

Funding FAQ for Southwest Basins Roundtable

March 6, 2023

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.

Another pro-tip: Roundtable letters of support, while not required, add value to your application. If you want their consideration, the [Southwest Basin Roundtable](#) **requests the draft application and a draft letter of support two weeks prior to the meeting along with a presentation at a meeting.** As a last resort, the Roundtable may consider a letter of support if requested via email at least two weeks in advance of the CWCB application deadline.

Water Plan Grant Deadlines:

Roundtable Support (optional)	Application due to CWCB	CWCB Board Review
January or April meeting	July 1st	September
July or October meeting	December 1st	March

CWCB Contact: Laura Spann, laura.spann@state.co.us, call or text 720-916-7723

Southwest Basin Roundtable Chair: Ed Tolen, (970) 563-0320, etolen@laplawd.org

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.

WSRF Deadlines:

Application to Roundtable Chair	Presentation to Roundtable	Application Due to CWCB	CWCB Board Consideration
March	April meeting	June 1st	September
June	July meeting	Aug 1st or Oct 1st	November or January
September	October meeting	December 1st	March
December	January meeting	Feb 1st or April 1st	May or July

Pro-tip: Have a project in mind? Talk to the CWCB and Roundtable early. Applications to the

CWCB Contact: Ben Wade, 303-866-3441 x3238, ben.wade@state.co.us

Southwest Basin WSRF Coordinator: Ed Tolen, (970) 563-0320, etolen@laplawd.org

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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 now considering grant applications for 1) [Local Capacity](#) to support your organization in hiring help to organize projects and apply for federal funding and 2) [Technical Assistance](#) (*coming soon*) 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.** [Here's a comprehensive list of federal water funding opportunities.](#)

CWCB Contacts: Michael Regan, 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, 303.866.3441 x3257

We want to get our watershed wildfire-ready.

The [CWCB is now accepting grant applications](#) on a rolling basis 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, 303-866-3441 x3236

What's this I hear about turf replacement funding?

The deadline is March 31st [for eligible entities](#) (local governments, non-profits, districts, tribes) to apply for funds to either expand their existing community turf replacement or request support for starting a new initiative. [Click here for more details.](#) **CWCB Contact:** Sam Stein, sam.stein@state.co.us, 303-866-3441 x3231

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](#)

This is overwhelming—now I feel discouraged.

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 I don't know the answer, I'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, 720-916-7723