



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF)

Data Report

Impacts of the Pandemic on Boulder County

OCTOBER 2021

Prepared for the Board of County Commissioners in Boulder County by TDA Consulting, Inc. with input and information from Boulder County staff.

TDA Consulting (TDA) is a national technical assistance and training provider that provides professional services, develops training curricula, and delivers workshops related to community development programs and activities. TDA also provides organizational, professional, and board development assistance to a broad range of organizations. To help communities develop their full potential, TDA delivers high-quality training and consulting services that enhance the capacity of our clients' organizations to achieve their community development goals while consistently exceeding their expectations. For 20 years, TDA has been providing its services throughout the United States on behalf of the federal government, private organizations, municipalities, and states.

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PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

During September 2021, TDA Consulting, Inc. conducted a gap analysis that analyzed data on the pandemic's impact on Boulder County, in collaboration with Boulder County staff, to summarize information available and identify areas where information is lacking. This process used the predefined American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program (SLFRF) eligible spending categories to categorize data and summarize priority needs identified by community stakeholders in Boulder County.

Boulder County has a commitment to promoting and practicing racial equity. This report incorporates data, when available, which illuminates ways the pandemic has disproportionately impacted racial and ethnic minorities.

Please note that research and writing for this report occurred throughout September and October 2021 and is a snapshot of need, community response, current data, and gaps in data at the time of writing and research.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed by President Biden in March 2021, provides urgent and targeted state and local funding for COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. The purpose of the federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) is twofold. First, to address the negative health and economic impacts of COVID-19 in state and local governments throughout the nation. Second, the federal guidance for these funds urges recipients to consider funding uses that foster a strong, inclusive, and equitable recovery.¹ Specifically, “low income communities and workers and people of color have faced more severe health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, with pre-existing social vulnerabilities like low-wage or insecure employment, concentrated neighborhoods with less economic opportunity, and pre-existing health disparities likely contributing to the magnified impact of the pandemic.”² Recipients of this funding are encouraged to respond to the immediate needs and harms created by the pandemic, but also to “mitigate its longer-term impact,” which is “compounding the systemic public health and economic challenges of disproportionately impacted populations.”³

The goal of this report is to provide a foundation of data in each expenditure category, as identified in the American Rescue Plan Act’s State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) guidance, so that decision makers have useful information for decision making on future spending allocations. In planning for the use of ARPA funds, Boulder County’s Board of County Commissioners can look to this report to identify data-driven spending priorities and to identify information gaps where specific communities are not represented.

Below is a summary of high-level takeaways in each of the broad ARPA SLFRF eligible expenditure categories identified.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Eligible expenditures include – Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.

- **Vaccination disparities and continued hesitancy** will be an ongoing challenge for the County, the State, and the Nation. Racial disparities for COVID-19 vaccinations have remained steady in Boulder County, with vaccine rates among white, non-Hispanic residents higher in all age categories. The anticipated expansion of COVID-19 vaccinations to children under 12 provides great opportunities.
- **Mental and behavioral health** has long been a priority for Boulder County and has largely been exacerbated by COVID-19. Within Boulder County and throughout the state, youth, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities have the highest rates of mental health strain throughout the pandemic. Identifying ARPA funding opportunities for mental and behavioral health will

¹ Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance and Reporting Guidance. US Department of the Treasury (p 25).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

require a deeper dive into existing County tools, resources, and systems that respond to mental health, paying special attention to broad equity considerations.

- **Fast Changing Nature of the Pandemic** is proving to be challenging for local government response and recovery to COVID-19. Boulder County Public Health is in both response and recovery mode at any point in time. Chronic underfunding of public health has impacted the response nation-wide, and resourcing and staffing of public health may continue to be a challenge. The public health response needs to be responsive and dynamic, taking into account changing technology (new testing methods, new vaccines, etc.), and an increasingly complex media and communication environment.

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Eligible expenditures include – Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.

- **Existing federal and new state funding sources** offer support for many of the expenditure categories here including rental/mortgage/utility assistance, internet access programs, and small business assistance. More research will need to be conducted to avoid duplication of benefits and to prioritize sectors that are not receiving adequate support from state or federal sources.
- **Household assistance through cash transfers** provides broad flexibility in funding to address disproportionate economic harms due to the pandemic. According to The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, “Cash transfers stand as one of the most effective and least burdensome ways to alleviate poverty.”⁴ Purposeful cash transfers may be a transformational and innovative tool to address the negative economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SERVICES TO DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

Eligible expenditures include – Address the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of the crisis on the hardest-hit communities, populations, and households.

