



## Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025: Cycle 25-07

Tier I/Tier II Funding Application

### Application Overview

You are **required** to work with your Regional Manager prior to completing your application. **The DOLA Grants Portal will only be opened for your community to apply upon approval from your Regional Manager.**

The Department of Local Affairs' (DOLA) Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) program was created to assist political subdivisions that are socially and/or economically impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels. Funds come from the state severance tax on energy and mineral production and from a portion of the state's share of royalties paid to the federal government for mining and drilling of minerals and mineral fuels on federally-owned land. The creation of the fund is outlined in C.R.S. 34-63-102 (Federal Mineral Lease) and C.R.S. 39-29-110 (Severance). Grant dollars are to be awarded for the planning, design, construction, maintenance of public facilities, and for the provision of public services by political subdivisions.

Requests in this Cycle 25-07 may be for:

**EIAF Tier I:** up to \$200,000 with a 1:1 match

**EIAF Tier II:** over \$200,001 and up to \$1,000,000 with a 1:1 match

Tier I award notifications are anticipated in early June 2025. All other application presentations are scheduled for mid-June 2025, with funding decisions anticipated mid-July 2025. More information and additional documentation on the EIAF program can be found on the [EIAF website](#).

## A. Applicant/Contact Information

### 1. Select Your Organization: **Norwood Water Commission**

The list is filtered to eligible organizations. If you do not see your organization listed, please contact DLG at 303-864-7720 for further assistance. In the case of a multi-jurisdictional application, please select the lead organization.

Select from a dropdown menu.

In the case of a multijurisdictional application, select the other participating eligible organizations: Select from a dropdown menu.

### 2. Principal Representative:

(In the case of a multi-jurisdictional application, principal representative of the lead organization.)

Honorific:

First Name: **Sara**

Middle Name:

Last Name: **Owens**

Suffix:

Role: \*Select from a dropdown menu. **Town Administrative Director**

Mailing Address: **PO Box 528 1670 Naturita St**

Address 2:

City: **Norwood**

State: **CO**

Zip Code: 81423

Phone Number: 970-327-4288

Email Address: sowens@norwoodtown.com

**3. Responsible Administrator (will receive all mailings) for the application:**

Honorific:

First Name: Sara

Middle Name:

Last Name: Owens

Role: \* Select from a dropdown menu. Town Administrative Director

Mailing Address: PO Box 528 1670 Naturita St

Address 2:

City: Norwood

State: CO

Zip Code: 81423

Phone Number: 970-327-4288

Email Address: sowens@norwoodtown.com

**B. Chief Elected Official Information**

Please provide contact information for the chief elected official.

Name Finn KJome In case of a multi-jurisdictional application, chief elected official of the “lead” political subdivision.

Title Norwood Water Commission Board President

Street Address PO Box 528 1670 Naturita St

City Norwood

State CO

Please use the two-letter abbreviation

Zip **81423**

Phone **970-729-3441**

Email Address **fkjome@hotmail.com**

## **C. Project Description**

### **a. Project Title **NWC Redundant Potable Water Transmission Main****

Begin the project name with your community name. Example: "*Monte Vista Project Name*" or "*Lincoln County Project Name*".

### **b. Project address \* **1901 COUNTY ROAD 45Y, Norwood, CO 81423****

What is the physical address at which the project will be located?

#### **b.1. County of Project **San Miguel****

What is the County in which the project will be located?

### **c. Amount requested **\$200,000****

The amount requested should equal the Grant Request Total line in the project budget attached in Section M.

### **d. Matching funds **\$258,900****

### **e. Total amount of all costs for the project described in this application **\$458,900****

NOTE: If this application is part of a larger, phased project, then the total amount should reflect the phase being applied for in this application. The total amount should equal the Total line in the project budget attached in Section M.

### **f. Describe the problem, opportunity or challenge that resulted in the request. \***

(1,000 character limit)

**The Norwood Water Commission (NWC) is a quasi-governmental entity responsible for owning and managing a public water system located in Southwest Colorado. NWC serves a large service area that includes the Town of Norwood, Town of Redvale, and rural parts of Wrights Mesa in San Miguel and Montrose Counties. The water distribution grid consists of pipes that range from 2" to 10". The distribution system is located between the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) near the service area's east**

end and its west end approximately 16 miles away. Distribution lines are undersized and not adequately looped, resulting in low pressures, water quality issues, and lack of fire flows. Line leaks and pipe failures result in water outages, impacting significant sections of the entire system. The existing 10” water transmission main has had significant failures from the WTP to the Town of Norwood. This is the only feed line to the entire service area, and when taken offline for maintenance disrupts water service.

