

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application

Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as "project") funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Supply and Demand Gap Projects Water Storage Projects Conservation, Land Use Planning Engagement & Innovation Activities Agricultural Projects Environmental & Recreation Projects Gregory.Johnson@state.co.us Anna.Mauss@state.co.us Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us Mara.MacKillop@state.co.us Brent.Newman@state.co.us Linda.Bassi@state.co.us

Applicants interested in submitting an 'Intent to Apply' in the future are encouraged to check here and fill in all sections with the best information available at the time. Exhibits may be excluded.

This "Intent to Apply" will help CWCB prioritize Projects that are not ready for fully completed Water Plan Grant Application due to the initial timeframe and required deadlines.

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials to <u>waterplan.grants@state.co.us</u> in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents.

Water Project Summary					
Name of Applicant	National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC)				
Name of Water Project		g Farmers as Water Leaders through Colorado Policy Bootcamps			
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$33,080			
Other Funding Sources – NYFC		\$8,200			
Other Funding Sources –		\$			
Other Funding Sources		\$			
Applicant Funding Contribution		\$			
Total Project Cost		\$41,280			



Applicant & Grantee Information				
Name of Grantee(s)	National Young Farmers Coalition			
Mailing Address	1309 E. 3 rd Ave, Durango, CO 81301			
FEIN				
Organization Contact	Kate Greenberg			
Position/Title	Western Program Director			
Email	kate@youngfarmers.org			
Phone	518-643-3564 x 204			
Grant Management Contact	Natana Roots			
Position/Title	Operations Manager			
Email	Natana@youngfarmers.org			
Phone	518-643-3564			
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)				
Mailing Address				
Position/Title				
Email				
Phone				

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).

The National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) represents, mobilizes, and engages young farmers and ranchers to ensure their success. Since our founding by three young farmers in 2010, NYFC has developed 37 chapters in 26 states, and a grassroots network of more than 130,000 young farmers and supporters working together for change. NYFC tackles the most critical structural and economic barriers preventing motivated young people from farming, with the goal of helping 25,000 young people enter into viable farming careers by 2022. Our work consists of coalition building, policy reform, and business services. NYFC's western program is headquartered in Durango, Colorado. (100 words)



	Type of Eligible Entity (check one)				
	Public (Government): Municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.				
	Public (Districts): Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.				
	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.				
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: Private parties may be eligible for funding.				
х	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.				
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes.				

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)					
	Study				
	Construction				
	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)				
Х	Other				

	Category of Water Project (check all that apply and include relevant tasks)					
	Supply and Demand Gap - Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>					
	Water Storage - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>					
	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>					
x	 Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. Applicable Exhibit A Task(s): Host 4-5 young farmer Water Bootcamps in Colorado Formalize Water Bootcamp curriculum Seek accreditation and/or endorsement for Water Bootcamps by a trusted water entity (such as the state or Colorado Foundation for Water Education) Increase young farmer engagement in Basin Roundtables 					



x	 Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> Integrate conservation and efficiency cost-share resource list into Water Bootcamp curriculum, including CWCB federal cost-share support Expand and share NYFC's online resource portal to include state and federal conservation cost-share opportunities 			
	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):			
	Other	Explain:		

Location of Water Project					
	Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.				
County/Counties	All Colorado counties feasible under this project, depending on where there is demand from agricultural communities for Water Bootcamp trainings.				
Latitude					
Longitude					

Water Project Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.



Last Updated: July 2017

Water Project Overview

Due to the aging farmer population, two-thirds of Colorado's agricultural lands will need a new farmer in the next twenty years. That means agricultural water will also need new farmers to care for and put it to beneficial use. Ensuring young farmers understand and engage with Colorado water is critical to cultivating that next generation of agricultural water stewards.

The goal of this project is to educate young farmers and ranchers on state water law and policy through NYFC Water Bootcamps, and empower them to take on roles of water leadership.

NYFC Water Bootcamps provide young farmers and engaged community members with a foundational understanding of Prior Appropriation and water policy, including the Colorado Water Plan. NYFC has already hosted four Water Bootcamps in Colorado in the last year, reaching over 125 producers and partnering with our four Colorado chapters and dozens of partners and presenters. We are now ready to formalize the curriculum, expand producer access, and prepare young people to participate in Basin Roundtables.

