



DNRC Conservation and Resource Development Division
RECLAMATION & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GRANT
2021 Biennium Application, Round 2



A. PLANNING GRANT OVERVIEW

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) manages the Reclamation and Development Grants Program (RDGP) to fund projects that indemnify the people of the state for the effects of mineral development on public resources and that meet other crucial needs to protect Montana's environment. Crucial state need projects must serve the public interest and the total environment of the citizens of Montana. The purposes of the reclamation and development grants program are to:

- a) repair, reclaim, and mitigate environmental damage to public resources from nonrenewable resource extraction; and,
- b) develop and ensure the quality of public resources for the benefit of all Montanans.

The purpose of the RDGP planning grant program is to assist local governments with planning and preparation for these types of projects.

B. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Reclamation and Development Grants Program planning grants are available to city, county, or other local political subdivisions or Tribal governments within the state. Federal agencies, private corporations, non-profits and individuals are ineligible to receive RDGP planning grant funding.

C. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Proposed planning grants must plan for projects that will provide benefits in one of two categories:

1. Mineral development reclamation projects must:
 - o Reclaim land, water or other resources adversely affected by mineral development; or
 - o Mitigate damage to public resources caused by mineral development; or
 - o Research, demonstrate, or provide technical assistance to promote the wise use of Montana minerals; or
 - o Investigate and remediate sites where hazardous wastes or regulated substances threaten public health or the environment; or
 - o Research to assess existing or potential environmental damage resulting from mineral development.
2. Crucial state need: Projects that meet a crucial state need must prevent or eliminate severe and unacceptable damage to natural resources or capture extraordinary public benefit that would otherwise be lost. They must have a regional or statewide importance. Public benefit from implementation of this type of project must directly relate to natural resources.

Planning grant activities may include, but are not limited to, (1) problem analysis, (2) feasibility or design studies, (3) environmental monitoring, (4) remedial action plans or implementation, (5) technology demonstration, (6) research, (7) site assessment, or (8) other related actions that lead to cleanup of contamination, mitigation of damage, or protection of Montana's environment.

D. FUNDING LIMITS

Grants may be awarded for any amount up to \$50,000, depending on the intended planning activities. Applicants must demonstrate that funding is not available through other reasonable sources. Matching funds are not required, but applications will be evaluated on the amount of match funding. Match funds may be in-kind contributions. An applicant may submit planning grant applications for more than one project.

E. INELIGIBLE COSTS

Projects that will relieve a liable party or include work on an actively permitted site are not eligible. The following tasks are ineligible for planning grant funds:

- Activities outside of the scope of work including salaries/wages, travel, conferences and other expenses not directly related to the project
- Costs incurred outside of the contract term
- Routine maintenance and operation, as well as tasks that are programmatic in nature
- Administrative costs greater than 5% of the total project cost
- Food and beverages for meetings
- Indirect Costs (example: facilities and administration)

F. APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Applications are due Thursday March 19 by 5 pm.

The Reclamation and Development Grants Program is using the State of Montana grant application and tracking database called Webgrants at www.fundingmt.org. Applications will not be accepted by email or mail.

The complete application form and instructions are available electronically on the DNRC website at: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/resource-development/reclamation-and-development-grants-program/reclamation-and-development-planning-grants-program> or by contacting DNRC.

Submittal Instructions:

Complete an online application at <http://www.fundingmt.org>. The online application has the following components:

- Grant application summary (Step 1) entered into Webgrants.
- Steps 1-8 of this application uploaded as a Word or PDF document.
- Project location map, either uploaded as attachment or included in Steps 1-8.
- Other attachments, such as letters of support or other project documentation.
- Signed authorizing statement, uploaded as attachment or mailed to DNRC

Please contact Heidi Anderson Folnagy with any questions on the grant and application process or for technical support.

Contact Information

Heidi Anderson Folnagy, RDG Program Manager
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601
(406) 444-6691
handersonfolnagy@mt.gov

G. APPLICATION REVIEW

DNRC will review and rank the applications after they have been received. Review and ranking

methodology for the planning grants is patterned after and conducted similar to the RDGP project grant applications. Criteria for review include:

- Degree to which the project will provide public and natural resource benefits (40 pts)
- Degree of need and urgency of the project (15 pts)
- Technical design (scope of work and schedule) (15 pts)
- Budget and cost effectiveness of the project (10 pts)
- Degree of local support and commitment of partners (5 pts)
- Degree to which the applicant evidences the ability to implement the planning project (10 pts)
- Ability of the planning activities to lead to a larger project (5 pts)

DNRC will also take into consideration any issues with current or past project and availability of funding.

H. REQUIRED CONTRACT AND DELIVERABLES

Upon award of a planning grant, the grantee must enter into a grant agreement with DNRC. Under terms of the agreement, the grantee must submit quarterly progress reports and a final report of planning grant activities.

Progress reports must include project activities during the reporting period, costs incurred (including match), funds remaining, anticipated activities during the next reporting period, and expected changes in scope, schedule or budget. Reported project costs must include those funded by the Project Sponsor and matching funds. Progress reports are required with each reimbursement request or on a quarterly basis, whichever occurs sooner.

I. PAYMENT

The grant agreement will not be effective until signed and dated by representatives of the DNRC and the grantee. **Expenses incurred before the grant agreement becomes effective will not be reimbursed.**

DNRC will reimburse up to 90 percent of the contracted amount upon receipt and approval of requests for payment, supporting documentation, and accompanying progress reports. The grantee will receive the final payment based on the total of actual costs submitted, not to exceed the total contracted amount, and upon delivery of a final report and a final invoice. The final report must follow the format attached to the contract.

