

## **Assessment of State Infrastructure Coordination Models - Colorado Water and Sewer Funding Coordination Committee**

**Year of inception:** 1980; initiated by an informal letter of agreement among three funding agencies.

**Formality:** Informal.

**Meetings:** Meets bi-monthly (quarterly prior to 2001).

**Membership:** Usually between six and ten members (sometimes as many as fifteen) attend the meetings. Six of these are funding agencies, including USDA. Advisory members include the Colorado Rural Water Association, Colorado Municipal League and Colorado Contractors Incorporated. The process is largely a voluntary one.

**Committees/Sub-committees:** None.

**Staff:** There is no in-house staff. The committee is staffed by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, which administers the CDBG and state revolving fund programs.

**Budget:** None; requires minimal staff time.

**Promotion/Outreach:** The committee holds lunch meetings with engineering firms and gives a presentation at Colorado's annual rural water convention.

### **Description:**

The Colorado coordinating body is not a very active organization. It targets communities having difficulty and only meets on a limited number of projects. It is more of a resource for agency program managers than for communities. Funding agencies and other members meet regularly to discuss projects and make informal recommendations to individual funding agencies. These agencies maintain their autonomy and discretion in choosing which projects they will fund. Members consider their coordinating body successful even though it does not attempt to include all communities. It was established more on behalf of the funding agencies to communicate with one another and better utilize their resources.

### **Shared Information:**

Central Information Database – referred to as the *project tracking list*. It shows project applications, possible funding programs, and specific agency staff members who will follow up on the project. The committee reviews a project application to decide whether to place it on the list. This database is updated after every coordination meeting.

Joint initial application – referred to as the *preliminary funding request form*. It is a one-page document that allows funding agencies to determine whether they will place a project on their list to receive coordination assistance. Nevertheless, according to respondents, the form is inconsistently applied.

Summary of funder eligibility criteria – This lists all of the funding programs and their requirements for applicants.