Water Bootcamps are inherently collaborative and connect young farmers with water professionals. These relationships allow the impact of these to ripple well beyond the content of the course. (194 words)

Measurable Results

To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)			
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive			
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)			
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)			
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)			
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)			
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms			
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning			
At least 200 farmers and ranchers	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity			



Last Updated: July 2017

Measurable Results

Other	Explain:
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Water Project Justification Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the applicable Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers). The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) The project supports the following goals of the following plans: Colorado Water Plan: Sec. 6.3.4 Agricultural Conservation, Efficiency, and Reuse Goal(s): "Promote water efficiency ethic throughout Colorado"; and "Seek creative options for improving agricultural irrigation conservation and efficiency" Critical action 1.a.: "Outreach to the agricultural community about available agricultural water conservation techniques and incentives." How this project supports these goals: NYFC Water Bootcamps will educate young farmers and ranchers on the benefits of conservation and efficiency and available cost-share support through state and federal programs; Water Bootcamps may include farm tours in which producers will share with one another • challenges and opportunities to enhancing on-farm water conservation and efficiency. Sec. 9.5: Outreach, Engagement, and Public Education Goal: "Colorado's Water Plan provides technical and financial assistance for high-quality, balanced, and grassroots water education and outreach efforts that inform Coloradans about the issues so that they may engage in determining Colorado's water future." Measurable objective: "Significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys." How this project supports this goal: NYFC Water Bootcamps are grassroots workshops that convene water professionals across the state. They engage NYFC farmer-led chapters and agricultural and conservation partners and, as they are open to the community, often reach the non-producer public interested in becoming better informed about water in Colorado;

• NYFC tracks impact through participant surveys and feedback forms following each Water Bootcamp.

SWSI:



Last Updated: July 2017

Water Project Justification

Goal: "Continue to lead the dialogue and foster cooperation among water interests in every basin and between basins for the purpose of implementing solutions to Colorado's water supply challenges."

Goal: "Develop and implement a plan to educate and promote stewardship of water resources that recognizes water's critical role in supporting the quality of life and economic prosperity of all Coloradoans."

How this project supports these goals:

- NYFC Water Bootcamps prioritize collaboration across basins and sectors. Participants should leave with a greater understanding of water locally and statewide;
- NYFC Water Bootcamp curriculum teaches the importance of the multiple uses of water for the economic, ecological, and social prosperity of the state.

BRT BIP & Education Action Plan: Example: Southwest Basin Roundtable

This project is for implementation statewide. We intend to host Water Bootcamps in regions where our chapters are located – Four Corners, Roaring Fork Valley, Boulder County, and Denver Metro—as well as other regions in the state. Our Western Program is headquarted in Durango, the Southwest Basin Roundtable region. We have a Water Bootcamp underway in collaboration with our local chapter, the Four Corners Farmers and Ranchers Coalition, Southwest Basin Roundtable members, Colorado Ag Water Alliance, and various conservation districts.

As home region for NYFC's statewide Water Bootcamps, the Southwest Basin Roundtable provides a good guide for how this project will help meet BIP and Education Action Plan goals across the state. The relevant SBR educational priorities, as outlined in the BIP as well as the Public Education, Outreach, and Participation Implementation and Action Plan, include a) Encourage education and conservation to reduce demand; and b) Implement informational events about [water conservation and land-use planning] and water reuse efforts, tools and strategies. NYFC Water Bootcamps help meet both of these objectives by planning, hosting, and advertising educational workshops and conservation education conducted in a collaborative manner, another goal of the BIP and the Action Plan.



Last Updated: July 2017

Water Project Justification

Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water project is complementary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

NYFC's 2016 Conservation Generation report

One finding from the above report was young and beginning farmers have difficulty accessing conservation cost-share programs, even those that are designed specifically for them. One of the barriers here is that young farmers often do not know about all the funding options available to them. NYFC acts as a resource to state and federal agencies to conduct outreach to our farmer-members on available cost-share programs. We will do this as part of our Water Bootcamps, which will support other CWCB programs.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.



Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

The CWCB provided a small sponsorship to Valley Food Partnership (VFP), a partner of NYFC. This sponsorship supported NYFC's Water Bootcamp that was organized as part of VFP's annual Western Colorado Food & Farm Forum held in Montrose, CO January 2017. NYFC was not a direct recipient of this grant, but the grant did allow us to keep our fees low.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect your application.

None



Submittal Checklist

I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract.				
Exhibit A				
Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾				
Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾				
Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾				
Exhibit C				
Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾				
Photos/Drawings/Reports				
Letters of Support (Support letter from Basin Roundtable encouraged)				
Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾				
Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾				
W-9 ⁽²⁾				
Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)				
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY				
Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾				

(1) Required with application.

(2) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work					
Date:	10/1/17				
Name of Applicant:	National Young Farmers Coalition				
Name of Water Project:	Training Young Farmers as Water Leaders through Colorado Water Law & Policy Bootcamps				
Funding Source: Colorado Water Plan Implementation Grants – Engagement and Innovation & Agricultural program areas					
	ease provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). sed from Page 5 of the CWP Grant Application.				
the next twenty years. That m beneficial use. Ensuring youn	lation, two-thirds of Colorado's agricultural lands will need a new farmer in leans agricultural water will also need new farmers to care for and put it to g farmers understand and engage with Colorado water is critical to n of agricultural water stewards.				
	ducate young farmers and ranchers on state water law and policy through a monometer them to take on roles of water leadership.				
understanding of Prior Approp already hosted four Water Bo partnering with our four Color formalize the curriculum, expa Roundtables.	vide young farmers and engaged community members with a foundational priation and water policy, including the Colorado Water Plan. NYFC has otcamps in Colorado in the last year, reaching over 125 producers and ado chapters and dozens of partners and presenters. We are now ready to and producer access, and prepare young people to participate in Basin				
	ntly collaborative and connect young farmers with water professionals. impact of these to ripple well beyond the content of the course. (194 words)				
Objectives: List the objective	es of the project.				
	the CWP Education & Outreach goal to "Significantly improve the level of ement regarding water issues statewide by 2020."				
	CWP Agricultural objectives by increasing awareness of state and federal urces available to young and beginning farmers.				
Objective 3: Increase participa	ation by young farmers at Basin Roundtable meetings				



Tasks

Provide a detailed description of each project task using the following format:

Task 1 – Organize Young Farmer Water Bootcamps

Description of Task:

NYFC will host four NYFC Water Bootcamps in distinct regions of the state. NYFC Water Bootcamps are in-depth workshops that train young and beginning farmers and concerned citizens on the foundations of Colorado water law and policy. The goal of the Water Bootcamps is to educate young farmers and ranchers on state water law and policy, and empower them to take on roles of water leadership.

Method/Procedure:

In the last year, NYFC has hosted four Water Bootcamps in Colorado, reaching over 125 producers. NYFC is the organizing entity behind the Bootcamps. We partner with our local farmer-driven chapters, Basin Roundtable members, CSU Extension, and other agriculture and conservation partners to create small host committees. These committees help us design the agenda and identify key local and statelevel speakers.

NYFC coordinates speakers, creates outreach material, assembles learning resources, moderates the Bootcamps, and conducts follow up surveys with all participants. Speakers have included John Stulp, Special Advisor to the Governor for Water and Chair of the IBCC; water lawyer Aaron Clay; and Jason Ullman, Division 4 Engineer.

Grantee Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task

Deliverables include:

• Four Water Bootcamps carried out in CO to greater educate agricultural producers on CO water

CWCB Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task

- Summary of participant evaluations
- Attendance records and speaker lists



Tasks

Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:

Task 2 – Formalize Water Bootcamp Curriculum & Integrate State & Federal Cost-Share Opportunities into Learning Objectives

Description of Task:

After one year of running experimental Water Bootcamps in Colorado, NYFC is ready to scale up and formalize our Water Bootcamp curriculum. This will entail building a lesson plan that contains consistent content and presentations, identifies learning objectives, and outlines different learning modalities to be utilized during Water Bootcamps. Curriculum will include a module on state and federal opportunities for conservation and efficiency cost-share.

Method/Procedure:

NYFC will look to the work of partners, such as CSU Extension and the Colorado Foundation for Water Education, to review, compile, and adapt existing CO water curriculum for an audience of young and beginning farmers. We will also bring in new curricula items as appropriate. This work will be finalized in a lesson plan that will be shared with CWCB.

