

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

FUNDING PROGRAMS



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 to provide policy direction on water issues. To further its mission and advance the Colorado Water Plan, CWCB provides financial assistance to water providers and other eligible entities in Colorado through loans and grants for a variety of water-related projects, studies, awareness campaigns, and other activities.

CWCB's website (cwcb.colorado.gov) provides more information about the many loans and grants available through the agency, as well as specific information about the application process and deadlines for each program. These include the following programs:

- Water Project Loan Program
- Colorado Water Plan Grants
- Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants
- Colorado Healthy Rivers Grants
- Weather Modification Program Grants
- Non Reimbursable Project Investment Grants
- Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share Programs
- Public Education, Participation, and Outreach Grants
- Turf Replacement Program
- Agricultural Emergency Drought Response
- Federal Technical Assistance Grants

In general, plan for six months from application date until funds are available. A brief overview of each of the CWCB's funding programs is provided below:

WATER PROJECT LOAN PROGRAM:

Provides subsidized loans for the design and construction of water supply projects. Eligible projects include new construction or rehabilitation of existing water storage and delivery facilities, such as: reservoirs, ditches & canals, pipelines, river diversion structures, water rights purchases, and hydropower. Applications are accepted year-round.

COLORADO WATER PLAN GRANTS:

Provides financial assistance for a range of multi-beneficial projects. Grant categories include water storage & supply projects, conservation & land use projects, engagement & innovation activities, agricultural projects, and environmental & recreation projects. Preference is given to projects that have multiple benefits, multiple purposes, and involve multiple stakeholders. Application deadlines are July 1 and December 1.

WATER SUPPLY RESERVE FUND GRANTS:

Provides grants to assist Colorado water users in addressing their critical water supply issues and interests. Requests for funds must first be approved by one of Colorado's nine basin roundtables and are then forwarded onto the CWCB for final funding decisions. Contact local basin roundtable for application deadlines.



COLORADO HEALTHY RIVERS FUND:

Helps support local watershed organizations in efforts to provide clean water, protect habitat, and improve recreation and accessibility. Application deadline is April 30 of each year.

WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM GRANTS:

Provides state grants to water providers and local governments to assist in funding ground-based winter operational cloud seeding programs. This 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. Application deadline is July 1 of each year.

NON-REIMBURSABLE PROJECT INVESTMENT GRANTS

Funds water-related projects or studies of statewide impact or importance and feasibility studies and projects designed to address statewide, region-wide or basin-wide water issues. Funding is very limited. Application deadline is August 1 of each year.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL COST-SHARE PROGRAMS:

Available to support the technical work necessary to apply to federal cost-share programs supporting water conservation or infrastructure objectives. Technical assistance will be used to improve the quality of applications and to support successful applicants in the design, capacity building, and environmental compliance work necessary for successful project implementation.

PUBLIC EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION, AND OUTREACH GRANTS:

The Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Grant Program - newly established in 2022 - provides grant funding in two categories: statewide education and outreach initiatives, as well as financial support for designated individual coordinators who support basin-specific outreach and education efforts alongside each of the state's basin roundtables. Application deadlines are June 1 and December 1 each year.

TURF REPLACEMENT PROGRAM:

As directed by House Bill 22-1151, CWCB is in the process of developing a statewide Turf Replacement Program to incentivize the voluntary replacement of nonessential irrigated turf on residential, commercial, institutional or industrial properties in Colorado with less water-intensive, more water-wise turf. More information on this program, including guidelines and details on the application process, will become available in Spring 2023.

AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAM

Provides grants for emergency drought-related water augmentation purposes to Colorado's agricultural water users. Agricultural organizations located in areas where a disaster emergency has been proclaimed due to drought can apply. Application deadline is January 1.

FEDERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, federal funding has been allocated for technical assistance grants that will enable eligible entities to work with CWCB contractors or to hire contractors to expand their capacity and expertise, in pursuit of federal funding opportunities that directly support the Colorado Water Plan objectives. Funding can be used for: preliminary project planning and design, preliminary permitting, development of estimated project costs, navigation of available federal opportunities, grant writing, and federal grant application submittal. There are two categories of technical assistance for federal grants: Local Capacity Grants (currently available) and CWCB Technical Assistance Grants (will become available in late fall 2022).