

FUNDING

for Agricultural Water Projects



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Topics We'll Cover

- Issues and Barriers
- How Do We Get Started?
- Funding for Projects
- Project Examples
- Wrap-up



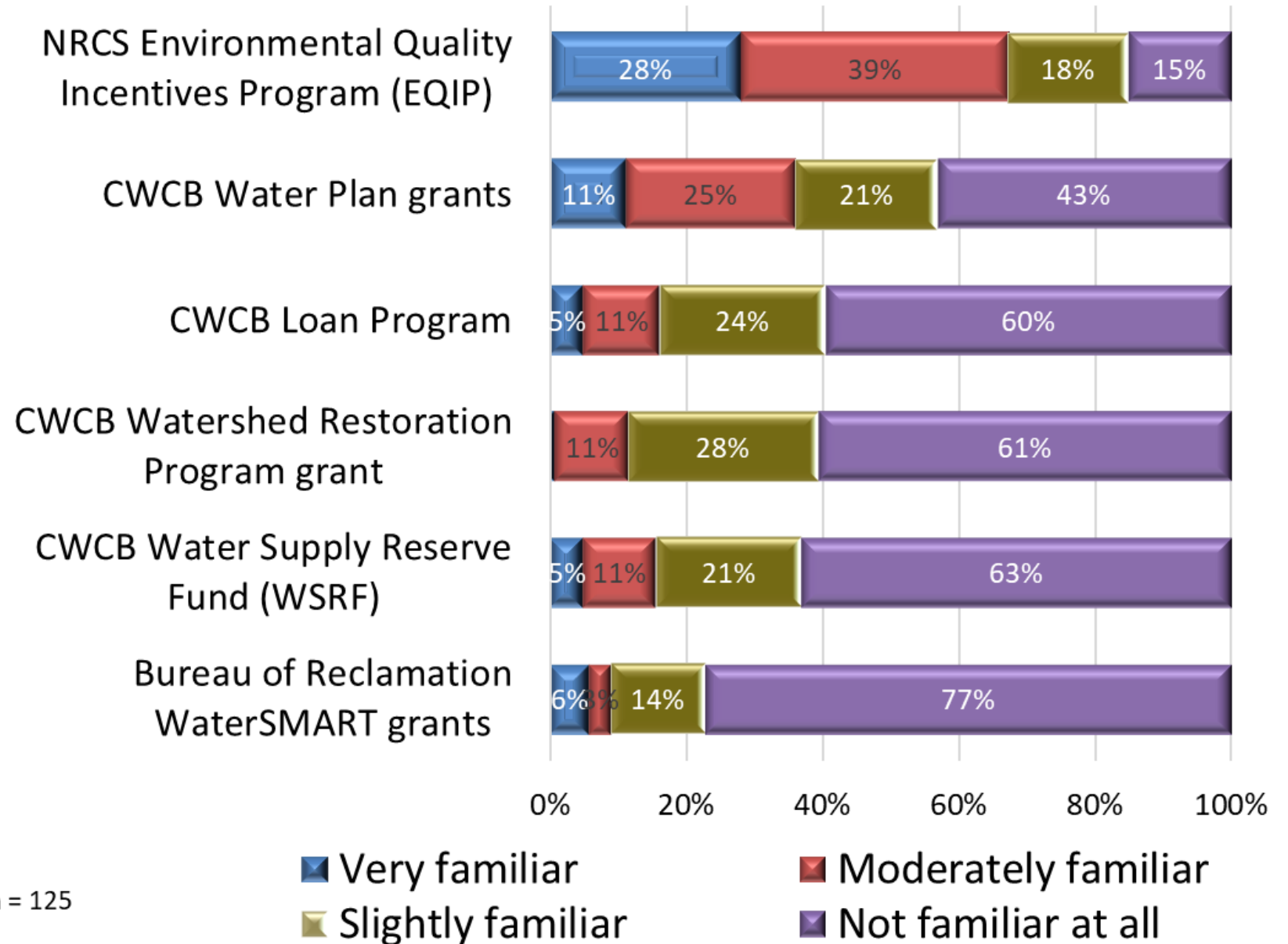
What are the Barriers to making progress on irrigation improvements?

72%

“Securing Adequate Funding and/or Cost-Share Matching Funds”

Lack of Familiarity leads to under-utilization

Please Rate Your Familiarity with the Following Funding Programs



Funding Water Projects - How Do I Get Started?



- Funders want to cost share on upgrades and multi-benefit projects
- Requires some type of long-term plan for your ditch

Where do we go from here?

- Make a long term, ditch-wide plan:
 - Accomplish what?
 - Improve operational and delivery efficiency?
 - Reduce debris?
 - Reduce maintenance?
 - Reduce conflict?
 - All the above?!
 - What Funding is available (internal and external)?

How will your project benefit others?



