



2025 Strong Future Community Waste Prevention & Reduction Grants Request for Applications (RFA)

Background

To work toward Summit County's community goal of 40% waste diversion by 2035, Summit County Government created the Strong Future Community Grants program to provide funding for projects that prevent waste and increase local waste diversion. High Country Conservation Center (HC3) manages the program, which has \$285,000 allocated for grants in 2025. Grants are funded through Strong Future, a mill levy approved by Summit County voters in 2018.

Grant Eligibility & Requirements

Eligible Applicants: Private sector entities (for-profit and nonprofit organizations, including HOAs) in good standing with Colorado Secretary of state, public and government agencies, and schools are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply, however those with ideas for eligible projects may contact HC3 staff at grants@highcountryconservation.org or 970-668-5703 for help connecting with a potential partner.

Eligible Project Types: Projects must achieve measurable results in one or more of the following areas. Projects must occur in and benefit Summit County and be sustainable beyond the grant period.

- Prevent or reduce waste.
- Increase reuse of materials.
- Increase recycling or composting access for underserved and/or workforce population(s).
- Increase recycling or composting, creating measurable diversion of materials from the landfill.
- Divert construction and demolition waste from the landfill.
- Create innovative programs/services that increase current or future diversion.

Identifying Workforce and Underserved Populations: If the majority of people served by the grant are considered underserved and/or workforce populations, the project will be prioritized as outlined in the scoring rubric provided on page 3 of this RFA. Although not an exhaustive list, below are a few ways to help identify these populations. You may rely on your organization's internal data or other screening tools to describe the people served by your project. Please contact HC3 staff at grants@highcountryconservation.org or 970-668-5703 with questions or for guidance.

- Workforce population may refer to one or more of the following:
 - Residents earning at or less than 160% [Area Median Income](#) (AMI)
 - Residents living in deed-restricted housing



- Underserved population may refer to one or more of the following:
 - Residents earning at or less than 80% [Area Median Income](#) (AMI)
 - Projects serving [Title I Schools](#) (Dillon Valley Elementary and Silverthorne Elementary) and/or [Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#) (Colorado Mountain College)
 - Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) residents and BIPOC-owned businesses
 - Language-burdened or food insecure residents

Eligible Costs and Vendor Quotes: Strong Future Grant Fund monies may be spent on supplies and/or labor to execute the awarded project only. Vendor-supplied quotes must be attached for any contracted services or supplies/equipment. Quotes should be saved as PDFs and included as additional pages in the application. Vendor quotes will not count against the maximum page limit. If the majority of people served by the grant are considered underserved and/or workforce populations, the project may be exempt from the vendor quote requirement.

Required Matching Funds: Applicants must be prepared to financially contribute 25% of the total project cost. For example, a project with a total cost of \$100,000 would require at least a \$25,000 cash match from the applicant and be eligible for a grant of up to \$75,000. The match requirement may be met through cash from other confirmed funding sources or project costs covered by the applicant. In-kind matches will not count toward the cash match requirement. If the majority of people served by the grant are considered underserved and/or workforce populations, the project may be exempt from the match requirement.

Reimbursement and Reporting Schedule: This is a reimbursement grant. Applicants awarded funds must submit two invoices, each with accompanying progress reports. One invoice/report shall be submitted upon completing 50% of the project expenditures, and a final invoice/report once the project is fully operational. Two additional progress reports will be required. Detailed instructions will be provided to awardees. If the majority of people served by the grant are considered underserved and/or workforce populations, the project may be exempt from the standard reimbursement schedule.

Previously-Funded Applicants: Past recipients are eligible to apply for new projects. Any organization with a project funded in 2024 that is incomplete must submit a detailed progress report (2 pages or less) before a new request is considered.

Eligibility Questions & Requirements: Please contact HC3 staff at grants@highcountryconservation.org or 970-668-5703 with questions or for application assistance.

Funding Cycle & Grant Limits

A total of \$285,000 is available to be awarded to multiple projects in 2025. Of the total \$285,000, a minimum of \$200,000 will be reserved for projects that serve a majority underserved and/or workforce populations. Grants will be awarded in the range of \$25,000 to \$75,000 per applicant. All applicants will be notified via email within ten weeks after the application deadline with a decision on the grant funding requested. All projects awarded in 2025 must be complete within one year of award notice.

Applications are DUE by June 1, 2025 at 5:00pm MDT. Late applications will not be considered.



Grant Process / How to Apply

- Read and understand the Request for Applications (RFA).
- All applicants are required to complete an initial consultation call with the Community Programs Manager at HC3 to ensure full understanding of application process and grant management.
- Email HC3 staff at grants@highcountryconservation.org with questions and for application assistance.
- Complete the entire application form including the budget table (see pages 4-6 of this RFA) and any required attachments.
- Email completed applications to grants@highcountryconservation.org by **5:00pm MDT on June 1, 2025**. All applicants will be notified of grant decisions within ten weeks.
- The Grant Committee reserves the right to request more detailed information, including financial attachments, from applicants as part of the review process.
- Awardees will be provided with detailed instructions regarding contracting, approval to begin project spending, invoice submittal, reporting, etc. Awardees must seek approval from their HC3 grant contact for any changes in project goals, scope, or timeline.

