

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

LOAN & GRANT 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 goals of Colorado's Water Plan, 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, awareness campaigns and other activities.

The CWCB website (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 and deadlines for each program. These include the following 13 loan and grant programs:

- Water Project Loan Program
- Water Plan Grants
- Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants
- Water Efficiency Grants
- Colorado Healthy Rivers Grants
- Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants
- Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Program
- Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grant Program
- Fish and Wildlife Resources Grants
- Weather Modification Grants
- Severance Tax Trust Fund Operational Account Grants
- Construction Fund Non-Reimbursable Project Investment Grants
- Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share Programs

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.

WATER PLAN GRANTS:

Provides financial assistance to make progress on the Colorado Water Plan's measurable objectives or critical actions. 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. Applications deadlines are August 1 and February 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.

WATER EFFICIENCY GRANTS:

Provides financial assistance to communities, water providers and eligible entities for water efficiency and drought related activities and projects. State and local governments and water efficiency promoting entities can receive funding to develop water efficiency and drought mitigation plans, implement water efficiency activities outlined in a water efficiency plan and educate the public about water efficiency. Applications are accepted year-round.



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.

COLORADO WATERSHED RESTORATION GRANTS:

Provides grants for watershed/stream restoration and flood mitigation projects throughout the state. Grant money may be used for planning and engineering studies, including implementation measures, to address technical needs for watershed restoration and flood mitigation projects throughout the state. Special consideration is reserved for planning and project efforts that integrate multi-objectives in restoration and flood mitigation. Application deadline is November 1 of each year.

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. Applications are accepted within three months after the end of any fiscal year during which a drought was declared.

ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL WATER TRANSFER METHODS (ATM) GRANT PROGRAM:

Colorado's Water Plan encourages voluntary alternatives to permanent dry-up of irrigated agriculture while providing important flexibility to help address Colorado's multiple water needs. Through this program, financial assistance is available to support the development and implementation of alternative transfer methods such as rotational fallowing and interruptible water supply agreements. Funds are available for multiple aspects of ATM development including, but not limited to, innovative research and demonstration projects, outreach and education, ATM project scoping and design, and project implementation. ATM projects addressing municipal and industrial demand, nonconsumptive needs, compact compliance, and groundwater sustainability are all eligible. Applications are accepted year-round.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES GRANTS:

Provides grant money to existing water supply facilities to help preserve a balance between the development of the state's resources and the protection of the state's fish and wildlife resources. Grant money is available for mitigation of existing water diversion, delivery or storage facilities. Funds can be used for the appropriation of water rights to preserve or improve the natural environment or river restoration projects designed to directly mitigate the environmental impacts of existing water facilities. Applications are accepted year-round.

WEATHER MODIFICATION GRANTS:

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

SEVERANCE TAX TRUST FUND OPERATIONAL FUND GRANTS:

Provides grants for regional water resource planning studies and associated demonstration projects. Preference is given to projects that will benefit a wide range of people and organizations, or a large geographic area within Colorado. Approved grants must be completed within one state fiscal year (between July 1 and June 30 of any given year). Application deadline is January 31 of each year.

CONSTRUCTION FUND 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.