J. PROCUREMENT AND PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

Grantees agree to comply with all relevant procurement and contracting requirements related to work performed under DNRC grant agreements. DNRC retains the right to approve subcontracts.

Grantees are responsible for obtaining all necessary local, state, and federal permits for the completion of projects approved for funding through the RDG Grant Program. Landowner permission must be secured for projects on private land before contracting.

K. AGENCY COORDINATION

For all proposed projects regulated, or likely to be regulated, in some capacity by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), planning grant applicants must submit with the application a letter from an authorized DEQ official confirming support for the project.

I. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Resources for applicants and grantees, including FAQs, grant writing webinars, and report templates

can be found on the DNRC website: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/resources-and-training>

Helpful Tips for Preparing Applications

- ✓ Make sure your agency and project are eligible for funding.
- ✓ Start early. Give yourself plenty of time to write the application.
- ✓ Develop a clear idea and approach for the project and clearly identify the final product.
- ✓ Make sure the budget is clearly tied to the activities/tasks and objectives outlined in the application.
- ✓ Show how amounts in each of the budget line items were calculated.
- ✓ Make sure the bulk of the grant addresses the ranking criteria.
- ✓ All basic information requested in the grant application should be provided in the main application text, not in the appendices. Appendices should provide supporting information but not serve as the primary source of that information. If critical information is buried in the appendices, it might not receive due consideration in the grant evaluation.
- ✓ Make sure to include sufficient time and money for project reporting to DNRC.
- ✓ Talk to staff in the Reclamation and Development Grants Program and experts in the project field.
- ✓ Develop and document support from agencies or groups that will benefit from your project or provide access to the project site.
- ✓ For projects that repair, reclaim or mitigate environmental damage, make sure that the project is coordinated with appropriate regulatory jurisdictions before application submittal.



**DNRC Conservation and Resource Development Division
RECLAMATION & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GRANT
APPLICATION FORM**



STEP 1: GRANT APPLICATION SUMMARY FORM AND AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name _____
(city, county, tribal government, district, other local or state government entity)

Authorized Person _____
(Person authorized to enter into a grant agreement with DNRC.)

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Contact Person _____
(Person to contact with questions about the proposed project)

Mailing Address (if different from applicant) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Resource Professional _____
(Agency or consultant personnel working with applicant on this project)

Mailing Address (if different from applicant) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title _____
(Describe the specific project. Example: Tramway Creek Mine Reclamation Planning)

Brief Project Description _____

(For example: site assessment, site affected by oil and gas or hazardous substance releases, natural resource improvement in damaged area)

Requested Grant Amount \$ _____

Estimated project start date: _____ Estimated project end date: _____

Latitude (decimal degrees) _____ Longitude (decimal degrees) _____

County(s) _____



DNRC Conservation and Resource Development Division
RECLAMATION & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GRANT
APPLICATION FORM
Steps 2-8



Instructions: In steps 2-8, describe the scope, budget, and natural resource benefits of your project in a narrative that follows the steps outlined below.

STEP 2: PROJECT PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- A. Include a brief history and description of the problem that prompted the need for this planning grant;
- B. Explain the planning grant project goals and objectives; and
- C. List and describe each of the project tasks and deliverables necessary to attain the project goals and objectives and show project success. Please use the same tasks when building the budget below.
- D. For crucial state need projects, please describe the regional or statewide natural resource benefits of the project.

STEP 3: PROJECT SCHEDULE

Provide a project schedule including a start and end date. Where possible, include a start and end date for each of the project tasks.

STEP 4: PROJECT BUDGET

A. Identify all sources of funding for the project and if committed. The following budget table must be completed on Webgrants.

All Funding Sources		
Funding Source	Amount	Committed/Uncommitted
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
TOTAL		

B. Identify the costs for each task of the project. Please match the budget tasks to the tasks described in your project purpose and scope (Step 2). Enter the project budget on Webgrants.

Task Name and Description	RDG Grant Funds	Match Funds	Total
Task 1:	\$	\$	\$
Task 2:	\$	\$	\$
Task 3: etc.	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$

C. Budget Justification: Provide a short narrative that summarizes the available funding, how costs for the project were derived, and the need for RDG funding.

For consulting services include estimated personnel rates, estimated hours per task, and estimated cost of materials and other direct costs such as travel. If the applicant plans to perform

project activities using its own employees then list salaries and wages, key personnel, supplies and materials, communications, travel, and other. Identify source of match funding. Match funds may include in-kind contributions.

STEP 5: PROJECT GRANT EXPECTATION

Planning grants are intended to fund activities that will plan for larger projects.

- How will the activities from the planning grant lead to a reclamation project?
- Describe the expected natural resource benefits from the final project (how will the project repair, reclaim, or mitigate environmental damage to natural resources?)

STEP 6: PROJECT COORDINATION

List participating partners and collaborators with defined roles and provide a description of experience and local support for project

STEP 7: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Provide a short narrative highlighting the project management and organization capability

- how the project will be administered
- the skills, qualifications, and experience of the project manager, key personnel, etc.
- identify the procurement policy that will be used for acquiring services or supplies

STEP 8: OTHER

Include any other relevant information that may be useful in determining the feasibility or success of the project. This may include, but is not limited to:

- regulatory issues, if applicable;
- permits and/or landowner permissions needed
- letters of support

You may attach additional files to your application on Webgrants.

APPLICATION COMPLETION CHECKLIST

- Complete grant application on Webgrants (www.fundingmt.org)
- Upload onto Webgrants
 - Steps 1-8 of this application as a Word or PDF document.
 - Project location map, either uploaded as attachment or included in Steps 1-8.
 - Other attachments, such as letters of support or other project documentation.
 - Signed authorizing statement, uploaded as attachment or mailed to DNRC
- Submit application on Webgrants