

Local Grant Resources for Agriculture and Water Projects

Western Slope of Colorado

The best advice from presenters and panelists – Make calls, set up meetings, introduce yourself to the people that work in these organizations! They can help you find the right funding for your needs and provide input on your application in some cases. Cultivating relationships with the people in these organizations helps them know you are serious and invested. They want to help!

Also, find other growers, ranchers, landowners to partner with on projects of similar scope and topics. This can help strengthen your application and get a larger amount of funding to support local projects!

Federal

1. Natural Resources Conservation Service (panelist William Brownlee)

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

See handouts and website. Contact William Brownlee for questions: william.brownlee@usda.gov

2. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grants

Water use efficiency improvements, ecosystem restoration, drought resiliency, community planning, system optimization review, others.

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

State

1. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) (panelist Ashley Garrison)

<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/funding/grants>

Water-specific projects. See handouts and website. Contact Ashley Garrison (ashley.garrison@state.co.us) or the contact on each grant's webpage for questions.

Technical Assistance Grants

2. Colorado Department of Agriculture

Agriculture, agrivoltaics, small business support, community food access.

<https://ag.colorado.gov/category/grants>

Contact CDA's Marketing Division for grant writing help and business plan help.

3. Colorado Water Funding Opportunity Navigator

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQVmVJW2huhKOOzvPbFT9IK5_5f5Tj7N7fJux-6aFw_iEnH5B4_52H_AvzGQm-CKZ7xKvpovsNeSVTI/pubhtml#

4. Colorado River District

<https://www.coloradoriverdistrict.org/community-funding-partnership/>

Community Funding Partnership grants and Accelerator Grants – help with preliminary design and planning and preparing federal grant applications. These are good resources for match funding.

5. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Water quality projects, non-point source pollution management projects. Call to get help identifying funding that would work with your project.

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/funding-opportunities>

Private

1. LOR Foundation (panelist Daniel Read)

Innovative field infrastructure improvements (Field Work program). Contact Daniel Read (daniel@lorfoundation.org), Alex Dunlop (alex@lorfoundation.org) or Bill Jaeger (bill@lorfoundation.org)

<https://lorfoundation.org/>

2. The Foundation Center, <https://candid.org/> (click “Foundation Directory”)

Database of private foundations you can search for funding that may fit your project.

- Access free via Mesa County Library – in-library use only at Central library location in Grand Junction
- <https://mesacountylibraries.org/eresources/resources-a-z/#f>
- Check your local library’s online resources website or ask a librarian for help accessing the database.

Other Resources

- Colorado Free University, <https://freeu.com/>

Become a Grant Writer Online Course – Next class offered January 20, 2024 9am-4pm on zoom.

Instructor Lynn O’Connell, <https://registration.freeu.com/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=3271BV>

I (Katie Radavich) took this class last year and found it EXTREMELY valuable to anyone writing grants for themselves or to help others. Lynn is a wealth of knowledge and experience and tailors the teaching to your topic/industry as best she can with student interactions and specific examples. She offers grant review support after attending the class too.

- Flower Hill Institute – federal grant help

<https://flowerhill.institute/>

- WaterNOW Alliance – provide help (templates, review) with federal waterSMART applications. They can answer questions and point you in the right direction if they can't help directly.

<https://waternow.org/> , <https://waternow.org/consulting-services/>

- Farmland Information Center

<https://farmlandinfo.org/find-capital/>

Leverage Partnerships

To make your application stronger, think about who you can partner with. Who else would benefit from the improvement you are trying to get funded?

- Organizations listed above
- Other local growers, ranchers, or landowners
- CSU Extension
- US Fish and Wildlife Service, local offices
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife, local offices
- Ditch companies
- Conservation Districts
- Local municipalities
- Trout Unlimited
- Audubon Society
- American Rivers
- Colorado Ag Water Alliance (<https://www.coagwater.org/>, also has some grant funding opportunities)
- Colorado Cattleman's Association
- Food banks
- Non-profits and other advocacy groups/organizations
- Think of other organizations investing into the same causes you are working to support

Western Colorado Alliance contact info:

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