

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: May 2, 2024  
 To: Executive Leadership Team  
 From: Kerri Ishmael, Senior Analyst, Grants Administration  
 CC: Finance Liaisons and Department Heads  
 Subject: **Q1 2024 Grants Update**

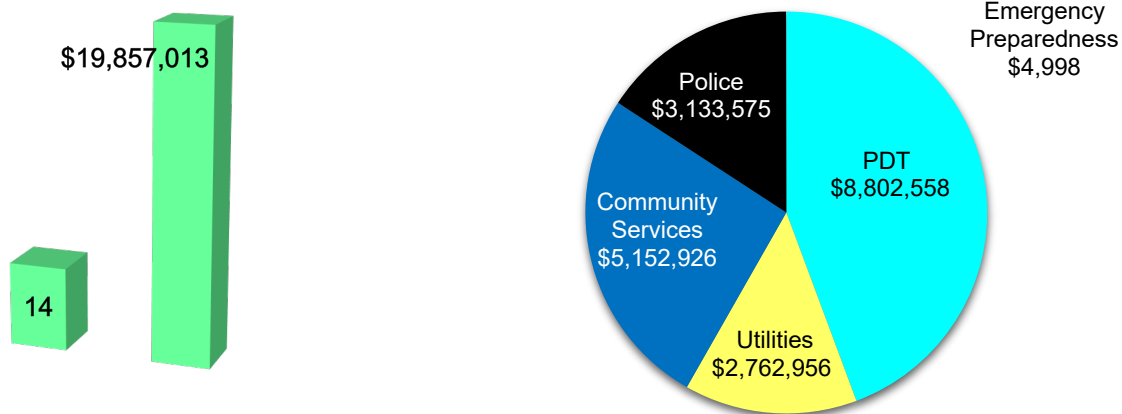
**Summary**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on grant opportunities pursued during Q1 2024 and notices of award received during Q1 2024.

Before we celebrate efforts by many departments, as well as take notice of the work by departments in pursuing government funds, let's discuss administrative news over government grants.

Per direction of the Chief Financial Officer, the City began incorporating indirect costs in grant proposals in 2023. This allows the City to recoup indirect costs a/k/a administrative overhead and further to utilize the value of indirect costs in meeting match requirements. The City more recently received a provisional indirect cost rate from the Federal Transit Administration, which serves as the City's cognizant federal agency for indirect costs under Uniform Guidance/2 CFR 200. Considering the importance of properly incorporating indirect costs into grant proposals, it's imperative that departments work with Grants Administration prior to submitting a grant proposal. Notwithstanding guidance that all grant proposals are required to be reviewed by Grants Administration, departments continue to submit grant proposals without review and support by Grants Administration. Please ensure that your departments are working with Grants Administration on all government funding opportunities.

**Funding Opportunities Applied for in Q1**



Q1 2024 - Ask for Funds by Service Area  
 Total \$19,857,013

A total of 14 funding opportunities were pursued during Q1 2024, totaling \$19,857,013, with asks varying from infrastructure upgrades and investments to conservation measures for endangered species. Specifically:

- Utilities' Water Quality Services Division put forth an ask under the **Colorado Water Conservation Board's Colorado Watershed Restoration** program to develop a Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP) to address the susceptibility of critical water supplies and infrastructure in the upper Cache La Poudre and North Platte watersheds to post wildfire impacts and hazards. The planning ask includes partnership with City of Greeley and [Water Supply & Storage Company - Public and Environmental History Center \(colostate.edu\)](https://www.colostate.edu) that also aim to mitigate impacts to their water supplies. Project costs total \$278,313, with an ask of **\$209,688** from **CWCB**. The City and partners will contribute the remaining amount through in-kind City staff time and cash.
- Community Services' Natural Areas presented a proposal under **Colorado Parks and Wildlife Wetlands for Wildlife** program for **\$133,094** to restore wetland and riparian habitat at Brannigan Springs in Soapstone Prairie Natural Area in support of the translocation and expansion of the Tier 1 Northern Leopard Frog. The project proposes installation of beaver dam analogs (man-made structures that mimic the form and function of natural beaver dams) and relocation of Northern Leopard Frog egg masses. In addition to supporting increased population of the Northern Leopard Frog, the project provides opportunity to engage Native American community members, elders, and youth in the restoration activities. This engagement benefits the City and our community through knowledge provided from Native American community members, ensuring that Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge contributes to the scientific, technical, social and economic advancement of the United States, as recognized by the [Biden Administration](https://www.whitehouse.gov/). The City's proposal includes partnering with Colorado State University to lead the Indigenous ecological restoration and community efforts.
- PDT's Engineering in collaboration with the Midtown Business Improvement District put forth a request for \$6.3 million under the Dept. of Transportation's highly competitive **FY2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)** program. The Midtown Business Improvement project will finalize plans for future construction of the 1.33-mile corridor of College Ave from Boardwalk Drive to, and including, the West Drake Road intersection. The design scope covers infrastructure updates for the corridor to improve safety for all modes of travel, business access, ADA access, active modes infrastructure, access to the adjacent bus rapid transit line and regional Mason trail, and stormwater drainage. In addition to matching funds from the City and BID, Engineering was awarded \$480,512 from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in support of the match requirement.
- Environmental Services success under the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) **Front Range Waste Diversion Grant** program. The group pursued support from a Technical Assistance Service Provider (TASP) to analyze options, potential partners, supportive policy, and expected costs for new community-scale facilities for food scrap composting and construction and demolition materials recycling. Results from the analysis will provide critical information for local decision-makers and regional collaborators to assess how, where, and when to invest in new waste diversion infrastructure that can serve the Fort Collins community.

