



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
AN ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

“Sharing Success” Grant Applications Now Being Accepted

Deadline to Apply is 5 p.m., Fri., Feb. 27, 2026.

For the 15th consecutive year, Continental Divide will award a charitable grant of up to \$5,000. The Co-op's governing board makes the grant possible in partnership with CoBank – a cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. Annually, CoBank matches dollar-for-dollar the amount Continental Divide contributes. We have participated in the program since 2012.

In general, all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are eligible, so long as they are located within the Co-op's service area and their services directly benefit our members. Contributions to non-501(c)(3)s will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These include schools and government entities such as counties or municipalities and their agencies or departments, as long as they use the grant to serve a public purpose consistent with program guidelines listed on the application.

Organizations that are political in nature, limit their activities based on religious affiliation, or discriminate do not qualify. Continental Divide and CoBank reserve the right to review and determine whether requests are eligible.

If your organization meets the qualifications listed on the grant application and your grant request falls within the guidelines of the attached application, Continental Divide encourages you to complete the form and submit the required documentation **no later than 5p.m., Fri., Feb. 27, 2026.**

The Co-op reviews the applications to ensure all conditions are met. Continental Divide's Board of Trustees then selects a recipient based on recommendations from a committee, which ranks applications by their lasting impact and overall strength. The application selected is then sent to CoBank. Upon approval, the recipient will be notified.

On behalf of Continental Divide and its governing board, we look forward to the opportunity to support worthy organizations and their causes in the local communities we serve. Together, we make a difference.



2026 "Sharing Success" Grant Application Overview

Purpose of the program: "Sharing Success" is designed to highlight the critical role that cooperatives play in the U.S. rural economy. This year, CoBank has set aside a \$6 million fund to match charitable contributions by cooperatives, including Continental Divide.

Eligibility requirements: In general, all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are eligible, so long as they are located within the co-op's service area and their services directly benefit our members. Contributions to non-501(c)(3)s will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These include schools and government entities such as counties or municipalities and their agencies or departments, as long as they use the grant to serve a public purpose consistent with program guidelines listed on the application. Organizations that are political in nature, limit their activities based on religious affiliation, or discriminate do not qualify. Continental Divide and CoBank reserve the right to review and determine whether requests are eligible.

Requests for contributions made directly to individuals or to fundraising campaigns such as Go Fund Me, for the benefit of individuals are not eligible. Also, requests not charitable in nature, such as sponsorship of commercial events or advertising, are not eligible.

Applicants must demonstrate how grant funds would be used to benefit a Continental Divide service community or communities in one or more of the following (4) categories:

1. **Energy Efficiency and/or Renewable Energy** – Funds can be used for a project that promotes the efficient use of energy, such as weatherization and for planning, developing or constructing a renewable energy source.
2. **Education** – Funds can be used for a project that benefits K-12 students or students enrolled in an accredited New Mexico college or university in the co-op's service territory.
3. **Environment** – Funds can be used for a project that benefits the environment.
4. **Economic Development** – Funds can be used for a project that promotes or creates economic development.

Grant limit: An organization can apply for a minimum grant of \$500 to a maximum grant of \$5,000.

If grant is awarded: Grant money must be used within 12 months of its award. A quarterly report on the grant project's progress and a final report on the project's outcome must be submitted. Continental Divide reserves the right to use photos and information about the grant award in its publicity.

Deadline: All applications must be received **no later than 5 p.m., Fri., Feb. 27, 2026.**

Questions: Contact Member Relations Rep. Haley Martinez at (505) 285-6656, or memberservices@cdec.coop



2026 "Sharing Success" Grant Application Form

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING: Application must be received **by 5 p.m., Fri., Feb. 27, 2026.** to qualify.

Continental Divide reserves the right to change the deadline date without notice, if matching CoBank funds become limited, requiring the Co-op to submit an application earlier than stated to guarantee full funding.

If you intend to apply for this grant, it is important you contact Continental Divide Member Relations Rep. Haley Martinez by email at memberservices@cdec.coop This ensures we make an attempt to inform you, if the grant application deadline is changed.

Submit application in the form of a typed document. Provide **all** information requested below in **Letters A through I**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Hand-deliver, mail or fax application to Continental Divide's Grants office. Applications also can be emailed to memberservices@cdec.coop

A. Name of Organization*:

***If organization is a 501(c)(3), attach proof of tax-exempt status, including EIN, to this application. If the organization is not a 501(c)(3), and you are applying as a "select organization," as defined in the Grant Application Overview, any contribution is on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of CoBank.**

B. Mailing Address:

C. Telephone Number:

Email:

D. Name of Primary Contact Person for Organization:

E. Name of Person Authoring this Application:

(if different from primary contact person)

F. Brief Description of Organization's Mission:

G. Amount Requested:

H. Applicants must demonstrate how grant funds would be used to benefit a Continental Divide service community or communities in one or more of the following (4) categories:

- 1. Energy Efficiency and/or Renewable Energy** – Funds can be used for a project that promotes the efficient use of energy, such as weatherization and for planning, developing or constructing a renewable energy source.
- 2. Education** – Funds can be used for a project that benefits K-12 students or students enrolled in an accredited New Mexico college or university in the co-op's service territory.
- 3. Environment** – Funds can be used for a project that benefits the environment.
- 4. Economic Development** – Funds can be used for a project that promotes or creates economic development.

I. Include a typed narrative that sufficiently describes how the intended use of grant funds will satisfy one or more of the benefits above. Attach any pertinent supporting documentation, such as renderings or quotes. An application will NOT be considered, if it DOES NOT include quotes, budgets or other documentation sufficiently detailing anticipated project expenses.