

# Colorado's Water Plan Grants

---

## Agricultural Projects

The CWP sets an objective that agricultural economic productivity will keep pace with growing state, national, and global needs, even if some acres go out of production. The State will work closely with the agricultural community to share at least 50,000 acre-feet of agricultural water using voluntary alternative transfer methods by 2030.

Potential Project Types:

Technical assistance for programmatic ATM development; water banking projects; agricultural efficiency programs; etc.

Criteria and considerations:

- Completed Feasibility Studies must be submitted with an engineer's estimate of probable cost for grant requests that include costs for final engineering plans and construction.
- Does the project/applicant demonstrate a commitment to collaboration? Does the project/applicant: address more than one type of need; involve multiple participants where appropriate; consult with a broad set of local stakeholders and local governments; provide meaningful opportunities for input?
- Does the project address an identified water gap? Is the project: included in a BIP; identified as meeting a defined need in a basin needs assessment; identified as meeting a defined need identified in the SWSI; or identified as part of the no-and low-regrets scenario planning process?
- Does the project/applicant demonstrate sustainability? Does the project/applicant: adopt an integrated plan or plans geared toward implementing conservation? avoid adverse effects to environmental and recreational interests; adopt environmental, watershed health, and recreational mitigation in the planning phase of the project; avoid impacts to, mitigate, or enhance water quality, mitigate or avoid economic and social impacts on agricultural and rural communities; maximize the use of water resources, improving or modernizing aging infrastructure, or aquifer storage and recharge project; conflict with any interstate compact or the curtailment of existing water rights?
- Does the project/applicant establish the fiscal and technical feasibility of the project? Does the project/applicant demonstrate: overall cost-effectiveness; local investment or contribution; financial capability to repay debt; an intent to leverage other funding; technical and legal availability of water supplies for the project; or readiness to proceed upon receipt of necessary funding and permits (i.e. completed preliminary planning and design work, obtained necessary water rights, secured necessary financial commitments)?

Matching recommendation:

Applicant is encouraged to provide a minimum of 50% non-CWCB matching funds (a CWCB loan can be used for applicant's matching funds). Grant requests for greater than 50% of project costs will receive lower preference during review.