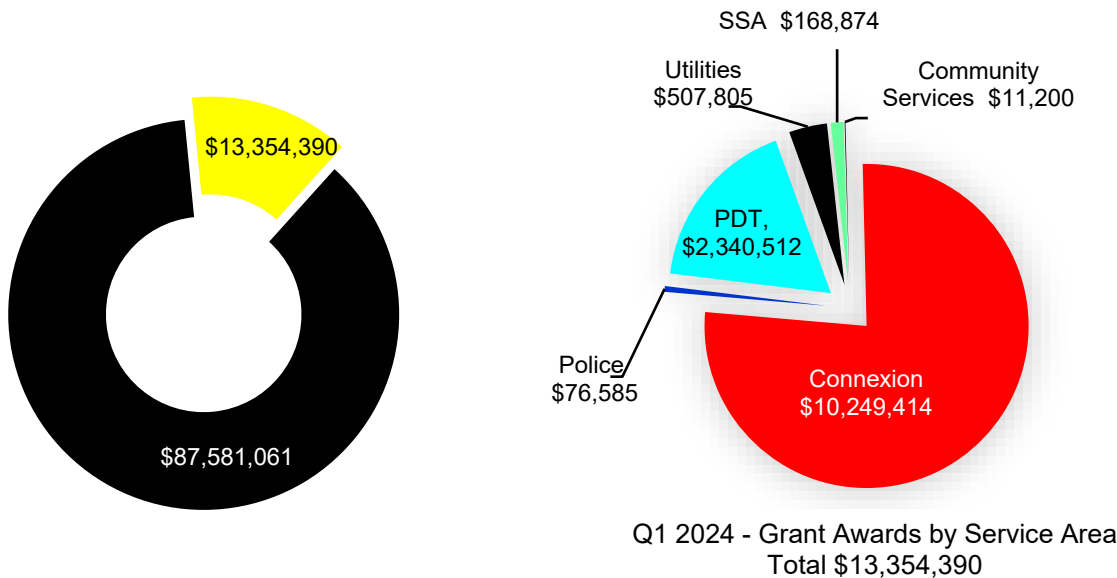
There were **BIG** efforts by many departments in response to FY 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending (FY25 CDS) requests by Senator Hickenlooper and Bennet. This is a mechanism by which members of Congress can request funding for high priority projects. Hundreds of applications were submitted by eligible nonprofits and state and local departments. Ultimately, whether a project selected by the senators receives funding will be up to the Appropriations Committee and Congress passing a FY25 appropriations bill. **BIG** efforts by City departments include:

- Water Quality Services Division's Michigan Ditch Pre-Fire Mitigation project - Project serves to mitigate the risk of future large-scale wildfires in the Colorado State Forest by treating high priority forest acres identified as having the greatest risk of post-fire erosion and sedimentation. 175 acres of steep, high elevation forest will undergo helicopter timber harvest treatment to protect critical infrastructure, including City's Michigan Ditch, in support of protecting water quality and water supplies for the City of Fort Collins and Jackson County communities. This is Phase II of the project, with Phase I commencing summer of 2024 based on funds received by the City from the Colorado State Forest Service. Phase II project costs total \$2.1 million with a request for \$1.1 million in FY25 CDS funds. The City and CSFS will collaborate in funding the required 50% match.
- Light & Power's Streetlight System Replacement, Control, and Automation project – Project will replace existing high-energy-consuming streetlights in Fort Collins with more efficient LED lights and implement a streetlight control and automation system citywide. The project serves as a climate resilience measure by increasing efficiency, thereby reducing operating and maintenance cost, as well as reducing GHG emissions. By replacing the traditional high-pressure sodium lamps with LEDs and utilizing the control and automation system, the project will result in significant energy savings and health and safety benefits to the community. A request was made for \$1.5 million, with the City funding the required 50% match.
- Police's Regional Real-Time Information Center - Project serves to fund implementation of the Real-Time Information Center that will use advanced technologies and data analytics in support of first responders to proactively respond to emerging threats, coordinate rapid emergency responses, and more effectively and efficiently allocate resources. Funds will be used to implement computer hardware and software, with civilian personnel operating center to disseminate information out to emergency responders, which includes Fort Collins Police Service and partnering agencies in northern Colorado. A request was made for \$2.4 million to fund the project in full.
- Recreation's Southeast Community Center Licensed Childcare Wing - Project will provide equitable access to licensed year-round childcare and school age camps and programs in the future Southeast Community Center. Funds will be used to construct a childcare wing at the future Southeast Community Center to provide childcare offerings that are currently absent within the southern half of city limits. A request was made for \$5 million, with the City funding \$4 million to build the childcare wing projected at \$9 million.
- Transfort put forth a request for \$2 million in support of design, purchase, and installation of three on-route charges for battery electric buses at the South Transit Center. Transfort will use other grant-funded dollars to meet the additional \$1 million needed for project completion.

Other **BIG** news supporting our community is through Platte River Power Authority (PRPA). PRPA was selected as a partner to work with CU Boulder for the Rocky Mountain Region under the Dept. of Energy's Renew America's Nonprofits (RAN) grant program. PRPA was selected as a key partner based on commercial energy advising and

assessment services provided through the [Efficiency Works Program](#). PRPA anticipates funding through the RAN grant to support non-profits business entities in its territory to make energy efficiency upgrades.

**Funding Opportunities Awarded Q1 2024**



A total of **12 awards, totaling \$13,354,390** were received during **Q1 2024**, corresponding to efforts by many departments in support of furthering existing programs, as well as supporting new opportunities that align with several strategic objectives of service areas. Specifically:

Connexion in partnership with Larimer County under the Colorado Broadband Office's **Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant program** was awarded **\$10.2 million** to fund broadband infrastructure for unserved and underserved locations, with Larimer County and Poudre Valley REA contributing the remaining \$3.4 million of total project costs. Funds will support providing reliable and equitable broadband to the rural communities of: (1) Risk Canyon; (2) Poudre Park; (3) Red Feather Lakes and (4) Rustic to Colorado State University Mountain Campus.

PDT's Engineering being successful under two separate funding opportunities:

- **\$1.8 million** in federal and state **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)** funds to further the Timberline Road and Carpenter Road infrastructure project. This adds to the \$696,285 in prior HSIP funds received by Engineering.
- **\$480,512** in state funds from DOLA in support of the City's match requirement for the Midtown Business Improvement project proposed under the DOT's highly competitive FY24 RAISE grant program. The DOLA

award demonstrates the City's continued success in pursuing state funds to meet match requirements under IIJA and IRA federal funding opportunities.

Utilities' [Water Quality Services Division](#) receiving **\$507,805** through the Colorado State Forest Service's **Forest Restoration & Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program** in support of the Michigan Ditch Pre-Fire Mitigation project. This project serves to mitigate the risk of future large-scale wildfires in the Colorado State Forest and to treat high priority forest acres identified as having the greatest risk of post-fire erosion and sedimentation. A total of 150 acres of steep, high elevation terrain in subalpine forest with high spruce bark beetle mortality is proposed for tethered and helicopter timber forest treatment. The work will mitigate the risk of large-scale wildfires and protect critical infrastructure, including the City of Fort Collins Michigan Ditch. This is Phase I of a multiphase project, which is proposed to commence in summer 2024. Total project costs for Phase I are ~\$1.51 million, with the City and federal funds received by the CSFS from prior year congressional directed spending funds supporting \$1 million of total project costs. As noted above, a request was made under FY25 CDS funds to support treatment of an additional 175 acres.

