



## What is CWCB’s Water Plan Grant Program?

In a nutshell, the [Water Plan Grant Program](#) is state funding to advance the goals of the Colorado Water Plan. The program is divided into the following categories: Water Storage & Supply, Water Sharing Agreements, Conservation & Land Use Planning, Engagement & Innovation, Agricultural Projects, and Watershed Health & Recreation Projects. **Adding storage? Have a multi-benefit project? Lots of project partners, collaboration? An innovative or landscape-scale project?** It might fit well here.

Pro-tip: Have an idea? **Talk with the CWCB early on!** It may take 3-6 months to gather everything needed for a successful application, so start now. CWCB is available to coach you in application development.

Another pro-tip: Roundtable letters of support, while not required, add value to your application. If you want their consideration, the [Rio Grande Basin Roundtable](#) **requests the draft application and a draft letter of support with a presentation at a meeting.**

### Water Plan Grant Deadlines:

Roundtable Support (optional)	Application due to CWCB	CWCB Board Review
Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June	July 1	September
July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec	December 1	March

**CWCB Contact:** Laura Spann, [laura.spann@state.co.us](mailto:laura.spann@state.co.us), call or text 720-916-7723

**Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Chair:** Amber Pacheco, [amber@rgwcd.org](mailto:amber@rgwcd.org), call 719-589-6301

## What is the Water Supply Reserve Fund?

In a nutshell, the [Water Supply Reserve Fund](#) is intended for basin projects that align with the Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan. Projects can be funded through basin funds and/or statewide funds, both of which **need Basin Roundtable approval.** **The statewide fund is great for aging infrastructure and drought resilience projects and basin funds can be used to address critical needs in the basin.**

Pro-tip: Talk to the CWCB and Roundtable early. Visit <https://rgbrt.org/funding-opportunities/>. Get started by registering for an account in [CWCB’s grant portal](#).

### WSRF Deadlines:

Latest Date to Present Roundtable Proposal	Latest Date for Roundtable Approval	Application Due to CWCB	CWCB Board Consideration
Feb meeting	March meeting	April 1	July
April meeting	May meeting	June 1	September

**Funding FAQ for  
the Rio Grande Basin  
Updated September 3, 2024**



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

June meeting	July meeting	Aug 1	November
Aug meeting	Sept meeting	Oct 1	January
Oct meeting	Nov meeting	Dec 1	March
Dec meeting	Jan meeting	Feb 1	May

**CWCB Contact:** Ben Wade, 303-866-3441 x3238, [ben.wade@state.co.us](mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us)

**Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Chair:** Amber Pacheco, [amber@rgwcd.org](mailto:amber@rgwcd.org), call 719-589-6301

**We want to seek federal water funding but don't have the capacity.** Have some big needs but don't know where to start or how to manage the workload? CWCB is accepting applications for 1) [Local Capacity](#) to support your organization in hiring help to organize projects and apply for federal funding and 2) [Technical Assistance](#) to connect your organization with a CWCB contractor to help you prepare a federal grant request. **The deliverable for these grants is at least one federal funding application.** **Rolling application deadline extends through October 15, 2024.** **CWCB Contact:** Michael Regan, [michael.regan@state.co.us](mailto:michael.regan@state.co.us), (303) 866-3441 x3214

**Grants aren't enough to address our needs. How about a loan?** The CWCB's Water Project Loan Program provides low-interest loans for the design and construction of agricultural, municipal (raw water), and hydro projects. A minimum loan request of \$100,000 is recommended. **CWCB Contact:** Matt Stearns, [matthew.stearns@state.co.us](mailto:matthew.stearns@state.co.us), 303.866.3441 x3257

**We want to get our watershed wildfire ready.**

The [CWCB is accepting grant applications on a rolling basis through September 30, 2024](#) to support development of [Wildfire Ready Watershed](#) action plans and implementation of projects designed to mitigate post wildfire impacts. **CWCB Contact:** Chris Sturm, [chris.sturm@state.co.us](mailto:chris.sturm@state.co.us), 303-866-3441 x3236

**What about drinking water and wastewater projects?**

The CWCB generally funds raw water projects, so if you have drinking water or wastewater projects in mind, consider reaching out to the following agencies: [Colorado Department of Local Affairs](#), [Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority](#) (get on the eligibility list) [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#), and [USDA Rural Development](#).

**This is overwhelming—where do I start?**

It's a lot to take in. That's part of why the CWCB hired regional water plan grant managers—to help project proponents navigate the funding opportunities. **Please call, text, email or set up a visit.** If we don't know the answer, we'll ask the right person. The CWCB wants to advance water solutions statewide while this once-in-a-generation funding is available. If these opportunities don't meet your project needs, we are more than willing to assist in finding alternative grant programs. **Contact:** Laura Spann (based in Durango), [laura.spann@state.co.us](mailto:laura.spann@state.co.us), 720-916-7723