**g. Describe the project scope of work**

Describe the various tasks involved in the project including specific data such as quantities, mileage, square feet, linear ft. etc., as well as specific project location within the city and/or county etc. If this is a broadband planning or middle mile implementation project, describe how it supports last mile expansion. Please be specific to this phase of the project for which you are seeking funding. (1,000 character limit)

The proposed project is to construct a 4-mile looped distribution line from the WTP to the west side of the Town of Norwood. This redundant transmission main will reduce service interruptions, improve water quality by reducing dead-end distribution lines, and improve fire flows in the NWC service area.

The applicant is seeking funding for final engineering design of the 12-Inch Water Transmission Main project. Conceptual designs indicate the project will include approximately 20,800 LF of 12" C900 waterline, (20) 12" Valves, two (2) PRV Vault & Systems, and (8) Fire Hydrant Assemblies. The scope of work will include production of existing conditions maps, easements, 60%, and 100% design plans, specifications, and will include bidding phase services.

**h. Will the project be undertaken in a wetlands or flood hazard area? Yes**

Select from a dropdown menu.

**h.1 List floodplain maps/studies reviewed. Describe alternatives considered.**

(500 character limit)

Fringe wetlands are associated with irrigation channels that parallel the proposed waterline alignment. HDD technology would be utilized in order to

**avoid wetland impacts. However, it may not be possible in all cases to avoid wetlands requiring a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Nationwide Permit 58 (Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances) would be applicable, and we anticipate less than 0.1 acres of permanent wetlands impacts.**

**i. Local priority One application**

If more than one application from the same local government (1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc.)

Select from a dropdown menu.

**j. Supporting documents**

Upload any supporting documents (studies, plans, preliminary reports, schedules, letters of support, etc.) as **a single PDF document.**

**D. Demonstration of Need**

The statutory purpose of the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance program is to provide financial assistance to “political subdivisions socially or economically impacted by the development, processing or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels.”

**a. Demonstration of need**

Why is the project needed at this time? (1,000 character limit)

**NWC's distribution system is 16 miles long. This long length and the intermediate storage tanks result in a very long water age, causing low chlorine residuals. The grid traverses through six different pressure zones. Distribution lines are undersized and are not adequately looped, resulting in low pressures, water quality issues, lack of fire flows, and lack of redundancy. NWC has had significant failure of the 10” water transmission line segment from the WTP to the Town of Norwood. This is the only feed line to the entire water system service area and when taken off-line disrupts water service to the service area. Line leaks and pipe failures result in water outages which can impact significant sections of the entire system, rather than simple line isolation impacting small areas more typical of a municipal system. As the service area grows with new development, flows will increase which will result in higher head loss and lower pressures.**

**b. Does this project address the stated need? \***

Does this project, as identified in this application, **completely** address the stated need?

If not, please describe additional work or phases and the estimated timeframe. Do you anticipate requesting Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance funds for future phases?

(1,000 character limit)

**This project will not completely address the stated need, as the scope of work is for engineering design only. This project will allow us to develop the engineering design required to progress to the next phase, construction, which, once implemented, will completely address the stated need. NWC anticipates requesting EIAF funds in 2026 to cover a portion of construction costs. Per the attached supporting documents, NWC received a PNA approval letter from CDPHE and anticipates applying for a State Revolving Fund loan for construction as well.**

**c. What are the consequences if the project is not awarded funds?**

(500 character limit)

**If the project is not awarded funds, it will be deferred to a later date and the existing distribution system will continue to deteriorate. NWC will experience reduced service reliability, increased water loss, decreased water quality, insufficient fire flows, and decreased revenues in an area of persistent drought, all while the service area experiences increased developmental and population pressure.**

**E. Measurable Outcomes**

**a. Describe the expected measurable outcomes \***

How will the project enhance the livability\* of your region, county, city, town or community? Examples would include constructing a new water plant to eliminate an unsafe drinking water system and provide safe and reliable drinking water; the construction of a new community center would provide expanded community services, or projects achieving goals regarding energy conservation, community heritage, economic development/diversification, traffic congestion, etc.