- **Education assistance categories** outlined in this report do not include data from Boulder Valley School District or St. Vrain School District. National data suggest the need for more support for education assistance including academic services for economically disadvantaged students and mental health supports for a wide range of students. However, more feedback, data, and input are needed from both BVSD and SVVSD to identify potential avenues for education assistance needed to alleviate impacts from COVID-19.
- **Childcare** costs across Colorado have increased 76% since 2000. Since the beginning of COVID-19, this sector has struggled in many ways including losing almost 25% of their

⁴ Accelerating Equity and Justice: Basic Income and Generational Wealth. The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Institute on Assets and Social Policy. April 2020.

workforce. Government investment in early childhood care has broad public support throughout the state. A deeper exploration into priority childcare issues and public financing mechanisms is needed to identify potential funding opportunities and current needs in childcare within Boulder County.

- **Affordable Housing** has long been a pain point throughout Boulder County. SLFRF funding can be used towards a variety of affordable housing strategies including services for unhoused persons, affordable housing development to increase supply, and housing vouchers. However, there are several additional federal funding sources that aim to address the affordable housing crisis including HOME ARP, which is specifically reserved to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations. Boulder County could build off its existing Regional Affordable Housing Partnership to coordinate a pandemic-related investment planning process to prioritize most immediate needs, while aligning with the region's strategic direction on long-term affordable housing investment strategies.

PREMIUM PAY

Eligible expenditures include – Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors.

- **Private Sector: The “Grants to Other Employees”** expenditure category may be a funding mechanism to address uneven economic recovery between different employment sectors. Economic recovery in frontline industries and for frontline workers is not keeping up with the pace of the recovery in other industries within the County. More research will need to be conducted to strategize and prioritize the most impacted industries and to coordinate with any possible state-level investments in this area.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Eligible expenditures include – Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

- **Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment** expenditure category may be used to support an infrastructure project proposed by the Eldorado Springs Local Improvement District to ensure the wastewater that is being released into the South Boulder Creek that meets State-permitted antidegradation standards. Downstream drinking water users include the City of Lafayette, the residents of San Souci, and all other residents who utilize well water in the South Boulder Creek Watershed.
- **Broadband** accessibility, or lack thereof, is a problem for many communities throughout the County including rural areas and economically disadvantaged communities. Boulder County IT Department has already undergone extensive planning and research processes to identify and prioritize potential projects, and cooperation from this Department in future planning discussions will be necessary.

REVENUE REPLACEMENT

Eligible expenditures include – Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs conducted a survey of 80 local governments from every region of the state. On average, these surveyed local governments are planning on using 14.9% of funds on revenue replacement. County staff are still in the process of calculating how much, if any, lost revenue Boulder County experienced.

OVERVIEW OF ARPA

The federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021, and within that Act the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) provides urgent and targeted state and local funding for COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Boulder County has received half of a total allocation of \$63,359,749, with the second half anticipated mid-2022. Projects are required to be obligated by the end of 2024.

These funds are intended to be used to address the negative health and economic impacts from COVID-19 and to allow the County to be responsive to the evolving needs of the entire County throughout the duration of the pandemic. In general, these funds can be used in the following ways:

- **Support public health expenditures**, by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors.
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.⁵

