

City and County of Denver Ordinance/Resolution Request Executive Summary

Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) | House Bill 21-1262 Agriculture Events Stimulus Relief Program

The City and County of Denver, National Western Stock Show, Colorado State University and the NWC Authority (NWC partners) remain committed to the vision and mission of the campus that is to be built-out over a series of years as funding becomes available. In August 2021, the Colorado Department of Agriculture opened grant applications for Agriculture Events and County Fairs to apply for stimulus relief funding as part of the Colorado Comeback initiative, the state's stimulus plan aimed to help our state's agriculture industry recover faster and build back stronger from the global pandemic. The National Western Stock Show applied for stimulus funding through this grant and served as the main point of contact as the designee and grant submitting organization.

Per [HB 21-1262](#) the purpose of the Colorado Department of Agriculture grant funding is to "...aid with funding the National Western Stock Show in constructing the National Western Stock Show's improved campus." With City Council approval, the \$25M CDA State Grant will help Phases 1 & 2 of the campus support the National Western Stock Show and agriculture industry recovery and enable the Stock Show to attract and retain visitors and exhibitors in a highly competitive event environment.

The campus partners have identified improvements that will enhance the National Western Stock Show's ability to retain and maintain their competitive position in the livestock and agriculture community, as well as to enable year-round activation and programming opportunities for the campus. Improvements to facilities and infrastructure would include additional investments to the new Stockyards Event Center, the new Stockyards, the new Livestock Center and main campus plaza. With the approval of the stimulus relief grant, NWCO and our partners would augment the budget to bring forward improvements, supporting the competitiveness of the campus and agriculture recovery initiatives.

In anticipation of the stimulus relief grant, NWCO was able to provide an update to City Council during our November 1, 2021 Budget and Policy Committee presentation. In November and December, CDA and NWCO had ongoing dialogue regarding grant timing and documentation requirements. The CDA grant was finalized and awarded in late December 2021 with final expenditures by December 2022. NWCO informed SteerCom members in January that a City Council process to receive and approve the grant would be forthcoming.

The NWC partners continue to make progress, turning the National Western Center into a year-round, multi-use campus. We appreciate all the assistance and support you have provided over the years in helping us fulfil our commitments to Denver voters.