
Equine Welfare Assistance Grant

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Grant Guidelines

Background

In 2024, the Colorado State Legislature passed HB 24-1458, granting \$200,000 to the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) for the purpose of “promoting domestic animal welfare, including providing education and outreach; creating voluntary programs; and awarding grants” (C.R.S 35-1-108). CDA convened a survey of stakeholders and experts to advise on this grant program's focus, eligibility, and evaluation criteria. These Grant Guidelines describe the purpose and objectives of the grant program, as well as the responsibilities of the grantees.

Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the Equine Welfare Assistance Grant Program (EWAG) in Colorado is to enhance domestic equine welfare through education and outreach, emergency veterinary care, and shelter support. Due to limited funding, the Division has decided to use this grant opportunity to concentrate on initiatives that improve the well-being of Colorado equines requiring additional assistance.

Definitions

Colorado Agricultural Commission is a group of nine agricultural leaders appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. They are responsible for final approval of grant awards under the Equine Welfare Assistance Grant Program.

Domestic Equine is a horse, burro, donkey, or mule that has been tamed and kept as a work or companion animal.

Grant Evaluation Committee is a subgroup of the Equine Welfare Assistance Grant Program that will review the grant applications based on the Review Criteria and recommend awardees to the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Commissioner.

Grantee means the Entity (organization or individual) who is awarded an Equine Welfare Assistance Grant from CDA.

Animal welfare refers to the overall physical and mental well-being of an animal .

At-Risk Equine means an equine that has an increased possibility of experiencing a situation of neglect, abuse, or general poor welfare.

Eligibility Information

Eligible Entities

- 501(c)3s;
- For-profit entities;
- Tribal or local government;
- Law enforcement agencies
- Colleges, universities, or other institutions of higher education.

Eligible Activities & Expenses

This grant promotes equine welfare initiatives in Colorado to enhance support for domestic equines, including education, outreach, safety net programs, equine community support and adoption programs.

Eligible Project Types

Eligible project types include:

- **Education and Outreach Programs:**
 - Training or certification programs
 - Printed educational materials
 - Communication/education plans
 - Training equipment or supplies
 - Youth education
 - Other applicable education and training related to equine welfare

- **Safety Net Programs:**
 - Retention and Rehoming Support
 - Hay banks
 - Supplies
 - Temporary housing
 - Veterinarian Care Services
 - Euthenasia
 - wellness/preventative care
 - microchips
 - castration
 - advanced vet care
 - Behavior Services
 - Training services
 - behavior consultation
 - Programs that work towards keeping equines in their homes and with their owners
- **Adoption Programs**
 - Training and behavior support services for adopters
 - Behavior and training for equines in care
 - Programs that help to lower the length of stay for equines in rescue

Ineligible Project Types

Ineligible project types include:

- Research projects
- Funds to individual owners or companies for personal care of privately owned equines.
- Capitol projects
- Salaries for current employees

Eligible Expenses

All expenses must be directly related to the goals and outcomes in the grantee application.

Eligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Salaries
 - Allowed for new employees or contractors specifically hired for project management related to this grant. Salaries for current employees cannot be supplemented through this grant.

- Travel expenses (aligned with the rates defined by the US General Services Administration)
- Direct costs
- Veterinary bills
- Contractor payments
- Indirect costs (maximum 5% of grant award)

Grant Timeline

This Timeline is for information and planning purposes only. The Schedule of Activities listed are “Estimated” and may be subject to change depending on the needs of the State.

Schedule of Activities

Activity	Date
Grant Application Period Opens	April 14, 2025
Grant Guidelines Webinar. Register in advance	April 18, 10:00am MT
Grant Deadline	May 16, 2025 at 5:00pm MT
Final Grant Selection by CDA	June 9, 2025
Grant Contracts to Awardees	June 12, 2025
End of Grant Period	June 30, 2026
Final Grant Report Due	August 25, 2026

Any work performed prior to the full execution of an agreement is not eligible for reimbursement.

Grants are paid on a reimbursement basis.

The grant period ends June 30, 2026, the end of the State's fiscal year. All funds must be invoiced by June 30, 2026.

The minimum award for a grant is \$10,000.00 and may not exceed \$50,000.00 for a single project application. After application submissions, CDA may work with applicants to refine budget requests as the Department deems fit.

Grant Application

Application Process

Interested applicants must submit a grant application to be considered. The application can be found [here](#). The application will close May 16, 2025 at 5pm MT.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee of industry experts and state staff using the Grant Rubric, found [here](#). The Committee will make recommendations for awards to the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Commissioner for final review and approval.

Invoicing & Reporting Requirements

Prior to receiving the grant award, grantees must provide the state with:

1. Proof of insurance with the state named as a Certificate Holder (more information on insurance terms and conditions can be found [here](#).)
2. EFT/Bank information for transfer of funds

Grantees must submit invoices at least quarterly (between 1-3 months) for reimbursement.

Grantees must also submit a Grant Progress Report each quarter. Grant Progress Reports must include:

1. A short narrative on progress towards grant deliverables, any obstacles encountered, and how those obstacles will be resolved
2. Budget expended to date
3. Budget remaining
4. Contract or agreement number
5. Any public printed/electronic materials developed with grant funding

6. Additional supporting information as necessary

Grantees will be required to submit a Final Report no later than 8 weeks after the end of the grant agreement. CDA will share a Final Report template, but the grantee will be expected to report on:

1. Final deliverables
2. Final metrics
3. Success stories and lesson learned
4. Additional supporting information as necessary

Grantees must acknowledge and allow CDA to publicize information about their grant, including but limited to the grantee's name, award amount, project summary and outcomes in reports, press releases, websites, or other public communication material related to the Equine Welfare Assistance Grant Program.