Grantee Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task

• Background research and partnership engagement to appropriately develop lesson plan

CWCB Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task

Written lesson plan



Tasks

Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:

Task 3 – Identify Pathway Toward Water Bootcamp Endorsement

Description of Task:

To adequately scale up young farmer water education in Colorado through NYFC Water Bootcamps, it is important that key partners and the state recognize the value of these Bootcamps. NYFC will submit a short strategy paper to CWCB identifying pathways to accreditation of the Water Bootcamp series and/or endorsement by the state of Colorado and/or trusted water organization or entity.

Method/Procedure:

NYFC will research requirements for numerous options for formalization of the Water Bootcamp series, including endorsement by the state and/or a trusted water organization or entity, and/or possible accreditation. This research will be used in a final document outlining plans for moving forward. This research will also help NYFC hone our Water Bootcamp curricula and lesson plan to create learning opportunities that are professional, streamlined, and replicable, and whose impact can be measured across the state.

Grantee Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task

• A deeper understanding of how to enhance the professionalism and learning outcomes of our Water Bootcamps

CWCB Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task

Brief report outlining pathways to formalization/endorsement of NYFC Water Bootcamps



Tasks

Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:

Task 4 – Expand online water resources

Description of Task:

Learning begins in the classroom – but it continues long after the classroom time is over. Through this project, NYFC will enhance our online resource portal to include water law and policy resources, Water Bootcamp presentations, conservation funding opportunities, and more.

Method/Procedure:

We will compile existing resources and make available on our website. These resources will be available 24/7 to anyone, anywhere. We will also send links to these resources to all Water Bootcamp participants. We will share these resources through our network, including four farmer-led chapters in Colorado, 1300 list members statewide, and a reach of over 130,000 nationwide. NYFC will link to key state resources, including CWCB, Basin Roundtables, partner organizations, funding sources, and more.

Grantee Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task

• Improved service for our young farmer members and members of the community to be able to access critical water information

CWCB Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task

Enhanced online resources portal tailored for and made accessible to young and beginning farmers



Tasks

Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:

Task 5 – Increase Young Farmer Engagement on Basin Roundtables

Description of Task:

Young farmers need a seat at the table when it comes to making water decisions that will affect the future. Water Bootcamps have the dual goal of educating young and beginning farmers on CO water, and empowering them to enter roles of water leadership. Through this task, NYFC will integrate Basin Roundtable descriptions into each Water Bootcamp and identify pathways for young farmers to engage. NYFC will do the same at other chapter events and throughout our network.

Method/Procedure:

NYFC will discuss the importance of engaging in the Basin Roundtable process; link to BRT websites through our online resources page; and conduct direct outreach to Water Bootcamp participants and other NYFC members to attend their Basin Roundtable. The goal of this task is to engage at least 5 NYFC members in the Basin Roundtable process for the first time and/or have at least one NYFC member formally join their Basin Roundtable.

Grantee Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task

 Increased interest in and understanding of the Basin Roundtables, as identified in Water Bootcamp surveys

CWCB Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task

• List of NYFC members who have participated in their Basin Roundtable for the first time



Budget and Schedule

This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues. The CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.

Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will withhold disbursement the last 10% of the budget until the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

Date: 10/1/17



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Budget and Schedule

Name of Applicant: National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC)

Name of Water Project:Training Young Farmers as Water Leaders through Colorado Water Law & Policy Bootcamps

Task No.	Task Description	Start Date ⁽¹⁾	End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding		Total
1	Plan and host 4 Water Bootcamps	August 15, 2017	March 15, 2018	\$ 13,700.00	\$	3,940.00	\$17,640
2	Formalize Water Bootcamp Curriculum & Integrate State & Federal Cost-Share Opportunities into Learning Objectives	March 15, 2017	July 15, 2017	\$ 7,000.00	\$	1,400.00	\$8,400
3	Submit proposal identifying pathways to Water Bootcamp accrediation and/or endorsement	November 1, 2017	January 31, 2018	\$ 5,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$6,000
4	Expand and share NYFC's online resource portal	July 1, 2017	August 31, 2017	\$ 5,780.00	\$	1,300.00	\$7,080
5	Increase young farmer engagement in Basin Roundtables	March 15, 2017	March 15, 2018	\$ 1,600.00	\$	560.00	\$2,160
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
			Total	\$33,080		\$8,200	\$41,280

(1) Start Date for funding under \$100K, minimum 45 Days from Board Approval; Start Date for funding over \$100K, minimum 90 Days from Board , ·Round values up to the nearest hundred dollars.