**\*(Livability means increasing the value and/or benefit in the areas that are commonly linked in community development such as jobs, housing, transportation, education, hazard mitigation, health and environment)**

(1,000 character limit)

Per DOLA's 2024 SRF Disadvantaged Community Data tool, NWC's service area is classified as disadvantaged. The Town of Norwood is disadvantaged in median household income and median household value (MHV), and Redvale is disadvantaged in MHV. With five breaks on the 10" main line in 2024, NWC spent an estimated \$28,380 in break repairs. In 2023, NWC spent approximately \$39,732 on seven break repairs. With an average of 1,800,000 gallons of water lost over two years, and intensified breaks projected as the system continues to degrade, NWC could realize about 9 million gallons of water loss over the next five years from this one, critical line. In addition to the water loss, time, and cost of the breaks, the NWC is also losing revenue and businesses, residents, and visitors experience unreliable water service. By installing a looped redundant transmission waterline, NWC can reduce service interruptions during repairs of the original transmission main. In July 2024, a wildfire two miles south of Norwood prompted evacuations. The fire started accidentally by sparks from a saw being used to cut pipe. By the time the Norwood Fire Department arrived 10 acres had burned. Fire suppression required assistance from eight local, regional, and state agencies. A total of 80 acres were burned. Fortunately, no structures were lost. With the lack of reliability and water loss from the existing transmission line, a structure fire would devastate the town. This redundant transmission main will reduce service interruptions, improve water quality by reducing dead-end distribution lines, and improve fire flows in the NWC service area. The project will result in improved water service reliability, reduced water loss, and increased revenues for NWC.

## **F. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

Applications will be reviewed on the project's potential to transform both the state and local community's energy portfolio, including considerations of additional renewable energy capacity and/or project type, the energy makeup of the local utility, and historic renewable energy adoption.



**a. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

Will this project directly implement improved energy efficiencies or develop a strategy that could result in a reduction of the community carbon footprint and increased conservation of energy? Does the project capitalize on renewable energy technology?

Select from dropdown (Yes or No)

a.1 If yes, please describe. (500 character limit)

**Water losses from pipe failures along the existing transmission waterline directly result in additional water that must be pumped through the distribution system. By implementing this project, less water would need to be treated and pumped, resulting in an energy savings. The average cost per break is \$5,676 on the existing transmission line. Six breaks are projected to occur in 2025 on the 10-inch main line or an estimated \$34,056.00 in break repairs and about 500,000 gallons of water lost. Energy would also be saved from avoided vehicles, machinery, equipment, and materials needed to repair pipe breaks.**

a.2 If no, please explain. (500 character limit)

**b. Renewable and clean energy efficiency planning and implementation projects**

Applications must assess the current needs of the community and help move the community or region towards 100% renewable energy and/or increased climate resilience. Renewable energy projects should be part of a community's climate action and/or sustainability plan that transitions the current dependence on fossil fuels toward renewable, clean energy sources.

If there is a renewable energy component to your project, please answer the questions below. Projects should advance the 100 percent renewable energy by 2040 goal utilizing specific, measurable outcomes including: energy reduction over baseline (energy efficiency), energy offset over baseline (renewable energy generation) and greenhouse gas reduction over baseline.

What type of technology does the project include? (Select all that apply)

Solar

Hydroelectric

Geothermal

Energy Efficiency

Other

b.1 If other is selected above, please describe. What is the annual generation in kWh, therms or other metric? (150 character limit)

b.2 What electric utility serves the project area? Example: Platte River Power Authority. (100 character limit)

b.3 How much is the project estimated to save per year in utility costs? (Enter dollar amount)

b.4 What is the estimated avoided greenhouse gas emissions per year in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>)? (Enter amount)

b.5 For **solar** projects only

b.5.i How many kW of generation capacity will be added from your project? (Enter amount)

b.5.ii How many kWh of electricity will the project generate per year? (Enter amount)

b.5.iii Is the solar rooftop or ground-mounted? Select from dropdown.

b.6 For **hydro-electric** projects only

b.6.i How many kW of generation capacity will be added from your project? (Enter amount)

b.6.ii How many kWh of electricity will the project generate per year? (Enter amount)

b.7 For **geothermal** and **geoexchange** projects only

b.7.i How much will the project save per year in kWh as compared to a typical electric system? (Enter amount)

b.7.ii How much will the project reduce natural gas use per year in therms? (Enter amount)

**b.8 For energy efficiency and building electrification projects only**

b.8.i How much will the project reduce electricity demand per year in kWh? (Enter amount)

b.8.ii How much will the project reduce natural gas use per year in therms? (Enter amount)

## **G. Population and Local Effort**

### **a. Current population 2000**

Current/most recent conservation trust fund/lottery distribution estimate, [Colorado State Demographer](#) estimate, or a projection based on the communities' percentage of overall county population is acceptable.

