final products. With limited exceptions, these funds are not to be used to help fund construction.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should contact the CWCB's Watershed and Flood Protection Section at 303-866-3441 for more information.

When to Apply

Applications are accepted throughout the year as funds are available. Contact the CWCB's Watershed and Flood Protection Section for additional information.

Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund Grants

Established jointly by the CWCB and the Water Quality Control Commission, in cooperation with the Colorado Watershed Assembly, the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund Grants Program helps support local watershed organizations in their efforts to provide clean water, protect habitat, and improve recreation and accessibility.

The Program is financed by the Colorado Individual Income Tax Refund Check-off Program, which gives taxpayers the opportunity to contribute a portion of their tax return or to make a donation to assist locally-based conservation groups in their efforts to protect our land and water resources.



Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include locally-based watershed protection groups who are committed to a collaborative approach to the restoration and protection of lands and natural resources within Colorado's watersheds.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should:

1. Review the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund Guidance on the CWCB Website.
2. Follow the online instructions to submit an Application, including all attachments, via email as one file to the CWCB's Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund Grants Program.

When to Apply

Applications must be submitted by April 30. Funds are awarded by September 30 each year.

Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants

The Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants Program provides grants for watershed/stream restoration and flood mitigation projects throughout the state.

Who Can Apply

Organizations interested in developing watershed/stream restoration and flood mitigation studies and projects may be eligible to apply for a grant.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should contact the CWCB's Watershed and Flood Protection Section at 303-866-3441 to discuss project eligibility. Then, review the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Guidance and follow the online instructions to submit an Application via email to the CWCB.

When to Apply

Applications must be submitted by January 31. Funds are awarded by July 1 each year.



Water Efficiency Grants

The Water Efficiency Grants Program provides financial assistance to communities, water providers and eligible agencies for water conservation-related activities and projects.

Who Can Apply

Eligible entities, as well as state and local governments and agencies, can apply for one of four Water Efficiency Grants:

1. Water Conservation Planning Grants: For water providers seeking to develop or update their water conservation plans.
2. Water Conservation Implementation Grants: For water providers implementing water conservation plan goals and programs identified in locally adopted and CWCB-approved water conservation plans.
3. Drought Mitigation Planning Grants: For water providers or state and local government entities developing drought mitigation and response plans.
4. Water Resource Conservation Public Education and Outreach Grants: For agencies seeking to promote the benefits of water resource conservation through public education and outreach.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should:

1. Review the relevant Grant Guidelines on the CWCB Website—each of the four grant types has variable guidelines that must be followed to apply for a grant.
2. Develop application content following the Guidelines.
3. Follow the online instructions to submit the Application to the CWCB's Water Efficiency Grants Program.

When to Apply

Requests under \$50,000 are accepted throughout the year. Requests of \$50,000 or more must be submitted the first day of the month prior to a bi-monthly Board meeting.

For additional information, such as related forms and approval processes, visit the CWCB Website, www.cwcb.state.co.us.

Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund Grants

The CWCB has been authorized by the State of Colorado to grant money to existing water supply facilities to help preserve a balance between development of the state's resources and the protection of the state's fish and wildlife resources. The grant money is awarded for mitigation of existing water diversion, delivery or storage facilities.

More specifically, applications for mitigation grants will be accepted for the following types of projects:

- The appropriation or acquisition of water rights for the purpose of preserving or improving the natural environment to a reasonable degree to mitigate the impact of an existing water facility.
- River restoration feasibility studies and construction projects that are designed to directly mitigate or significantly improve the environmental impacts of existing water facilities.

Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include the CWCB and operators of existing water diversion, delivery or storage facility projects.

Entities that do not operate such facilities, such as certain municipalities, watershed groups and others, are encouraged to contact the CWCB's Watershed and Flood Protection Section at 303-866-3441 to explore the opportunity for joint application with the CWCB.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should:

1. Call the CWCB at 303-866-3441 to discuss potential applications and to submit a pre-application to the CWCB. A pre-application provides applicants the opportunity to obtain a non-binding opinion from CWCB staff on whether a particular conceptual proposal may be an appropriate project for funding from the Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund.
2. Review the Grant Packet available online.
3. Follow the online instructions to complete an Application and submit it electronically (CD or email) to the CWCB.

When to Apply

Applications are accepted throughout the year.



Weather Modification Grants

The Weather Modification Grant Program provides state grants to water providers and local governments to assist in funding ground-based wintertime operational cloud seeding programs. The state funding is designed to model successes in Utah where state funding has helped local water user-sponsored cloud seeding programs for decades. Currently only wintertime, ground-based cloud seeding is eligible for a grant. Weather modification programs, like summertime hail cannons, aerial hail suppression and rain augmentation programs, are not eligible. Grants are not eligible for field research projects unless they are requested by local sponsors as part of their annual request to the CWCB.

Who Can Apply

The Program is only available to existing permitted cloud seeding programs managed by water user groups and city and county governments. Ski areas and other interests are not currently eligible for cloud seeding grants even if they do participate in an existing permitted cloud seeding program.

How to Apply

Grants are currently only available for permitted cloud seeding programs. To leverage the Weather Modification Grants Program, applicants will need to develop a plan and funding at a local level, and then apply for a weather modification permit. Annual requests come from the local-level project sponsors to the CWCB.

When to Apply

Applications should be submitted to the CWCB by July 1 for projects to be completed the following winter.