Reimbursement eligibility commences upon the grantee's receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)

•NTP will not be accepted as a start date. Project activities may commence as soon as grantee enters contract and receives formal NTP if prior to •The applicant shall provide a progress repost every 6 months, beginning from the date of contract execution.

CWCB will withhold disbursement of the last 10% of the total grant amount until a Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff



ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION GRANT FUND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

Introduction & Purpose

Colorado's Water Plan calls for an outreach, education, public engagement, and innovation grant fund in Chapter 9.5.

The overall goal of the Engagement & Innovation Grant Fund is to enhance Colorado's water communication, outreach, education, and public engagement efforts; advance Colorado's water supply planning process; and support a statewide water innovation ecosystem.

The grant fund aims to engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse regarding balanced water solutions statewide. The grant fund aims to support water innovation in Colorado. The grant fund prioritizes measuring and evaluating the success of programs, projects, and initiatives. The grant fund prioritizes efforts designed using research, data, and best practices. The grant fund prioritizes a commitment to collaboration and community engagement. The grant fund will support local and statewide efforts.

The grant fund is divided into two tracks: engagement and innovation. The Engagement Track supports education, outreach, communication, and public participation efforts related to water. The Innovation Track supports efforts that advance the water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

*For one-year project proposal by the National Young Farmers Coalition, titled: "Training Young Farmers as Water Leaders through Colorado Water Law & Policy Bootcamps"

Application Questions

*The grant fund request is referred to as "project" in this application.

Overview (answer for both tracks)

In a few sentences, what is the overall goal of this project? How does it achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund (above)?

The goal of this project is to educate and empower the next generation of agricultural water stewards through state water law and policy "Water Bootcamps," and empower them to take on roles of water leadership. This project helps achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund to "enhance Colorado's water communication, outreach, education, and public engagement efforts" by engaging young farmers and ranchers in water law and policy education workshops and online tools, providing direct access to water professionals around the state, and engaging young farmers in leadership in water decision-making.

Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?

Young and beginning farmers and ranchers are our primary target audience. As NYFC is a farmermember organization, we will reach this audience through our four state-wide young farmer chapters, our listserves and newsletter, CSU Extension, NRCS field offices, and the dozens of agricultural and conservation partners with which NYFC collaborates. All Water Bootcamps are community-driven efforts. NYFC partners with local farmers and organizations; hosts Bootcamps in local facilities, such as Grange halls, or on member farms; advertises Bootcamps to the public (while reserving a certain amount of seats for active farmers); and maintains a highly affordably fee for participating (usually \$10 or less).



Overview (answer for both tracks)

Describe how the project is collaborative or engages a diverse group of stakeholders. Who are the partners in the project? Do you have other funding partners or sources?

NYFC Water Bootcamps are highly collaborative by nature. NYFC convenes local and statewide experts to train young farmers on the foundations of water law and policy. These partners and presenters include water lawyers, division engineers, conservation district, CSU and/or NRCS personnel, CWCB and BRT representatives, and community partners.

For example, in our latest Water Bootcamp in Longmont, CO, NYFC partnered with our local young farmer chapter, the Flatirons Young Farmers Coalition, to host; we partnered with Oxford Gardens, who offered a heated indoor space to hold the event; we worked with Adrian Card of CSU Extension as part of the host committee; and we partnered with John Stulp and Sean Cronin as presenters.

NYFC has already committed to the matching funds. In addition, we are currently applying for additional funds to match and scale this project through the Walton Family Foundation, the Gates Family Foundation, and Western Extension Risk Management Education Competitive Grants, and looking at increased revenue sources through slightly elevated (though still highly affordable) Water Bootcamp fees.

Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?

We measure success by participation rates and participant surveys. We implement a survey following each Water Bootcamp that gauges the quality of the presentations, what the participants learned, and what they would like to see in the future. We use these surveys to build out future Water Bootcamps.