### **b. 5 year population projection 2,208**

### **c. Relationship to Community Goals**

Please describe if the project is identified in the applicant's organizational budget or a jurisdictionally approved plan (e.g. capital improvement plan, equipment replacement plan, comprehensive plan, utility plan, road maintenance and improvement plan or other local or regional strategic management or planning document). (500 character limit)

**The project is identified in NWC's most recent 2020 Water Master Plan as the number one priority project for the entire water system. A cash match for the proposed design and engineering phase is included in the NWC 2025 budget and will be appropriated in the 2026 budget pending securing funding.**

### **d. Why can't this project be funded locally?**

(500 character limit)

**The total project cost (engineering and construction) is estimated to be approximately \$8,700,000 over 2 years, which is a much greater cost than NWC can support through changes in customer rates and fees structures. Additionally, in**

**servicing a disadvantageded community, NWC is cognizant of cost burden pressures already facing its customers. The NWC's annual budget is X, with annual revenues of X and expenses of X. Without external funding support, this project will not be able to materialize.**

**e. Has this project been deferred because of lack of local funding? If so, how long?**

(500 character limit)

**Yes, for decades. NWC was created in 1993 but the easements in place for this waterline were created in 1938 with the understanding that potable water infrastructure would be needed in these locations. This project was identified in a 2006 Water Master Plan and in the 2020 Water Master Plan as the number one priority.**

**f. Explain the origin and status of your local cash match. \***

(Note: Whenever possible, local government cash match is on a dollar for dollar match to the award amount).

Are the local matching funds committed or pending? If pending, when will the status of those funds shift from pending to committed? If funding is awarded and in-kind contributions are included in the project budget, detailed tracking of in-kind will be required. (500 character limit)

**The local cash match of \$258,900 will be covered by NWC's water fund cash reserve. NWC has committed \$100,000 in the 2025 budget and the remainder is pending appropriation in the 2026 budget out of the cash reserve. This application and cash match appropriation plan were approved by the NWC at a public meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025. The 2026 funds will be formally appropriated during the budgeting process in July 2024.**

**g. Community partners**

What other community entities, organizations, or stakeholders recognize the value of this project and are collaborating with you to achieve increased livability of the community? **Please describe** how you and your partners are addressing problems across multiple sectors (community, economic, housing, natural resources, etc.) through this project. (1,000 character limit)

This project is the number one priority project in the Norwood Water Master Plan, published in 2020. It has widespread support due to its critical need and impact. Significant general public support exists because the community is severely impacted by water service outages during maintenance repairs of the existing transmission main line. The Town of Norwood, San Miguel County, Telluride Foundation, Norwood School District, Southwestern Water Conservation District, San Miguel Water Conservancy District, San Miguel County Commissioners, West End Economic Development Corporation, and the Fire Protection District support NWC's water infrastructure projects for critical, improved community resilience, safety, reliability, and water loss reduction. The Town of Mountain Village is also supportive and has donated its Sustainability & Grant Manager's time to assist NWC in finding and pursuing funding for this project. At a state-level, the project is listed in the Southwest Basin Roundtable's Plan as a Basin Identified Project.

With interconnected economies and communities that rely on each other, the Telluride Region, San Miguel County, and Montrose County are personally invested in each other's success. This extends across the board from affordable housing and transportation to dark sky efforts to essential services and civil infrastructure. In having reliable, safe water infrastructure, NWC customers will be happier, healthier, and more confident in their ability to live and work in our region. It will also reduce pressures on regional resources, particularly related to wildfire response.

#### **g.1 Community Outreach**

Describe efforts such as inclusive community outreach used by your jurisdiction to serve and engage underrepresented groups. (500 character limit)

The NWC service area is a tight-knit community of approximately 2,000 people. NWC will partner with the Town of Norwood for public information campaigns and outreach about this project. This includes information around water rate increases, design considerations, coordination with property owners impacted by the project, and benefits related to this project. NWC hosts public meetings and representatives attend community meetings. Customers are reached through public posting locations, mailers, social

**media, and emails. The Town is currently working to make communication bilingual where possible.**

**h. Tax rate, usage charges, or fees**

Have tax rates, user charges or fees been reviewed recently to address funding for the proposed project? **Yes**

Select from a dropdown menu.