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Scoring Rubric: Maximum Score 165 points

Project Description	Points
Project goals are measurable and clear.	Yes, 5 No, 0
People Served	
Number of people directly served.	>500 people, 10 100-500 people, 5 <100 people, 1
A majority of the people served by the grant are considered underserved.	Yes, 15 No, 0
A majority of the people served by the grant are workforce population.	Yes, 10 No, 0
Project Details	
Identifies realistic project tasks and milestones required to complete the project.	Yes, 5 No, 0
Waste Diversion Impact	
Tons of waste prevented or diverted from the landfill in the first 12 months the grant project is fully operational.	>50 tons, 20 25-50 tons, 15 10-25 tons, 10 <10 tons, 5
Clear explanation of how waste prevention/diversion estimates were calculated.	Yes, 5 No, 0
Project prevents and/or diverts waste that was not previously being prevented and/or diverted.	Yes (all prevention/diversion is new), 20 Some new prevention/diversion, 10 No, 0
Waste prevention/diversion timeline.	Begins within 1 year of grant award, 10 Begins within 2 years of grant award, 3
Project has other any other environmental benefits (i.e., water savings or reduced greenhouse gas emissions).	Yes, 10 No, 0
Describes project measurement and monitoring plan.	Yes, 5 No, 0
Project is required to comply with local waste ordinances such as Universal Recycling or wildlife requirements.	Yes, 0 No, 10
Applicant Qualifications and Partners	
Applicant has experience and qualifications to execute project.	Yes, 10 No, 0
Project builds upon community resources and/or has at least one community partner.	Yes, 5 No, 0
Budget and Project Sustainability	
The amount requested is appropriate, cost-effective, and commensurate with project needs. The project meets matching 25% requirement unless serving a majority workforce/underserved populations.	Yes, 15 Somewhat, 8 No, 0
The project is sustainable beyond the grant period.	Yes, 10 Somewhat, 5 No, 0



2025 Strong Future Community Grant Application

Please answer the following questions in **SIX** pages or less. Vendor quotes should be included as additional pages in the application and will NOT count against the maximum page limit.

[Access an editable template HERE.](#)

1. **Contact Information:** Organization name, EIN, contact name, mailing address, physical address, phone number AND EMAIL ADDRESS.
2. **Project Title:**
3. **Project Description: (150 words or less, to be published online if grant is funded):** Describe your proposed project, including the measurable goals of the project. Include project location, along with project start and end dates.
4. **People Served**
 - a. What is the total number of people directly served by project?
 - b. Estimate the % of people served by this project who are in the workforce population.
 - c. Estimate the % of people served by this project who are considered underserved.
 - d. If the people served by your project include workforce or underserved populations, please describe the tools you used to identify these populations.
5. **Project Details (400 words max):** Identify key project tasks and associated milestones, including deadlines.
6. **Waste Prevention/Diversion Impact**
 - a. How many tons of material will this project prevent and/or divert from the landfill in the first 12 months that it is fully operational? (Provide a number only)
 - b. Please describe how you determined your prevention/diversion estimates.
 - c. Are the materials (in 6a) currently being prevented/diverted?
 - d. Describe whether the waste prevention/diversion will be immediate, temporary, and/or increase over time.
 - e. Does the project have other any other environmental benefits (i.e., water savings or reduced greenhouse gas emissions).
 - f. Describe how you will measure and monitor project success.
 - g. Is the project required to comply with Breckenridge, Frisco, or unincorporated Summit County's universal recycling, pay- as-you-throw or refuse ordinance?
7. **Applicant Qualifications and Partners**
 - a. Briefly outline the resources and experience of parties responsible for executing the project, managing the grant, and continuing the project beyond the grant period.
 - b. How does the project build upon existing community resources and/or infrastructure?
 - c. Please list any partners and their contributions to the project.



8. Budget and Project Sustainability

- a. Describe the extent to which Strong Future Funding will make this project happen and the implications of receiving partial funding.
- b. Will this project continue beyond the grant period?

9. Budget Worksheet

- a. Using the tables below, provide an overall project budget that includes funds requested from Strong Future Community Grants and other project funding sources, which must be a minimum of 25% of the total project cost.

10. Required Attachments

If applicable, attachments should be saved as PDFs and included as additional pages in the application. Attachments will not count against the maximum page limit.

- a. Provide vendor-supplied quotes for any contracted services or supplies/equipment.
- b. If the applicant was funded in 2024 and hasn't yet completed the project, provide a detailed progress report (2 pages or less) that includes: activities to date, waste diverted as a result of the project, key milestones/deliverables that have not yet been achieved, and a timeline of when the remaining milestones/deliverables will be achieved. If the project has not yet begun diverting waste, the report should explain why.

PROJECT BUDGET

Add or remove lines as needed for each category.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Labor (Applicant Staff Time)	100 hours director at \$xx/hour	\$
		\$
Contractual	Contractor Name: Services Provided	\$
Contractual	Contractor Name: Services Provided	\$
		\$
Supplies/Equipment	5,000 recycling bins at \$xx/bin	\$
Supplies/Equipment	Heavy equipment quote from Vendor Name	\$
		\$
Other	Describe any additional budget items	\$
		\$
		\$
Total Project Cost		\$
Total Funds Requested from Strong Future Community Grants		\$



ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

List other project funding sources for the project, including funds from your organization. In-kind matches will not count toward the cash match requirement. Other project funding sources must equal 25% of total project cost, unless a majority of the people served by the project are considered underserved or workforce populations.

FUNDING SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Foundation A	Confirmed Grant	\$
Applicant Name	Marketing materials including graphic design costs (5hrs at \$50/hr), media spend (\$1,000 for social media advertisements)	\$
Applicant Name	100 hours director at \$xx/hour	\$
		\$
Total Cash Match		\$
Cash Match is What Percent of the Total Project Cost?		%

Budget Narrative (Optional – 150 words max):

If you need additional space to describe your line items or additional budget considerations, please explain here.