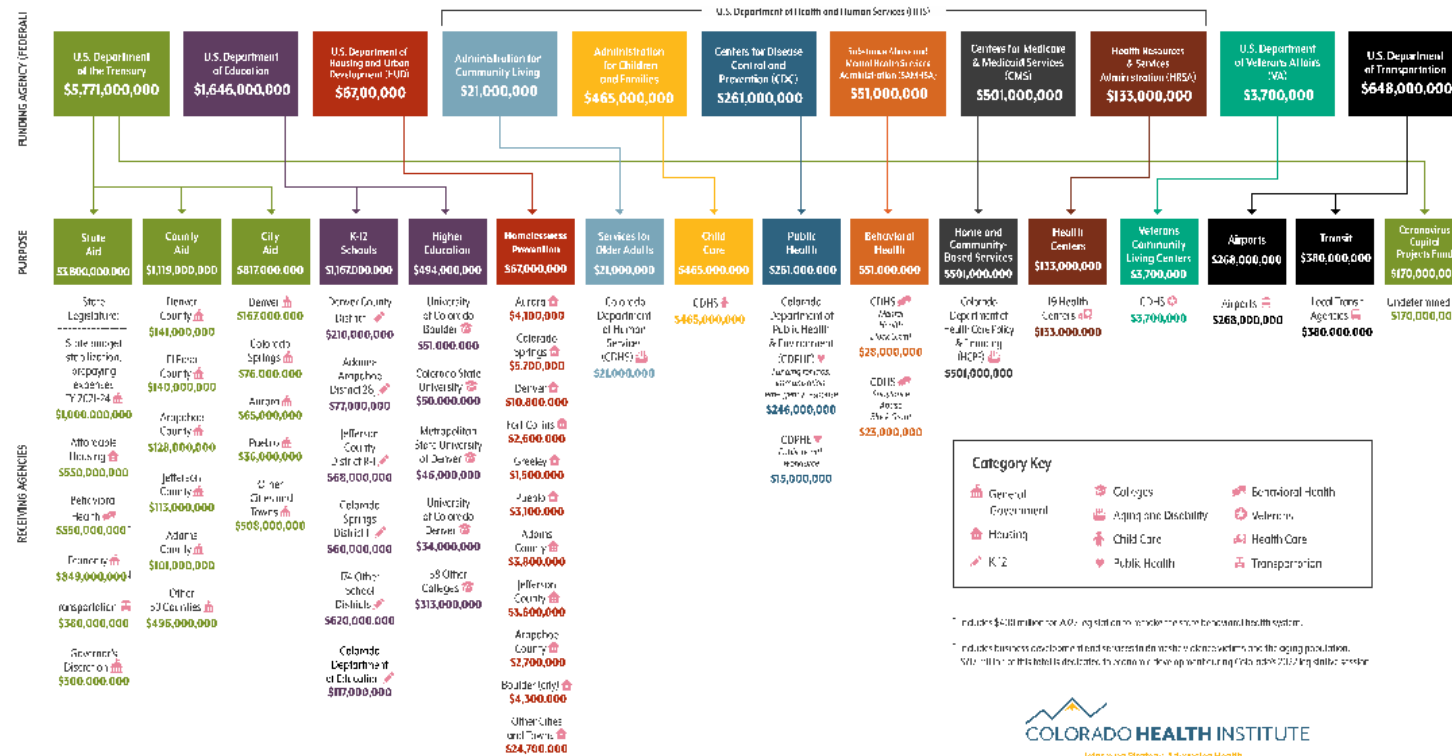
It is important to note that the Boulder County SLFRF funds are not the only resources allocated to the community. Each city and town within Boulder County received SLFRF funds directly. Additionally, there are other ARPA related funds allocated via federal grant programs, and the State of Colorado has received its own SLFRF funding of almost \$4 billion. Some departments within Boulder County may receive SLFRF funding from the state of Colorado.

The Colorado Health Institute created a financial map to trace ARPA related funding within local governments, agencies, and health providers throughout the state. This financial map is included below, and can also be found at: <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/american-rescue-plan-act-financial-map>.

⁵ Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recover Funds. U.S. Department of the Treasury. Accessed on September 22, 2021: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for Colorado

This financial map traces funding for state and local governments, agencies, and health providers included as part of ARPA. It does not include direct aid to individual businesses or people. State and local policymakers have the latitude to choose how most of these funds are spent.



PROCESS

The immense volume of resources allocated to the entire Boulder County community is both a great challenge and a great opportunity. To maximize the impact of ARPA/SLFRF funds, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in Boulder County, with the support of the Knight Foundation and the Community Foundation of Boulder County, has partnered with community leaders to engage the community and hear first-hand about community needs in responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The BOCC has also hosted an ARPA-focused Town Hall, which took place on Thursday, September 9, 2021, and a community survey of Boulder County in partnership with community leaders. The survey sought ideas for building a durable and equitable recovery.⁶

The Commissioners also contracted with TDA Consulting, Inc. (TDA) to conduct a review of data and reports to better understand the impact of the pandemic on the community. TDA's scope also included development of a report to summarize the resources reviewed. These summaries should inform the Commissioner's decision-making process when investing ARPA funds in support of a strong and equitable recovery that addresses racial, health, and economic disparities.

During September 2021, TDA conducted a gap analysis that analyzed data on the pandemic's impact on Boulder County and input gathered to date from the community, staff, and other partners. This process used the predefined SLFRF spending categories to categorize data and identify priority needs of the Boulder County community.

The goal of this process is to analyze a wide scope of data sets to assess how the pandemic has impacted Boulder County. Another goal is to identify information gaps where specific communities are not represented. Not all spending categories identified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury are identified as needs, and the gap analysis presented here will reflect those gaps when applicable. The results of this gap analysis are summarized in this report.

In addition to the data and information presented here, an additional community engagement process was undertaken by Rebuild by Design between August and October 2021 to capture the ongoing and evolving pandemic-related needs of the broader Boulder County Community.

⁶ Boulder County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/government/budget-and-finance/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa/>.