**h.1 Tax rate or usage charge modifications**

If the tax rate, user charges or fees were modified, what was the modification and when did this change occur? (500 character limit)

**The Town of Norwood and NWC are currently performing a rate study. A 10% rate increase is proposed for implementation in 2025, which will be presented for approval following completion of the study. This 10% increase will be followed by 2% annual rate increases. This equates an estimated rate increase of \$3.80 per month to the typical user's (2500 gal/mo) In-Town rate from \$38.00/month in 2024 to \$41.80/month in 2025.**

**H. Readiness**

**a. If awarded funds, when can the project begin? **Within 3 months****

Tier I awards are made in June with contracts expected in September 2025. (or July-per Patrick)

Tier II awards are made in July with contracts expected in October 2025.

Select from a dropdown menu.

**b. What is the timeframe for project completion? **12-24 months****

Select from a dropdown menu.

**c. If design or engineering is a component of this project, please select the percentage of completion as of the date of application? **1-24% complete****

Select from a dropdown menu (N/A, 0% - not started, 1%-24% complete, 25%-49% complete, 50%-74% complete, 75%-99% complete, 100% complete)

**d. How were project cost estimates determined? \***

How did the applicant develop project cost estimates? (500 character limit)

**The applicant's engineering consultant, SGM, developed project construction and engineering estimates based on the conceptual design and their experience with similar projects.**

**d.1 Is the project supported by bids, professional estimates or other credible information? \***

Select from a dropdown menu.

**Yes (upload Attachment 19 Engineer's Opinion of Cost AND SGM's engineering proposal dated 3/21/25)**

**d.1.i Bids/estimates**

**Please attach a copy of any supporting documents. (PDF Document)**

**e. Are any Local, State or Federal permits required before the project can proceed? \***

If yes, please describe and note the status of permit acquisition. (500 character limit)

**No. Local, State, and Federal Permitting are included in this design phase of the project.**

**f. State or National historic registry designation \***

Is the project on a State or National registered historic building, structure, site, or in a District?

**No**

Select from a dropdown menu.

**f.1 State or National historic registry number**

If the project is on the State or National registry, please provide the registry number. DOLA may need to seek a determination of effect from History Colorado and the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. (100 character limit)

**f.2 Historical, archaeological or cultural significance**

Please describe how the project will affect historical, archaeological, or cultural significance of the building, structure, site or district? (500 character limit)

**A preliminary review of the project area indicates there is a high density of prehistoric and historic resources near the project area. NWC is under contract with an archaeology firm to conduct a file search and Class III inventory for the project in Spring 2025. Upon completion of fieldwork, a Class III inventory report that details the findings of the survey will be prepared and submitted digitally to the USACE for review, who will be responsible for project consultation with SHPO.**

### **f.3 Attach supporting documents (if applicable)**

If on a State or National Register, please upload color photos of the project work areas and a detailed written description of work proposed. The photos and description should include details beyond the general scope of work described above. (Upload photos and description as a single combined PDF document) **N/A**

## **I. Energy & Mineral Relationship**

### **a. Community energy or mineral impact \***

Describe how the community is, has been, or will be impacted by the development, production, or conversion of energy and mineral resources.

**For example:** “Heavy truck traffic directly related to energy development is impacting County Road X, or “there are X number of oil and gas wells, storage facilities, transfer stations, etc. in the municipal or county boundaries, or a legacy of energy extraction has resulted in environmental issues in the area, or finally, the closure of energy production facilities is impacting the community.” (500 character limit)

**Norwood is a Tier I Environmental Justice community that is impacted by the closure of energy production facilities. San Miguel County and Montrose County has a legacy of coal and uranium extraction and has experienced natural resource damages. NWC service area is located in San Miguel County and Montrose County with over 988 mines and 1,331 mines, respectively. NWC’s service area is within 11 miles of former coal mining and Environmental Justice communities of Nucla and Naturita. Residents from these communities would come to Norwood for essential services and to support the economy. As their populations declined with the closing of the mines, the impact was felt in Norwood as well. With the counties as drought-**



**prone, resilient and reliable water infrastructure is of particular importance. This project will allow for the construction project to move forward to ensure water security, reduced water loss, economic vitality, and reduced strain on local resources for rural Southwest Colorado.**

## **J. Resiliency Criteria**

The Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program is required to integrate resilience criteria into the program. By bringing resiliency considerations into project planning and implementation, projects should be better poised to benefit a number of sectors (economy, health, infrastructure, etc.), minimize long-term risks, and anticipate or be better prepared to respond to changing conditions faced by Colorado communities.

