

Stream Restoration Account of Flood and Drought Response Fund
Grant Program Guidance
May 2014

Background

Senate Bill 14-179, proposed to the 2014 Colorado General Assembly, establishes funding for stream restoration in response to the September 2013 floods. The legislative declaration states:

(2) (a) FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING GRANTS TO HELP PAY THE COSTS OF WATERSHED CLEANUP AND STREAM RESTORATION IN AREAS AFFECTED BY THE SEPTEMBER 2013 FLOOD, THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE RESPONSE FUND THE STREAM RESTORATION GRANT ACCOUNT, REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION (2) AS THE "STREAM RESTORATION ACCOUNT". THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD SHALL APPROVE GRANTS BASED SOLELY ON CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD. AS PART OF THE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES THAT THE BOARD ADOPTS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE BOARD SHALL PERMIT PRIVATE ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY FOR GRANTS.

(b) THE MONEYS IN THE STREAM RESTORATION ACCOUNT ARE CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD FOR GRANT-MAKING PURPOSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2). ALL INTEREST EARNED FROM THE INVESTMENT OF MONEYS IN THE STREAM RESTORATION ACCOUNT IS CREDITED TO THE STREAM RESTORATION ACCOUNT. ANY MONEYS NOT EXPENDED AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR REVERT TO THE RESPONSE FUND AND DO NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND.

(c) ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER FROM THE DISASTER EMERGENCY FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-706 (2) (a), C.R.S., TO THE STREAM RESTORATION ACCOUNT THE SUM OF TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

(d) THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AND ACCEPT GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (2); EXCEPT THAT THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MAY NOT ACCEPT A GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION THAT IS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THIS SUBSECTION (2) OR ANY OTHER LAW OF THE STATE. THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD SHALL TRANSMIT ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MONEYS RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THEM TO THE

STREAM RESTORATION ACCOUNT.

(e) THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is the state executive branch agency responsible for state water policy and planning. The Board's mission is to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations. Its major programs include Watershed & Flood Protection; Water Supply Planning; Finance; Stream and Lake Protection; and Intrastate & Federal. More information about the CWCB and its sections can be found at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/>.

The purpose of this Grant Program Guidance is to establish and describe the program for the issuance and administration of 2013 flood restoration grants from the CWCB Flood and Drought Response Fund.

Grant Approval Criteria

1. Application Requirements

The Stream Restoration Grant Account within the Flood and Drought Response Fund has an objective to provide design and construction services for stream restoration projects. Planning and project efforts that integrate multi-objectives in restoration and flood mitigation will score higher than single objective applications. This may include projects designed to reconfigure stream channels, stabilize stream channels, remove debris from the stream channel and/or floodplain, provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species, re-vegetate riparian areas, mitigate flood hazards, improve recreational opportunities, provide fish passage, and increase the capacity to utilize water.

The funds from this Grant Program cannot be utilized for reimbursing work on projects that has already been completed.

Basic Applicant Qualifications

Grant applicants must demonstrate:

- a commitment to collaborative approaches, involving locally and/or regionally based diverse interests within the watershed in question, with participation open to all interested persons in the watershed;
- a commitment to restoring or protecting ecological processes that connect land and water while protecting life and property from flood hazards;
- a broad based involvement in and/or support for the grant application, including relevant local, state, or federal governmental entities
- active collaboration and consultation with local government with land use authority and those governments affected by proposed projects; and

- an ability to provide the appropriate in-kind or cash match for the activities proposed.

Grant applications that do not demonstrate the above criteria will be disqualified from the application review process.

Eligible applicants include state agencies, county and municipal governments, state-recognized special districts, non-governmental organizations, and private entities and individuals. Federal agencies are not eligible for grants under this program.

CWCB staff may initiate demonstration projects utilizing up to 25% of the authorized Program funding amount.

CWCB may reserve 10% of the annually authorized Program funding for program management, monitoring, and evaluation of projects.

2. Application Evaluation Criteria

As a threshold matter, only grant applications that conform to the Application Requirements set forth above in B. (1.) will be considered. Grant applications that meet these qualifications will then be evaluated with respect to the following three factors:

- How *well* does the applicant fit the qualifications test?
- Does the applicant organization have the capability to *accomplish* the proposed work?
- How effective is the proposal at accomplishing the goals of restoration or flood mitigation”?

These factors will be evaluated by applying the following criteria and rating system:

Qualifications Evaluation (Maximum of 30 points)

This factor assesses how *well* the applicant fits the qualifications test:

- 2.1 Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders’ level of participation and involvement. Confirm that affected local jurisdictions have been consulted and collaborated with through written communication documentation or letters of support. 10 points
- 2.2 What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed project? Include any relevant information regarding existing watershed master plans, geomorphic assessments, flood studies, riparian conditions assessments, aquatic/terrestrial habitat conditions, and/or river restoration reports. 10 points
- 2.3 Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities. The applicant must provide at least 50% match of the total project cost. Discuss whether other funding sources are secured or pending. 10 points

Organizational Capability (Maximum of 20 points)

- 3.1 What is the applicant's history of accomplishments in the watershed? Provide several past project examples. List partner organizations and agencies with which applicant worked to implement past projects. 10 points
- 3.2 What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project. Will volunteers be utilized, and if so, how? Include brief resumes for each member of the active project team. 10 points

Effectiveness of Proposal (50 points)

- 3.1 Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic. Discuss the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project. Please use the attached budget/timeline spreadsheet. 10 points
- 3.2 Discuss the multi-objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other. Describe similar activities in the watershed and how this project complements but does not duplicate those activities. Multi objectives may include (but are not limited to) channel stabilization, riparian re-vegetation, habitat improvement, recreation opportunity enhancement, natural hazard reduction, flood mitigation, water supply delivery improvement, fish migration improvement, and low flow channel development. 30 points
- 3.3 Describe the proposed monitoring plan. How will the project measure success of its objectives? 10 points

In addition, applications must be submitted electronically and written according to the following format:

Font size: minimum 11 pt

Margins: 1 inch

Maximum number of pages: 5 (excluding maps and attachments)

Projects from qualified applicants will be ranked based on these criteria for the purpose of determining which projects receive grant funds.

Grant Program Administration

1. Application Process

Timeline

The anticipated timeline for the initial grant application cycle is:

- Applications available: June 2, 2014
- Deadline to submit applications: July 1, 2014
- Applications reviewed: July 25, 2014
- Grants awarded: July 25, 2014
- progress reports due: Every 6 months after notice to proceed

If money is still remaining in the grant account following the first grant application cycle, a second application cycle will be held with the following timeline. Additional grant cycles will be held every two months until funds from the grant program are exhausted.

- Notification of remaining funds: August 1, 2014
- Deadline to submit applications: August 15, 2014
- Applications reviewed: September 25, 2014
- Grants awarded: September 25, 2014
- Progress reports due: Every 6 months after notice to proceed

Applications will be presented to the CWCB board at regular meetings for final approval.

Contact Information

Interested parties are strongly encouraged to call the CWCB to discuss potential applications.

For more information, please contact:

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2. Payment Procedure

- * The CWCB will make between 1 and 4 payments, as requested by each grantee. The individual payments do not need to be equal. All payments will be based on invoices for work already completed.
- * The final payment will be at least 10% of the total grant award, which will not be released until full completion of grant and upon preparation and approval of a final report.