FOCUS ON RACIAL EQUITY

Funding guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) includes a focus on promoting equitable outcomes. Specifically, the “Treasury encourages uses of funds that promote strong, equitable growth, including racial equity.” Jurisdictions are required to describe how funds prioritize “economic and racial equity as a goal...and explain how your jurisdiction’s overall equity strategy translates into the specific services or programs offered by your jurisdiction.”⁷

Boulder County has a commitment to promoting and practicing racial equity. The Boulder County Board of County Commissioners confirmed the County’s commitment in 2018 when establishing their strategic priorities, including the goal to “increase equity, diversity, and inclusion at Boulder County by implementing Boulder County’s Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusion Roadmap.” Most specifically, the Commissioners recognized, “the impact of racism on the need for intentional efforts towards eliminating racism, as this recognition is foundational to transformational equity work.”⁸

Below is a list of additional actions by Boulder County to define its commitment to racial equity:

- On August 4, 2020, Boulder County adopted a Conditions of Employment and Code of Conduct policy titled, “Fully Inclusive, Anti-Racist & Multicultural Organization,” demonstrating the County’s commitment to racial equity as a government organization.⁹
- On January 27, 2021, the Boulder County Commissioners issued the following statement in support of President Biden’s executive order on Advancing Racial Equity, which is included here below.
 - ♦ “On Jan. 20, 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. This order aims at increasing racial equity across the U.S. by strengthening anti-discrimination housing policies, halting new Justice Department contracts with private prisons, increasing the sovereignty of Native American tribes, and combatting violence and xenophobia against Asian Americans and Pacific islanders. As the order further states, Affirmatively advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the whole of our Government. Boulder County supports this action in advancing racial equity and the executive order’s mandate to provide the necessary federal resources to advance fairness and opportunity. Boulder County centers race in its own approach to increasing equity in the County. As a public organization serving more than 326,000 County residents, Boulder County has identified five key strategic priority areas that help guide its public efforts, including Affordable Living, Climate Action, Equity & Justice, Land & Water Stewardship, and Organizational & Financial Stewardship. Particular to this matter, the County’s Equity &

⁷ Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance and Reporting Guidance. U.S. Department of the Treasury (p 25).

⁸ Boulder County, Colorado ARPA SLFRF Recovery Plan Performance Report. July 31, 2021. Accessed on September 30, 2021: https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BoCo-SLFRF-Recovery-Plan-Performance-Report-through-7.31.21_FINAL.pdf.

⁹ Boulder County Personnel and Policy Manual. Section 2 Conditions of Employment and Code of Conduct. Number 2.12 Fully Inclusive, Anti-Racist & Multicultural Organization. August 4, 2020.

Justice strategic priority is incorporated into daily County operations and ongoing strategic planning. Additionally, the County has established an internal Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusion (CRI) Road Map that directs Boulder County employees to incorporate racial equity into all aspects of County work, which includes imbedding CRI within five priority areas of: Accountability, Leadership, Policy and Sustainability, Recruitment, Hiring, Retention, and Training.”¹⁰

- Boulder County is also a core member of GARE (Government Alliance on Race & Equity) and is in a partnership with Pacific Educational Group for individual, institutional and structural transformation to achieve racial equity and eradicate all inequities for marginalized groups.
- In August 2021, the Boulder County Commissioners announced the creation of the Office of Racial Equity, tripling the budget and staffing for internal racial equity work at Boulder County. The initial focus of this team will be to help Boulder County support strategy, tools, and curriculum to advance racial equity internally. The additional budget and staffing will help Boulder County continue to build a strong internal foundation to support the challenging and ongoing work of evolving government practices and programs to be more racially equitable.¹¹

Moving forward in addressing the racial and economic disparate impacts of the pandemic, Boulder County looks to make both “transactional” and “transformative” policy changes. Transactional changes aim to provide “improvements in the material living conditions for people who struggle the most—in particular people of color and the extremely poor.”¹² Transformative changes, on the other hand, are longer term and aim to be sustainable over time. These changes are “more fundamental changes in the structures and systems that shape outcomes.”¹³

Additionally, recommendations from *PolicyLink*, a national research institute advancing racial and economic equity, offer elected officials making ARPA allocation decisions, a concrete set of recommendations in utilizing these funds to reduce racial inequities. Below is a list of and link to *PolicyLink*’s 10 priorities for advancing racial equity through the American Rescue Plan:

¹⁰ Statement from Boulder County Commissioners in support of the President’s executive order on Advancing Racial Equity. January 27, 2021. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/news/statement-from-the-boulder-county-commissioners-in-support-of-the-presidents-executive-order-on-advancing-racial-equity/>.

¹¹ Boulder County Personnel and Policy Manual. Section 2 Conditions of Employment and Code of Conduct. Number 2.12 Fully Inclusive, Anti-Racist & Multicultural Organization. August 4, 2020.