For clarification or further guidance on how the Resiliency Criteria can be incorporated into projects, visit the [Resiliency Prioritization Criteria](#) section of the [Colorado Resiliency Playbook](#). The [Colorado Resiliency Framework](#) site can also be used to develop a focused approach to incorporate these measures into all, or most projects. Below, please select Yes/No for all of the criteria that can be considered to apply to your project. Project scoring for these criteria is based on whether or not the project proposes to incorporate these long-term resiliency measures into the planning, development and implementation of the project.

a. Adaptive capacity: Select from a dropdown menu. \*

a.1 Briefly describe how this project includes flexible and adaptable measures that consider future unknowns of changing climate, economic, or social conditions.\* (500 character limit)

**A key benefit of this project is ensuring the water distribution system is resilient and sufficient for current and future community needs. It adds flexibility and adaptability into the distribution system. By installing a new line, it will eliminate the massive annual water loss and repair costs from existing pipe failures. Future land use plans were considered, and future growth will likely be concentrated in two denser areas of the towns of Norwood and Redvale. Projected water demands were calculated using a 2%**

**growth rate, which is based on the State Demographer's historical growth rate.**

b. Co-benefits: Select from a dropdown menu. \*

b.1 Briefly describe how this project provides solutions that address problems across multiple sectors including the community, economic, health and social, housing, infrastructure, and watersheds and natural resources sectors to create maximum benefit. \* (500 character limit)

**Improvements to drinking water systems provide benefits across all aspects of a community, including economic, health, infrastructure, and natural resources. Safe, resilient drinking water systems are a fundamental basis for a thriving community. Located in a drought-prone area, this project will significantly improve energy efficiency and reduce water loss from pipe failures. It will also reduce or eliminate repair costs and time, allowing NWC to put these resources into other service area needs. Reliable and well-built water systems instill confidence in the community to attract and maintain businesses, residents, and visitors. It also assists in wildfire response time and effectiveness for local and regional fire departments.**

c. Risk Reduction: Select from a dropdown menu. \*

c.1 Briefly describe how this project reduces risk and vulnerability to people, infrastructure, and natural systems. \* (500 character limit)

**The new transmission main will reduce customer water outages and improve water quality in the project vicinity. Water outages and decreased water quality are an inherent risk to people in the community and to the infrastructure itself. Improving fire flows within the vicinity of this improved water line will significantly decrease risk of structure fires and reduce the spread of wildfires.**

d. Long-term and sustainable: Select from a dropdown menu. \*

d.1 Briefly describe how this project will be able to be maintained by the community over its lifetime, reduces environmental impacts and is an

investment that will last for generations. The project looks to the future and creates long-term gains for the community. \* (500 character limit)

**The existing line has been in place since 1977 and is past the end of its useful life. The drinking water system is a piece of critical infrastructure for the Norwood Water Commission's service area. The residents and leadership are committed to maintaining the project and it will be a multi-generational investment. The NWC will maintain the line through its annual work plan and budget. The project will more effectively and reliably distribute water to the service area, reducing water loss, improving water quality, improving customer satisfaction, and enhancing emergency personnel's ability to fight fires and serve the community.**

e. Mitigates climate change: Select from a dropdown menu. \*

e.1 Briefly describe how the project includes renewable energy components and other solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change as much as possible and move the community or region towards 100% renewable energy.

The Norwood Water Commission (NWC) recorded five main line water breaks in 2024, with about 300,000 gallons lost per break, causing significant service disruption and total water loss of 1,500,000 gallons. In 2023, the NWC recorded seven main line water line breaks resulting 300,000 gallons of water loss per break for a total loss of 2,100,000 gallons. In 2022, approximately 600,000 gallons of water was lost due to line breaks throughout the system.

With an average of 1,800,000 gallons of water lost over two years due to line failures, and intensified breaks projected as the system continues to degrade, NWC could realize about 9 million gallons of water loss over the next five years from this one, critical line. Per the U.S. EPA, "climate change affects where, when, and how much water is available. These effects vary by region and can harm the health of people and ecosystems. For example, rising temperatures, drought, and reduced snowfall are putting more pressure on water supplies in the Southwest." As a remote, rural water utility in a mountainous, drought-prone region, NWC and Southwest Colorado as a whole are seeing the effects of climate change pressures every day, particularly on its outdoor-recreation based economy. Through this project, NWC will be able to effectively eliminate

significant water loss from existing line failures. This will conserve water for future use.

f. Socially Equitable: Select from a dropdown menu. \*

f.1 Briefly describe how this project solution is inclusive of and addresses the needs of populations and community groups that have been or are disproportionately and negatively impacted by disasters, including social and economic shocks and stressors. The project addresses inequities, removes barriers, and benefits these populations by equitably distributing project-related benefits and providing access or meeting functional needs.\* (500 character limit)

