

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Resource Central
Name of Water Project	Resource Central Landscape Change Program Impact Analysis
Grant Request Amount	\$110,070.00
Primary Category	\$110,070.00
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$36,700.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$36,700.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$36,700.00
<i>Resource Central</i>	\$36,700.00
Total Project Cost	\$183,470.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Resource Central
Mailing Address: 6400 Arapahoe Ave. Suite B Boulder CO 80303
FEIN: 840,808,982

Organization Contact: Kate Larson
Position/Title: Email: klarson@resourcecentral.org
Phone: 303-999-3820 ext 214

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Resource Central is a non-profit organization focused on helping communities reduce their dependence on nonrenewable resources. Our focus areas are water and energy conservation and building material diversion and reuse. In our water programs, we partner with over 40 Colorado utilities to bring innovative programs to residents, helping them to understand their water use and take practical steps to use less.

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☒ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

- ☐ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☒ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude 40.000000
 Longitude -105.000000
 Lat Long Flag Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
 Water Source South Platte Basin
 Basins South Platte; Arkansas; Metro
 Counties Adams; Arapahoe; Boulder; Broomfield; Pueblo; Jefferson; Larimer; Weld; El Paso; Denver
 Districts 2-South Platte: Denver Gage to Greeley; 3-Cache La Poudre River; 4-Big Thompson River; 6-Boulder Creek; 1-South Platte: Greeley to Balzac

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Municipal
 Type of Water Project Planning (e.g. watershed)
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 1/1/2023
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction
 Description
 Resource Central is seeking funding resources to study the water use impacts of both our long-standing Garden In A Box program, which has reached over 20,000 residents over the last 15 years, as well as our newer turf removal initiatives which have helped almost 1,000 people remove a portion of their lawn and replace it with low-water landscapes. The goal of this project would be to evaluate the water savings and community benefits of these programs to understand the cumulative impacts.

The results will inform our over 40 water provider partners, and allow us to continue to innovate and refine our programs to maximize the benefits. Throughout this project, we will bring together experts across research fields to build on established best practices to ensure our analysis is rigorous and comprehensive. Resource Central has a goal of making Waterwise landscapes the new norm in Colorado, quantifying our impact is an important step in achieving our mission.

Measurable Results

New Storage Created (acre-feet)
New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
New Storage Created (acre-feet)
Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)

5,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning

50,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

The result of this study will help Resource Central better understand the long-term qualitative and quantitative impacts of our programs and continue to refine our offerings to amplify positive outcomes. Additionally, as Turf Removal efforts in Colorado expand, our findings will help decision-makers across the field to evaluate and assess the benefits of engaging in various types of landscape change initiatives. Interest in landscape change programs from residents and water providers in Colorado has never been higher and the field is set for tremendous growth over the coming years. By quantifying what has already been done, this future growth will be more thoughtful, thorough, and will lead to a greater quantifiable water-saving impact.

Water Project Justification

The recent passing of the Colorado Turf Removal Bill (HB 22-1151) has generated both excitement and questions about the water-saving and greater community impacts resulting from residential turf removal. Resource Central is a Boulder-based Colorado nonprofit with a 46 year history of conservation action seeking a \$100,000 grant from CWCB to help us study the impacts of two of our relevant water savings initiatives (Garden In a Box and Turf Removal) to help inform Colorado water providers and to refine and strengthen our conservation programs.

Resource Central works in partnership with over 40 Colorado water providers to implement high quality water conservation programs at scale, bringing innovative and impactful offerings to communities across the state. Through the incredibly popular Garden In A Box program, Resource Central has provided over 20,000 community members with DIY xeric plant gardens over the last 20 years. We've been facilitating DIY turf removal for six years and have been providing residential turf removal services for three years. Through our turf replacement efforts, we have helped almost 1,000 people remove a portion of their lawn and replace it with low-water landscapes. This study will help all of our partners understand better the impact of their water savings as they invest in solutions to meet their future water needs and better manage municipal water use which is a key part of the Colorado Water Plan.

Resource Central is an innovative nonprofit, at the forefront of water conservation in the state. This grant will help us improve and grow our impact with water conservation programs that have the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of community members by providing them with fact-based data about the benefits of turf removal to drive their landscaping decisions.

Related Studies

With CWCB support, Resource Central conducted a previous impact analysis for our outdoor sprinkler assessment program called Slow the Flow, which created a peer-reviewed and published methodology for calculating the water savings that result from that program. The lessons learned and general approach to calculating outdoor water savings from that study will be applied to this proposed analysis for our Garden In A Box and Turf Removal programs.

We are aware of at least two other relevant CWCB grant-funded studies that complement this proposal, including the landscape transformation study in 2018 by Alliance for Water Efficiency, and the ongoing Large Scale Turf Replacement Financing grant being implemented by Western Resource Advocates. We will review those and other nationwide studies in the first phase of our grant activities to help inform our analysis and leverage other similar work.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

This does not apply to Resource Central.