¹² Transactional versus Transformative Change. Othering and Belonging Institute, University of California Berkeley. Accessed on October 12, 2021: <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/transactional-versus-transformative-change>.

¹³ Ibid.

COVID-19's Disproportionate Impact: Addressing Racial Equity

PolicyLink has identified [10 Priorities for advancing racial equity through the American Rescue Plan](#).

- Explicitly name racial equity as a goal, with specific targets to produce results at scale
- Engage historically underserved communities in priorities investments
- Connect unemployed and low-wage workers with good jobs and careers
- Stabilize and grow businesses owned by people of color and immigrants
- Restore and expand public services that deliver critical physical and care infrastructure to disadvantaged communities
- Invest in frontline, COVID-impacted, and disinvested communities
- Prevent displacement and increase community ownership of land and housing
- Strengthen civic infrastructure that builds the power and capacity of marginalized communities
- Prioritize a few deep, cross-sector, high-impact equity investments
- Track disaggregated data to ensure accountability to equity goals

To continue the County's pursuit and commitment to racial equity this report recommends formally incorporating the use of the Boulder County Racial Equity Impact Assessment Tool (found in [Appendix A](#)) in future ARPA/SLFRF allocation decisions. The use of this tool, and subsequent review by the County's Racial Equity Team will ensure a continued commitment to racial equity in this process.

SLFRF FUNDING: CITIES AND TOWNS IN BOULDER COUNTY

As mentioned previously, the state of Colorado as well as local governments across the Country have all received funding from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). The U.S. Department of the Treasury has complied a short report highlighting planned spending priorities of a few SLFRF recipients across the Country, which can be found here: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Early-Reporting-Highlights-Coronavirus-State-and-Local-Fiscal-Recovery-Funds.pdf>.

Most of the cities and towns in Boulder County are currently in the process of identifying allocation priorities for their ARPA/SLFRF funds. Boulder County looks forward to partnering with cities and towns in the County to best leverage funds in areas of prioritization selected by the County and municipalities.

ANALYSIS OF ARPA/SLFRF EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES

Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds (SLFRF) provides flexibility for each government to meet local felt needs caused by the pandemic. While funds may be used to help households, businesses, and individuals, awards must fit within the below broad expenditure categories were identified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to help guide local and state government spending:

- Public Health
- Negative Economic Impacts
- Services to Disproportionality Impacted Communities
- Premium Pay
- Infrastructure
- Revenue Replacement
- Administrative and Other

The organization of this report reflects the structure of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's SLFRF spending categories. Within each of these broad funding categories, there are specific eligible spending activities, which local and state jurisdictions can allocate funding. This report provides a brief data discussion for each of these specific funding categories, with the goal of helping decision-makers prioritize potential future needs and possible uses for these federal funds.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: PUBLIC HEALTH

The COVID-19 Pandemic has greatly impacted the health and cost the life of many family members and loved ones across Boulder County. Below is a snapshot of COVID-19 case data in Boulder County as of September 29, 2021.¹⁴

Status	Number of Individuals in Boulder County
Tested Positive or considered Probable for COVID-19 (at close of previous day)	28,658
Hospitalized due to COVID-19, to date	1,016
Deceased with COVID-19	270
New cases per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	119.2
7-day % positivity	3.5%

Note: Some data may be missing due to ongoing disease investigations and reporting delays.

Source: Boulder County COVID-19 Data. Accessed on September 30, 2021.

As of October 21, 2021, 90% of the state's ICU beds were occupied.¹⁵ According to the state's COVID-19 Incident Commander, "Surgeries are being canceled, brain surgeries, heart surgeries are being delayed because of a lack of availability to provide care to those patients due to the impact of COVID hospitalizations."¹⁶

Globally, the virus has caused the most severe drop in life expectancy since World War II¹⁷, and has revealed "just how fragmented and underfunded health systems are worldwide."¹⁸ Boulder County, as in the rest of the United States, saw and continues to see disparities in COVID-19 rates, hospitalizations, and death by race and ethnicity.¹⁹

Research has identified "significant associations between higher levels of measured structural racism and higher rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths, even after adjusting for County-level population sociodemographic characteristics, measures of population health, access to healthcare, population density, and duration of the COVID-19 outbreak."²⁰ As seen in the below graph, Hispanic/Latinx

¹⁴ Boulder County COVID-19 Data. Accessed on September 30, 2021:

<https://www.bouldercounty.org/families/disease/covid-19-information/covid-19-data-stats/covid-19-data/>.