What research, evidence, and data support your project?

In 2016, NYFC published a report titled "Conservation Generation." The report was based on surveys of 379 young farmers across the Colorado River Basin and eight focus groups of fifty farmers in Basin states. The report found that young farmers care about conservation, but that certain key barriers are preventing them from scaling up. These top barriers were: an inability to access affordable, irrigated farmland; inaccessible conservation cost-share programs; and a negative perception of "use it or lose it." The latter two barriers indicate a need for greater education about funding resources, policy, and water law. It was from this research that NYFC decided to launch its Water Bootcamp series.

Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.

Potential short-term challenges include the organizing time required to scale up and formalize curriculum. Potential long-term challenges include tracking participant learning over time and tailoring Water Bootcamps to artfully meet participants needs.



Please fill out the applicable questions for either the Engagement Track or Innovation Track, unless your project contains elements in both tracks. If a question does not relate to your project, just leave it blank. Please answer each question that relates to your project. Please reference the relevant documents and use chapters and page numbers (Colorado's Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plan, PEPO Education Action Plan, etc.).

Engagement Track

Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement measurable objective set forth in Colorado's Water Plan to "significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys."

This project supports the goal to "significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys" by engaging farmers, ranchers, and engaged community members in state water law and policy.

NYFC Water Bootcamps are inherently grassroots workshops that convene water professionals across the state. They engage NYFC farmer-led chapters and agricultural and conservation partners and, as they are open to the community, often reach the non-producer public interested in becoming better informed about water in Colorado.

NYFC tracks impact through participant surveys and feedback forms following each Water Bootcamp, which are then used to shape future programming and learning objectives.

Describe how the project achieves the other measurable objectives and critical goals and actions laid out in Colorado's Water Plan around the supply and demand gap; conservation; land use; agriculture; storage; watershed health, environment, and recreation; funding; and additional.

This project helps meet the agricultural goals and actions as laid out in Section 6.3.4. The goals relevant to this project include:

"Promote water efficiency ethic throughout Colorado;" and

"Seek creative options for improving agricultural irrigation conservation and efficiency."

The relevant critical action comes from Section 6.3.4. action 1.a.: "Outreach to the agricultural community about available agricultural water conservation techniques and incentives."

This project will integrate state and federal conservation and efficiency resources into Water Bootcamp curriculum and NYFC's online resources. Our Water Bootcamps promote an ethic of water stewardship and collaboration across sectors. We believe that with water education tailored to young and beginning farmers, those farmers will be better equipped to be informed, creative and conservation-minded water stewards.

Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s).

This project is for implementation statewide. We intend to host Water Bootcamps in regions where our chapters are located - Four Corners, Roaring Fork Valley, Boulder County, and Denver Metro—as well as other regions in the state. Our Western Program is headquarted in Durango, the Southwest Basin Roundtable region. We have a Water Bootcamp underway in collaboration with our local chapter, the Four Corners Farmers and Ranchers Coalition, Southwest Basin Roundtable members, Colorado Ag Water Alliance, and various conservation districts.



As home region for NYFC's statewide Water Bootcamps, the Southwest Basin Roundtable provides a good guide for how this project will help meet BIP and Education Action Plan goals across the state. The relevant SBR educational priorities, as outlined in the BIP as well as the Public Education, Outreach, and Participation Implementation and Action Plan, include a) Encourage education and conservation to reduce demand; and b) Implement informational events about [water conservation and land-use planning] and water reuse efforts, tools and strategies. NYFC Water Bootcamps help meet both of these objectives in a collaborative manner, another goal of the BIP and the action plan.

Describe how the project achieves the basin roundtable's PEPO Education Action Plans.

The efforts described above will help satisfy the objectives of both the BIP and Education Action Plan, using the Southwest Basin Roundtable as an example that holds true for other basins in the state.

Innovation Track

Describe how the project enhances water innovation efforts and supports a water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

Describe how the project engages/leverages Colorado's innovation community to help solve our state's water challenges.

Describe how the project helps advance or develop a solution to a water need identified through TAP-IN and other water innovation challenges. What is the problem/need/challenge?

Describe how this project impacts current or emerging trends; technologies; clusters, sectors, or groups in water innovation.



Innovation Track