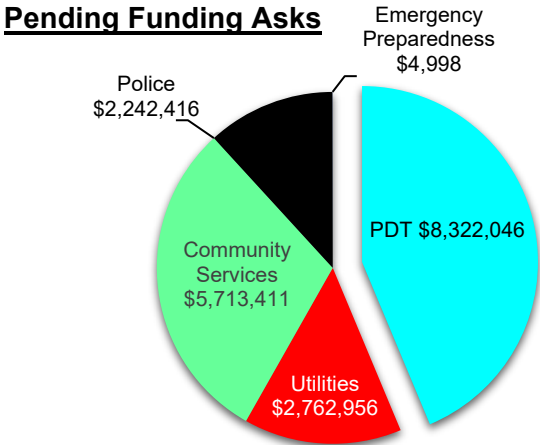
SSA's [Environmental Services](#) listened to feedback from the CDPHE during a prior round of funding under the **Environmental Justice Grant** program and was successful in receiving **\$168,874** under the 2024 EJJG funding cycle. The award supports the *Cultivating Community-Led Resilient Homes Project* to improve indoor air quality, energy efficiency, and prepare homes of disproportionately impacted (DI) communities in Fort Collins for climate-related events (i.e., wildfires, extreme temperatures). The goal of the project is to create equitable access to healthy, energy efficient, and resilient housing for 75 homes within DI communities.

The City was awarded **15%** of total requested funds.

Outcome in relation to the \$87,581,061 in request for funds includes an unsuccessful ask for **\$72 million** by [Transfort](#) under the under the Federal Transit Administration **Small Starts Capital Investment Grant (Small Starts Capital) program** for the West Elizabeth Corridor project. The project proposed a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service along the corridor, with incorporation of a consistent sidewalk and bike network. The focus being to respond to current and future multimodal transportation needs by increasing and improving transit offerings, as well as bicycling and walking infrastructure. Transfort is working hard to amend the project proposal, with a future submittal under the Small Starts Capital program.

[Police Services](#) in collaboration with UCHHealth was unsuccessful in a request for \$727,000 under DOLA's **Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnerships Grant** program. The request for funds was to support three FTE UCHHealth licensed clinicians that currently support Police Services' [Mental Health Response Team](#). The Team comprised of dedicated Police Services' police officers and UCHHealth licensed clinicians work collectively to respond to behavioral health emergency calls. The collaboration among the City and UCHHealth (1) provides support for community members suffering from behavioral health matters to receive the most appropriate level of care; (2) serves to reduce number of incarceration related crimes secondary to mental illness; (3) creates a culture of law enforcement-mental health collaboration; and (4) provides needed training to support partner organizations. Notwithstanding the BIG effort by Police Services and UCHHealth, DOLA prioritized funding to support Peace Officers Behavioral Health funding requests based on the volume of funding requests.

The City is awaiting the outcomes on several grant applications, with total asks of \$19 million.



**A Look Ahead at Q2 2024**

Light & Power and Energy Services collaborate with PRPA and other owner communities – City of Loveland, City of Longmont and Estes Park under the Dept of Energy’s **Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program (GRIP)**. PRPA and community owners have been invited by DOE to submit a project proposal under GRIP in support of a virtual power plant (VPP). A technical project that proposes integrating monitoring and control systems in all four owner communities with a central Distributed Energy Resource Management System operated by PRPA, creating the VPP. Total project costs are estimated at \$76 million, with the four owner communities contributing collectively 60% of total project costs.

Energy Services collaborates with the Colorado Energy Office, Boulder, and Aspen under the DOE’s **Assistance for Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption**. The proposal is to support commercial building owners in meeting state and local building codes. The proposal seeks funding for CEO and municipalities to contract with third-party providers in providing commercial building owners advanced financial education over available funding sources to implement building measures/upgrades, as well as technical audits to identify needed implementation measures/upgrades.

FC Moves pursues another proposal for planning and demonstration activities under the DOT’s highly competitive **FY24 Safe Streets and Roads for All** grant program. Proposed activities align with City’s Active Modes Plan and Vision Zero Plan, centering on an (1) audit of standards and policies within several Larimer County and City plans, codes, and manuals that guide development, infrastructure, and traffic operations to identify those not aligning with the City’s Action Plan and related plans and studies; (2) a study of Harmony Road to develop concepts to mitigate speed related risks and reduce severe crashes involving vulnerable road users on ~4-mile section of Harmony Rd from John F. Kennedy Pkwy to the West I-25 Frontage Rd; and (3) a protected bike lane demonstration activity along Lake Street that serves to inform a future implementation proposal.

Natural Areas and Water Resources pursue funding under the Bureau of Reclamation's **WaterSMART Planning and Project Design** grant program in support of the Poudre Flows Project. The project proposes use of existing water rights owned by Fort Collins, Greeley and Thorton that will be delivered to the Poudre River as protected stream flows to maintain and improve river health. Water right contributions require upgrades to the Arthur Ditch diversion structure. The City requests funds for full design and permitting costs in support of the Poudre Flows Project.