

COLORADO HEALTHY RIVERS FUND GRANT APPLICATION Revised February 2010

The information below is a brief summary of what must be included in an application for funding from the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund. Proposals shall address all sections listed below. Please refer to the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund (CHRF) Program Guidance document for complete descriptions and requirements for grant application. The proposals shall be no longer than 7 pages (*minimum 11 point font and 1 inch margins*), not including attachments (e.g. maps).

SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

- **Completed applications are due by April 30 (close of business).**
- **All applications should be submitted electronically via email to chris.sturm@state.co.us The entire application must be submitted as one file, e.g. word doc or pdf. Please note that files larger than 7 mb cannot be received via email.**
**Electronic applications on CD or DVD may be mailed to:
Colorado Water Conservation Board, ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, Co 80203**
- **Logistical questions about submitting application packets should be directed to Chris Sturm (303-866-3441, ext. 3236 or chris.sturm@state.co.us).**
- **Please indicate whether the application is for a Planning or Project Grant.**

GRANT CATEGORIES

Two categories of grants will be available under the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund program: (1) Project Grants, and (2) Planning Grants. Recognizing that good planning is a critical aspect of any project, the goal of the Commission and Board is the implementation of on-the-ground projects to restore and protect the lands and natural resources within Colorado watersheds.

Project Grants

These grants will support projects that promote the improvement and/or protection of the condition of the watershed. This could include projects such as water quality and/or water quantity monitoring, participation in the development and/or implementation of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), implementation of watershed-related best management practices, flood protection, channel stability, and a wide variety of other riparian, streambank and habitat restoration efforts.

Watershed restoration or protection projects can be very costly, and this grant can be used as matching money for larger grants or grants that need nonfederal match. Grants can be used in multi-objective projects when multiple partners and funding sources need to be managed. The suggested maximum for this grant type is \$50,000.

Planning Grants

Development and implementation of a successful watershed restoration or protection project requires appropriate planning. This second category of grants will support these planning efforts. Such efforts may include data collection and assessment, analysis of project alternatives, project permitting, acquisition of funding for a project, and outreach efforts to ensure the education, involvement and support of the local community. The suggested maximum amount for this type of grant is \$25,000.

1.0 PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Please list the following on the summary sheet:

Project Title

Project Location (include Lat/Long if applicable)

Grant Type (planning or project)

Grant Request/Amount

Cash Match Funding

In-kind Match Funding

Project Sponsor(s) (identify the fiscal agent if different from project sponsor)

Contact Person name, email address, and phone number

Brief Description of the Project

All of the above information should fit on one page. Please use a font size no smaller than 11 point.

2.0 – 3.0 APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

The application will be evaluated with respect to the following three factors:

- How *well* does the applicant fit the qualifications test? (*Applicant Qualifications*)
- Does the applicant organization have the capability to *accomplish* the proposed work? (*Organizational Capability*)
- How effective is the proposal at accomplishing the legislative intent of “restoration and protection of land and natural resources within the watersheds in Colorado”? (*Effectiveness of Proposal*)

The goal of the application is to demonstrate that the applicant is qualified to manage the grant and organized effectively to implement the project. The overall effectiveness of the project in preserving and protecting the natural resources in the watershed is rated heaviest. The degree to which an application meets the above three evaluation factors will be determined by utilizing the rating system shown on the table included at the end of the application, entitled “Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund Application Evaluation Criteria”.

2.0 APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

- 2.1 Identify the lead project sponsor and all cooperators. Describe the project responsibilities of each cooperator. Examples might include technical assistance, deliverable review, cash contributor, labor, volunteer coordination, etc. Does the application represent diverse interests engaged in collaborative approaches? Is participation open to all interested parties, and is the application supported by relevant local, state, and federal agencies?
- 2.2 What is the organization's history of working cooperatively in partnership with other community organizations, watershed groups and local, state, and federal government?
- 2.3 What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project? Include any relevant information regarding existing watershed plans, geomorphic assessments, water quality and/or water quantity monitoring, flood studies, riparian conditions assessments, aquatic/terrestrial habitat conditions, wildlife studies, and river restoration reports.
- 2.4 Specify in-kind services or cash contribution (match) amount for the activities proposed. Include the sources of additional cash funding. The applicant must provide at least 20% in-kind or cash match. Project applications require a cash match.

3.0 ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

- 3.1 What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed? Describe work performed within the watershed, e.g. stream restoration, water quality monitoring, volunteer/membership recruitment.
- 3.2 What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Please discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project.
- 3.3 How capable is the available staff of accomplishing the proposed project/planning effort. Please list names, brief resumes, and a description of the work they will perform (please limit to 5 lines per person).
- 3.4 Will the applicant organization utilize community volunteers in the project? If so, how many and in what capacities?

4.0 EFFECTIVENESS OF PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Provide a brief description of the watershed and the issues in the watershed as they relate to the project. Describe the objectives of the project and how the project will measure success of the objectives.
- 4.2 Describe how the project will improve the overall health of the watershed or improve the strength of the organization to accomplish future projects.

- 4.3 Discuss the budget, the schedule, and deliverables for the proposed project and demonstrate that they are realistic. Progress reports are due six months after the notice to proceed. Final reports are due after 1 year, with an option to extend by another six months.
- 4.4 Discuss the multi-objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other. Describe similar activities in the watershed and how this project complements but does not duplicate those activities.

5.0 EVALUATION AND MONITORING PLAN

- 5.1 Describe storage, management and reporting of project data.
- 5.2 Describe any scientific models used as part of the project or state that no models will be used.
- 5.3 Describe the organization’s proposed monitoring plan for measuring the long-term performance of the project
- 5.4 Describe long-term funding plans for operation and maintenance of restoration activities and for ongoing monitoring, if any.

6.0 BUDGET - Present the project budget in tabular format. Include rows for each task and columns for requested CHRF funding, other funding, and in-kind match.

TASK	CHRF Funding	Other Funding 1	Other Funding 2	In-Kind Funding	Total
Task 1					
Task 2					
Task 3					

7.0 ATTACHMENTS – The following documents may be attached to the application in order to support the request for funding:

- If the project is an implementation project, the applicant is encouraged to include a copy of the watershed plan on which the proposal is based, if such a plan exists
- Letters of support from other entities and letters of financial commitment
- Pertinent still photos
- Maps and reports from other similar or related projects

Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund Application Evaluation Criteria

Rating Criterion	Maximum Points
Qualifications Evaluation	Total of 30 points
Does the application represent diverse interests engaged in collaborative approaches? Is participation open to all interested parties, including local, state, and federal agencies?	10
What is the applicant organization's history of working cooperatively in partnership with other community organizations and local, state, and federal agencies?	5
What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project?	10
What level of cash and in-kind match for the proposed project or planning effort can the applicant organization provide?	5
Organizational Capability	Total of 20 points
What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed?	5
What <i>level</i> of staffing does the applicant organization have available for the proposed project or planning effort?	5
How capable is the available staff of accomplishing the proposed project or planning effort?	5
Will the applicant organization utilize community volunteers in the project? If so, how many and in what capacity?	5
Effectiveness of Proposal	Total of 50 points
What are the objectives of the project and how will the project measure the success of the objectives?	15
How will the project improve the health of the watershed or improve the strength of the organization to accomplish future projects?	10
Can the proposed project or planning effort be accomplished with the financial resources available and proposed? Are the proposed costs reasonable for the objectives of the proposal?	5
Is the proposed project or planning effort anticipated timeline realistic?	5
Does the project or planning effort have multiple objectives?	15