Multi-benefit = Multiple funding sources





CWCB Funding Sources

Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Grants:

Water Plan Grant:

- Versatile; Agriculture is 1 of 5 Funding categories
- 50% match required for construction projects
- 25% match required for plans, studies, research, outreach projects (half of match can be in-kind)
- Two application deadlines each year; December 1 and July 1
- Can be matched with non-CWCB funds
- Typically 6 to 7 months to contract



CCA Ag Water NetWORK Catalyst Funding (Water Plan grant)

- Catalyst funds for Irrigation Infrastructure Improvements
- 3 Conservation Districts participated:
 - Middle Colorado (ditch to pipeline with structures)
 - White River (embankment stabilization, diversion and channel improvement, return flow gate improvement)
 - Upper Arkansas (ditch to pipeline with structures)

Middle Colorado (Bookcliff CD)

Catalyst Project Funding example (Battlement Ditch):

| <u>Amount</u> | <u>Source</u> |
|------------------|---|
| \$22,000 | CCA's Catalyst Grant (Water Plan funding) |
| \$50,000 | Colorado River District |
| \$100,000 | CDAg Drought Resilience grant |
| \$92,000 | CWCB Loan at 2.5% for 20 years |
| \$24,000 | Covid Ag Relief Payment (CARP) |
| \$103,000 | NRCS EQIP |
| <u>\$3,000</u> | NRCS – (TSP) (design) |
| \$394,000 | |



White River & Douglas Creek Conservation Districts

Leveraged \$22,000 in CCA Ag Water NetWORK Catalyst Funding (Water Plan grant) to accomplish 3 projects:

Project #1: Armoring eroded embankment on the White River, re-seeding the stabilized area, rebuilding an in-river rock diversion and ditch inlet channel, and repositioning the headgate.



Before – Bank erosion, non-functional diversion and headgate

White River & Douglas Creek Conservation Districts

Project #1: Armoring eroded embankment on the White River, re-seeding the stabilized area, rebuilding an in-river rock diversion and ditch inlet channel, and repositioning the headgate.

\$ 8,630 CCA Catalyst Funding
\$12,510 Landowner investment
\$21,140 Total Project Cost



Embankment stabilized, diversion rebuilt, ditch channel widened, and headgate repositioned

White River / Douglas Creek Conservation District

Project #2: Replaced poorly functioning, unsafe return flow gate and armoring around the structure and adjacent flume to prevent further erosion.

\$ 8,663 CCA Catalyst Funding
\$ 8,664 Landowner investment
\$17,327 Total Project Cost



Before

Project #3: Improved in-stream rock diversion, channel and headgate replaced.

\$ 4,515 CCA Catalyst Funding
\$ 9,855 Landowner investment
\$14,370 Total Project Cost



After

CCA Catalyst Funding Project – Lessons Learned

- Establishing contracts between CCA and Conservation Districts, and agreements with landowners, required District staff administrative time.
 - Funding for administrative time for Districts should be included in future projects!
- The simplicity enabled projects to be reviewed and approved rapidly.
- Leveraging already-approved NRCS - EQIP funds made the grant possible.

Custer County Conservation District Example – Last 2½ Years:

- ✓ Secured **CWCB Water Plan Grant** (July 22' – Dec 23')
- ✓ Hired Project Coordinator
- ✓ 15 Irrigation Infrastructure Assessments completed
- **2-year Water Plan Grant just approved**; 3 focus areas:
 - County-wide Watershed Planning Status Assessment
 - Un-permitted Ponds Outreach with DWR
 - Irrigation Infrastructure Assessments
- Pursuit of Funding for Projects



A landscape photograph of a field with a blue color overlay. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills and a few trees. The sky is filled with white and grey clouds. The entire image has a strong blue tint.

CWCB
Water Supply and Reserve Fund (WSRF) grants

Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Grants:

Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF):

Basin and Statewide funds for feasibility studies, design, Infrastructure replacement or maintenance projects

- Basin and Statewide funds can be combined to potentially cover up to 85% of cost.
- Can be matched with non-CWCB funds
- Typically 7 - 9 months to contract
- Start with Basin Roundtable



CWCB Federal Technical Assistance Grant

- Created to help bring in federal funding for projects that support the Colorado Water Plan objectives.
- Provides grants to do the work needed to pursue federal funding
- Funding can be used for: Planning, design, engineering, navigating federal funding opportunities, etc.
- 25% Match required
- Must lead to the submission of an application for federal funding.
 - Examples: NRCS-EQIP, US Bureau of Reclamation, EPA 319, US Fish and Wildlife



CACD - Demonstration Project grants:

Up to \$10,000 for demonstration projects. 25% match required. Partners with conservation districts to fund innovative BMPs that are locally important and give area landowners a chance to view novel conservation practices.



Building rock cross-vanes to raise stream in steps to headgate, enabling debris and fish to pass

Contact Us:

- Help identifying funding for projects
- Assistance writing grant proposals
- Administering grants

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