
Agricultural Climate Resilience Grants

Colorado Department of Agriculture
2026

Grant Guidelines

Purpose of the Grant

Climate resilience is the ability to withstand or to recover quickly from climate change related disasters.

Colorado farmers and ranchers integrate resilience into their everyday operations by building soil health, using water efficiently, crop switching depending on weather and economic markets, workforce development, and succession planning. However, climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of disasters such as drought, severe storms, and extreme wildfires, and farmers and ranchers are needing to think outside the box to keep their operations profitable and adaptable.

Resilient farms and ranches, including their business operations and natural resources, are better equipped to adapt and thrive in the face of significant disruptions.

Purpose: This grant will provide funding to farmers and ranchers who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing a climate-change induced disaster to increase the resilience of their operation.

Eligibility Information

Eligible Entities

- Farmers, Ranchers, other Individuals
- Tribal or local government (including Conservation Districts);
- 501(c)3s;
- University extension or field offices

If you received a CDA Climate Resilience grant award in 2025, you are not eligible to apply.

Eligible Project Types

This grant funds projects that increase the climate resilience of Colorado farms and ranches. Eligible project types include any phase(s) of a climate resilient project. This includes on-farm/ranch projects that

- a) build back stronger from previous climate-related disasters or
- b) prepare in advance for the increasing risk of climate-related disasters. It also includes increasing resilience of processing and manufacturing operations as those are key in Colorado's agricultural supply chain.

High ranking projects will increase climate-resilience of specific operations and provide lessons learned and demonstration to their community or similar operations. There are no damage or impact

requirements, but if a farm or ranch was impacted negatively within the last 3 years, the project will rank higher in the evaluation (See Grant Evaluation Rubric).

If you are interested in a project that deals with renewable energy or energy efficiency, please apply for our [ACRE3 \(Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency\) grant](#) that will be accepting proposals in early 2026. This Climate Resilience Grant Program will not fund renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

Examples:

- Water tanks and storage systems
- Pilot project with new supply chain partners or new crops
- Fire mitigation
- Reseeding to prevent mudslides in burn scars
- Drought planning
- Farm road enhancements for reaching livestock in austere conditions
- Purchase of vehicles for operating in snowy conditions
- Recovery after forage impacts (due to drought or storms)

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:

- Equipment
- Direct costs including, but not limited to:
 - o Construction costs, including materials and labor
 - o Payment or lease of needed equipment
- Salaries and labor
- Travel expenses (aligned with the rates defined by the [US General Services Administration](#))
- Permitting costs
- Project assessments and feasibility studies
- Indirect costs (maximum 10% of grant award)

Maximum award is \$30,000.

There are no match requirements, but leveraging matching funds will increase the rating of the project.

Priority Projects

Each year, CDA will publish project types that will be prioritized in the Grant Evaluation Rubric. For Grant Year 2026, CDA will prioritize farm and ranch resiliency for future disasters including:

- Wildfire
- Snow Events
- Drought
- Flooding

CDA anticipates receiving applications from producers who were impacted by the Summer 2025 Western Slope fires. It is important to note that this grant is intended for resilience projects not immediate recovery projects. Producers who are seeking to recoup losses and return to a level of normalcy should seek out federal funding for those immediate needs.

CDA encourages impacted producers to apply for this grant opportunity with projects that will equip operations to better withstand these wildfire events in the future. Resilience projects could look like: fuel mitigation/removal, post-fire flood prevention, water system improvements, fireproofing structures, etc.

State and Federal Funding

State and Federal funding cannot be comingled. Any applicant that is receiving or applying for both Federal and State funding must make it clear how the funds will be spent, and describe how State funding will fund separate items than the Federal Funding. The application must also describe how the grantee will account and track the different funding sources.

Project Timeline

Grantees will propose their project timeline and estimated spending. Grant funding must be spent by June 30, 2027 at the latest, though it is anticipated that most successful projects will be complete within several months.

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	
Event	Date
Grant Application Period Opens	October 15, 2025
Grant Informational Webinar	October 29, 2025
Grant Deadline Applications Due via Google Form	November 24, 2025
Final Grant Selection by the Colorado Commission of Agriculture	January 14, 2026 Ag Commission Meeting
Grant Contracts to Awardees	February 2026
End of Grant Period	June 30, 2027 at the latest
Final Grant Report Due	September 2027

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 30th, 2027, the end of the State's fiscal year. All funds must be invoiced by June 30th, 2027.

Funding Awards

After application submissions, CDA may work with applicants to refine budget requests as the Department deems fit. Awardees will be expected to work with CDA on outreach and communications efforts around climate resilience projects. Awardees should plan to demonstrate their resilience projects to their community of peers.

Grant Application

Application Process

Interested applicants must submit the [Google Form grant application](#) to be considered. A full application must be submitted via the google form by 11:59PM on November 24th. Please send any questions while filling out the application to Rosie Skovron via email (rosie.skovron@state.co.us).

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee of experts and state staff using the Grant Rubric (attached). The Committee will make recommendations for awards to the Colorado Agricultural Commission for final review and approval.

Invoicing & Reporting Requirements

Grantees must submit invoices no more frequently than monthly and at least quarterly (between 1-3 months). 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 lessons learned
4. Additional supporting information as necessary

Grant Evaluation Rubric

Review Criteria

Each application will be evaluated using the following rubric.

Category	Description and Considerations	Points
Benefit to Producers	The project should first and foremost benefit producer(s) recovering from or preparing for climate disasters and risks. Projects that are not on-farm/on-ranch should be able to directly link to the producers that will benefit from their work.	25
Impact	The extent to which this will support the resilience of the operation/area in the face of future climate disasters.	25
Demonstrated Need	Whether or not the applicant has experienced a recent disaster that the project addresses.	15
Budget Soundness	The budget is thorough and well-considered. Justification for items is clear and reasonably estimated. All budget items should be eligible.	20
Matching Funds	The project leverages other funds, either from the applicant or other secured grant source. 0-10% match contribution: 0 pts 10-24% match contribution: 3 pts ≥ 25% match contribution: 5 pts	5
Priority Project	Does this project pertain to one of CDA's priority projects.	10
TOTAL		100

Application Questions

Please submit your application using this [Google Form](#).

Applicant Info

- Email
- Applicant Name
- Applicant Phone Number
- Address of Project
- Project County
- Have you been awarded a Climate Resilience grant from CDA previously?
- Is anyone related to you or affiliated with your operation also applying for this grant funding?

Project Summary

- Short description of project
- What climate risk is the project addressing? Wildfire, Drought, Snowstorm/ Winter Weather, or Other
- Describe how this project will benefit specific Colorado farms or ranches.
- How will you demonstrate this project and any lessons learned to your neighbors and community?

Climate Resilience

- Have you experienced this climate impact previously? If so, please describe, including timing and impact to your operation. Provide specific damages and costs to repair / return to full operation.
- Did you work with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or other federal or state agency for this incident or similar incidents?
- Have you worked with Farm Aid, the Colorado Farm Bureau, or any other ag associations or non-profit organization to recover from or make your operation more resilient to natural or human-caused disasters?
- How will this project help you withstand future climate disasters? Describe the benefit to your operation.

Other Project Details

- Identify major project milestones (equipment ordered, contractor hired, etc) and proposed timeline.
- Budget Attachment ([template](#))
- If you plan to work with any partner organizations, please list them here.