¹⁵ Press Release: Governor Polis Provides Updated on COVID-19 Pandemic, Vaccines and Boosters. October 21, 2021. Accessed on October 26, 2021: <https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/6546-gov-polis-provides-update-covid-19-pandemic-vaccines-and-boosters>.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ COVID-19 pandemic cut life expectancy by most since World War Two. Victor Jack. Reuters. September 26, 2021. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/covid-19-pandemic-cut-life-expectancy-by-most-since-world-war-two-study-2021-09-26/>.

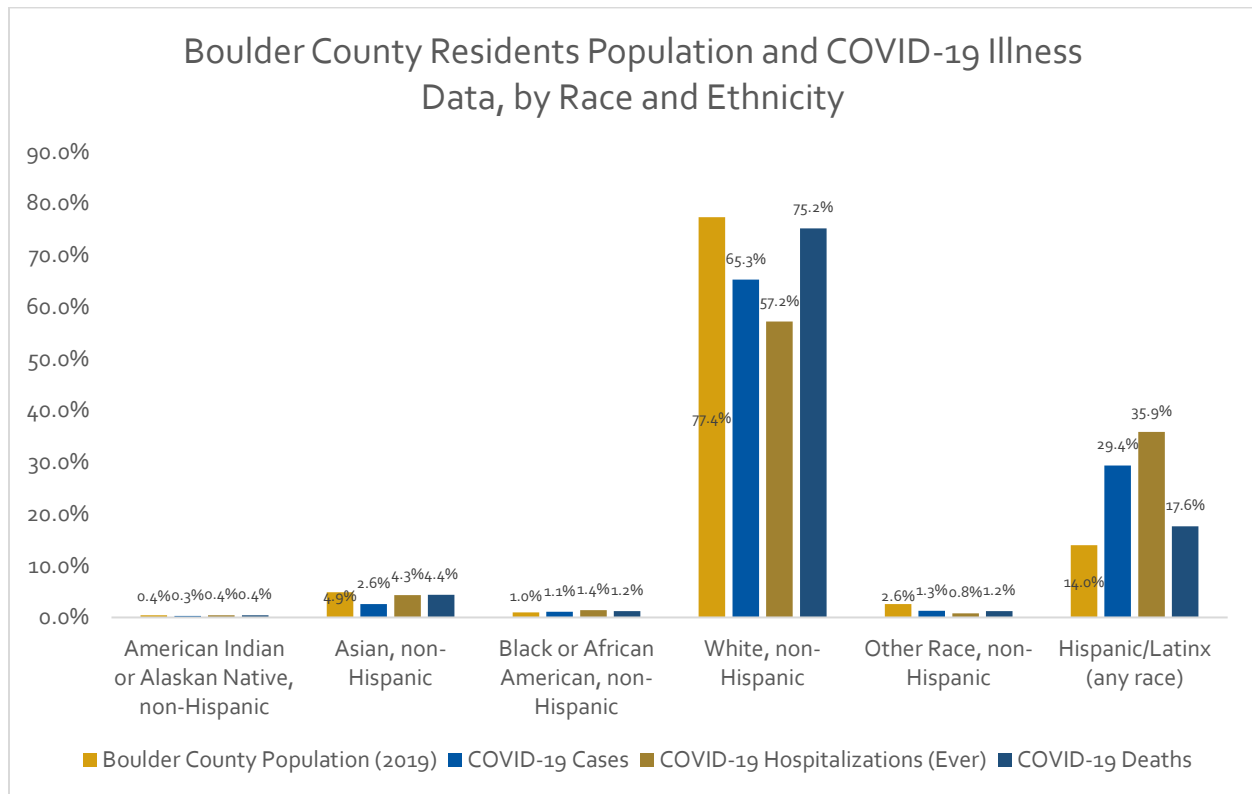
¹⁸ Fragmented health systems in COVID-19: rectifying the misalignment between global health security and universal health coverage. Lal, Arush et. al. The Lancet (vol 397). Accessed on September 30, 2021: [https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(20\)32228-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(20)32228-5/fulltext).

¹⁹ Boulder County COVID-19 Data. Accessed on October 5, 2021

<https://www.bouldercounty.org/families/disease/covid-19-information/covid-19-data-stats/covid-19-data/>

²⁰ Structural Racism and COVID-19 in the USA: a County Level Empirical Analysis. Bin Tan, Shin, et al. Journal of Racial Ethnic Health Disparities. Published on January 19, 2021: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7815192/>.