**The NWC service area is classified as disadvantaged per DOLA's 2024 SRF Disadvantaged Community Data tool. Improvements to the drinking water system provide benefits for all community members, including the wide range of NWC's agricultural, municipal, essential services, town-based businesses, and residential customers.. Water line breaks result in water service disruptions to schools, businesses, and community spaces like the library, which can result in closures. These have a social, educational, and economic impacts. A new, reliable looped system will ensure that water service outages, if they do occur, are less frequent, less severe, and less costly.**

## **K. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND LAND USE REGULATION PROJECTS ONLY**

a. Is this application for a comprehensive plan or land use regulation project? \* **If no, proceed to Section L.**

Select from a dropdown menu.

The State of Colorado requires local governments to adopt Comprehensive (Master) Plans per C.R.S. [30-28-106](#) (for counties) and [31-23-206](#) (for municipalities). When funding comprehensive plans, DOLA **requires** that the following project components be included in the scope of work:

- An inclusive community outreach and engagement plan to ensure participation from underrepresented groups.

- The plan must assess and address housing needs of current and future residents at all levels of affordability. It must include locally-appropriate goals, strategies, and actions to promote affordable housing development. This work must use the best available data (e.g., State Demography Office data or a recent housing needs assessment). When it comes time to consider implementation strategies, jurisdictions may find the Strong Communities [list of Land Use Best Practices](#) helpful in this work.
- Risks of natural and human-caused hazards to life, property, and public resources, and consideration of their impact to vulnerable communities. Include goals, strategies, and/or actions to address and mitigate these hazards (must identify and address all potential hazards as described in the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan). Communities may find DOLA's [Planning for Hazards](#) guide helpful in this work.
- In the spirit of the state's goal to engage with disproportionately impacted communities ([C.R.S. 24-4-109](#)), the plan must use an environmental justice lens, particularly when it comes to the impacts of hazards, resources, and amenities to promote equitable outcomes.
- The plan must address the community's water supply and water quality goals. Per [C.R.S. 31-23-206\(1\)\(d\)](#) and [30-28-106\(3\)\(a\)\(IV\)](#), the community must:
  - Consult and coordinate with local water provider(s),
  - Include water conservation policies, and
  - Identify in the plan water supplies and facilities sufficient to meet public and private infrastructure needs reasonably anticipated or identified in the planning process.

Within the first six months of receiving the grant, awardees must submit a self-assessment, such as the [Colorado Growing Water Smart: Community Self-Assessment](#), to include water supply and demand status and trends, existing water conservation and efficiency goals and policies. Consult the DOLA Land Use and Water Planner before or immediately following award for free technical assistance.

- The plan must include an action plan that prioritizes actions necessary to implement the plan, creates a timeline for implementation, and assigns responsibility for actions.
- And, *for municipalities only*, a plan for three miles outside municipal boundaries, also known as the three mile plan, per [C.R.S. 31-12-105\(1\)\(e\)\(I\)](#).

The department **strongly encourages** the following:

- Land use code updates: Because the land use code implements a comprehensive plan, a land use code update is strongly recommended to immediately follow a comprehensive plan update.
- Policies and strategies in the comprehensive plan and land use code to plan for the community's aging demographic.
- Policies and strategies to address energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase the use of renewable energy sources where applicable.
- Intergovernmental agreement(s) (IGA) with neighboring jurisdiction(s) to cooperatively plan for areas of mutual interest (e.g., three-mile areas). In addition, the IGA will address how infrastructure will be provided or upgraded and maintained in areas of mutual interest and engage major service providers/special districts, as applicable.

**b. We agree to include the Department of Local Affairs' required elements for Comprehensive (Master) Plans as identified above in addition to C.R.S. [30-28-106](#) (for counties) and [31-23-206](#) (for municipalities) in the project scope of work.**

Select from a dropdown: Y/N

b.1 If no, explain why the required elements will not be included in your project scope of work.

For example, recently completed tasks or plans listed above would be incorporated into the comprehensive plan by reference. (500 character limit)

## L. High Performance Certification Program (HPCP) Compliance

For new facilities, additions and renovation projects only. Note: If your project will use 25% or more in state funds, then some form of HPCP compliance most likely applies to your project.

Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S. 24-30-1305.5) requires all new facilities, additions, and renovation projects that meet all of the following criteria to conform with the High Performance Certification Program (HPCP) adopted by the Office of the State Architect if:

- The project receives 25% or more of state funds (from any/all state funding sources and in aggregate across all project phases, if applicable); and
- The new facility, addition, or renovation project contains 5,000 or more gross square feet (**Note:** this includes all phases of project work, e.g., if one phase covers 3,000 square feet and another covers 2,000 square feet then each phase must comply, however, square footage not conditioned for human occupancy, such as an equipment shed, is excluded); and
- The building includes or will include an HVAC system; and
- Only in the case of a renovation project, the cost of the renovation exceeds 25% of the current value of the property.

Projects that meet the above criteria are required to complete and submit the [DOLA checklist](#). Please visit DOLA's HPCP web page at [High Performance Certification](#) or contact your DOLA Regional Manager.

### a. HPCP applicability \*

Is the applicant seeking 25% or more of state funds (from any/all state funding sources and in aggregate across all project phases, if applicable)? Select from a dropdown menu.

a.1 If yes, complete the remainder of this section.

a.2 If no, the project does not meet the HPCP requirements and the DOLA checklist does not need to be completed and proceed to Section M.

**b. HVAC details**

Please select the type of HVAC system for this project.

Select from a dropdown menu (N/A, HVAC upgrade, new HVAC system).

**c. Project type**

Please select the type of construction project.

Select from a dropdown menu (new construction, renovation, new construction & renovation, N/A).

**c.1 What is the square footage of the building?**

Please indicate the square footage of the building; if an addition is being added, please indicate the square footage of the addition separately.

(200 character limit)

**d. For renovation projects only, does the cost exceed 25% of the current value of the property? \***

Select from the drop down list.

**d.1. What is the current property value?**

Current property value is determined on the assessed or appraised value.

**d.2 What is the total project cost for the renovations?**

**e. Does this project meet the HPCP criteria?**

If you answered “yes” to questions a and b, then your project likely meets the HPCP applicability criteria and you **must** complete the HPCP registration form and



preliminary checklist and upload below. (See DOLA's HPCP web page for registration and checklist form.)

**e.1 HPCP registration form and checklist**

Upload the [HPCP registration and checklist form](#)

**f. Third party verification**

Have you included any costs in the budget for this grant application for third party verification to comply with the High Performance Certification Program?

Select from a dropdown menu.

**f.1 Third party verification cost**

If you answered yes above, please specify the estimated cost for third participation verification/certification. (500 character limit)

**f.2 Third party verification resources**

Will you need assistance locating resources, third party consultants, or technical assistance for HPCP third party verification requirements, preparing cost estimates, or otherwise complying with the HPCP?

Select from a dropdown menu.

**f.2.i Third party verification resources required**

If you answered yes above, please describe the type of resource identification assistance you need. (500 character limit)

**M. Financial Information (Current Year) & Budget**

Please download and complete an Applicant Financials & Budget Template with the lead agency information as well as any co-applicants on this application. The Applicant Financials Template is on the [EIAF website](#) under The Application Process section.

**NOTE:** Local governments must be in compliance with filing annual budgets, elections, annual audited financial statements, and other statutory requirements at the time of application.

**a. Financial Information Upload**

Please upload the completed Project Financials & Budget in an Excel format and name it: <Organization>Financials.xls. Example: “LincolnCountyFinancials.xls” \*

**N. Compliance of State Laws, Regulations and Directives**

**a. Certify compliance \***

By submitting this application, we do hereby certify that we are in compliance with all State of Colorado laws, regulations and directives.

Select from a dropdown menu.

**b. If no, please explain.**

(500 character limit)

**O. Tabor Compliance**

**a. Voter authorization \***

Does the applicant jurisdiction have voter authorization to receive and expend state grants without regard to TABOR spending limitations?

Select from a dropdown menu.

**a.1 If yes, please explain**

(500 character limit)

**a.2 If no, please respond below**

If no, would receipt of these grant funds, if awarded, result in the local government exceeding revenue limitations, prompting a refund?

Select from a dropdown menu

**b. Affirm Local Government Attorney has confirmed this TABOR statement \***

Select from a dropdown menu.

## **P. Official Action**

### **a. Date of official Board, Council or Commission action \***

Enter the date that this application was approved for submission to DOLA by the Board, Council or Commission.

**a.1 Enter Date** 03/27/2025

## **Application Footnote**

Political subdivisions of the State of Colorado (local governments) and regional Councils of Governments are eligible to apply for grants or loans through this program. Local governments must be in compliance with all laws and provisions governing their operations as well as in compliance with all Department of Local Affairs programs prior to receiving an award.