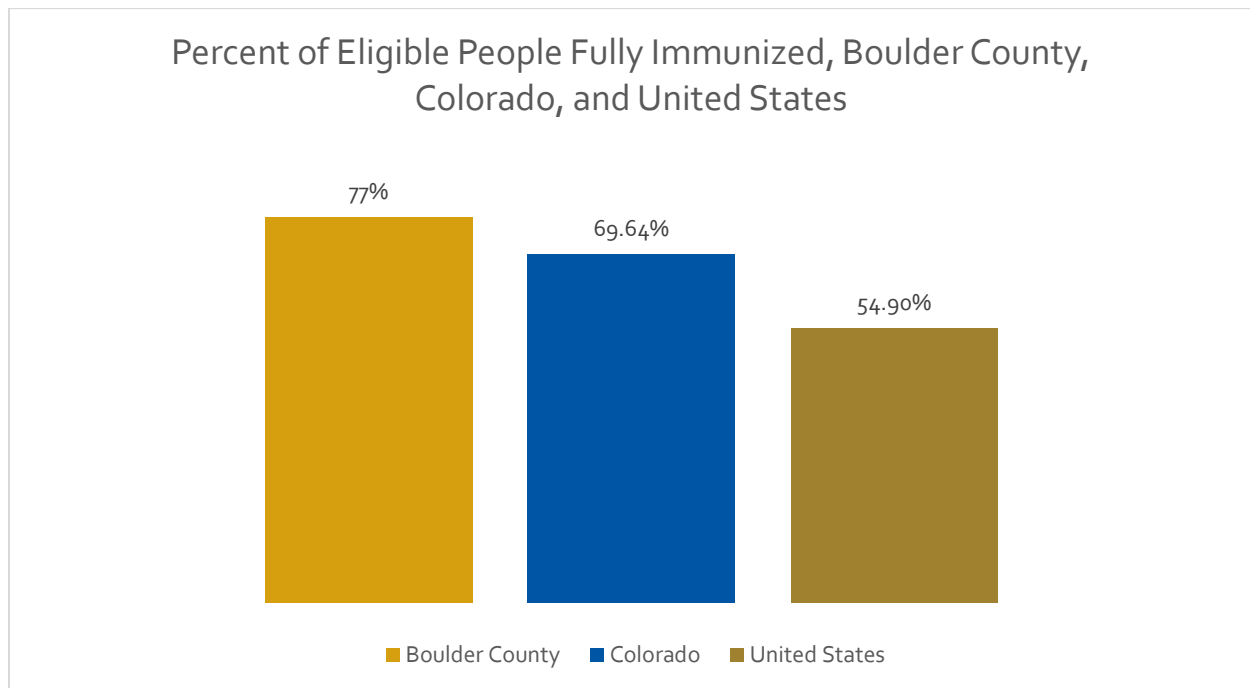
residents in Boulder County are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, with higher rates of hospitalizations, case, and deaths compared to White, non-Hispanic Boulder County residents.



Source: Boulder County COVID-19 Data. Accessed September 30, 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccination coverage is growing among all groups. Boulder County COVID-19 vaccine rates are higher than both the Colorado and U.S. nationwide rates, as shown in the graph below.^{21 22}



Sources: Colorado COVID-19 Vaccination Data. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Accessed on September 22, 2021: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-data-dashboard>. Reporting COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed on September 22, 2021.

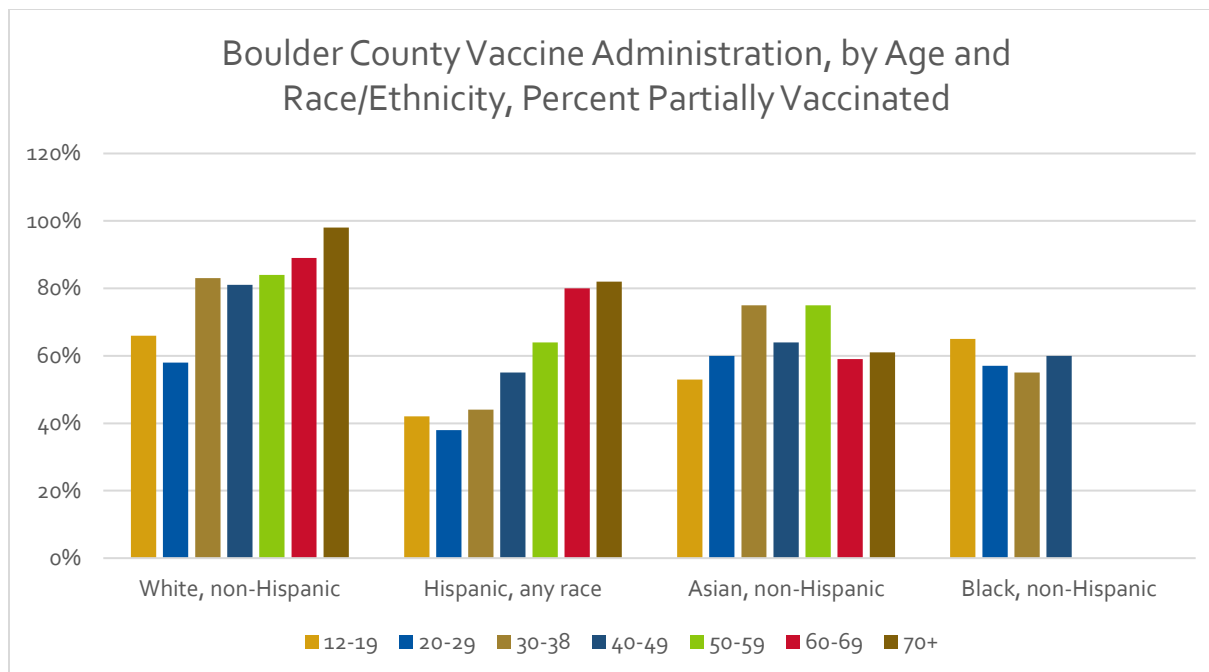
Despite these overall high COVID-19 vaccination rates in Boulder County, disparities for vaccination have remained steady, as shown in the chart below.²³ Overall, vaccine rates among white, non-Hispanic Boulder County residents are higher than rates among people of color in all age categories. Additionally, vaccine rates among younger residents are typically lower than older residents.²⁴

²¹ Colorado COVID-19 Vaccination Data. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Accessed on September 22, 2021: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-data-dashboard>.

²² Reporting COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed on September 22, 2021.

²³ August 31, 2021, Boulder County COVID-19 Update. Boulder County Public Health, 2021 (slides 25-29).

²⁴ August 31, 2021, Boulder County COVID-19 Update. Boulder County Public Health, 2021.



Source: Boulder County COVID-19 Update. Boulder County Public Health, August 31, 2021.

In Colorado, Latinx Coloradans make up 20% of the population, but only 11% of the Coloradans immunized against COVID-19 as of October 21, 2021.²⁵ Vaccine Equity is a priority for Boulder County Public Health to address the systemic barriers contributing to racial and ethnic disparities in vaccine uptake. Key strategies implemented to address equitable access include:

- Vaccine Confidence: addressing COVID-19 illness and vaccine concerns, rumors and myths during town hall presentation while raising awareness of vaccine availability.
- Vaccine Equity Coordination: identifying community vaccination sites in priority populations with trusted community ambassadors and assigning a management and administration team.
- Vaccine Connection: community partners and ambassadors work with various members of the differing racial and ethnic groups to address vaccine concerns, hesitancy, rumors and to work at getting eligible members registered for their shots.
- Vaccine Distribution: to continue to replenish vaccine doses with the various providers and get priority populations signed up and in for their shots.

The County is working with community clinics such Salud Family Health in Longmont and Clinica Family Health in Lafayette and Boulder to continue to relishing vaccine doses and support people in signing up for and receiving vaccines.²⁶

²⁵ Colorado COVID-19 Vaccination Data. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Accessed on September 22, 2021: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-data-dashboard>.

²⁶ Boulder County Addresses COVID-19 Disparities, Prioritizations, Vaccine Distributions. The Daily Camera, March 10, 2021. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.dailycamera.com/2021/03/10/boulder-county-addresses-covid-19-disparities-prioritizations-vaccine-distribution/>.

COVID-19 Testing

Testing for COVID-19 is a pillar of the public health response to COVID-19. “Testing can help people determine if they are infected with SARS-CoV-2 – regardless of whether they have symptoms – and whether they are at risk of spreading the infection to others. Taking measures to prevent the spread of infection will be the most effective strategy for getting us safely back to work and school.”²⁷

Boulder County Public Health’s (BCPH) testing strategy focuses on providing easily accessible PCR tests to community members at community testing sites along with more focused testing for priority populations in the County.

Free COVID-19 testing has been available at several Boulder County locations since October 2020. Currently four free sites are currently in operation throughout the County.

- Boulder County Fairgrounds (Longmont)
- Stazio Ball Fields (Boulder)
- Drive-Through Testing Nederland Community Center (Nederland)
- COVIDCheck Colorado (Lafayette)

Some of these sites are funded by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), while BCPH has paid the infrastructure costs for the Boulder County Fairgrounds and the City of Boulder paid the infrastructure costs for the Stazio location. Below are the cumulative number of tests performed at these two locally funded community testing sites:

- Boulder Stazio: 174,715 (between October 2020 to September 2021)
- Longmont: 99,054 (between November 2020- September 2021)

BCPH has also partnered with Boulder Community Health to focus on providing testing among priority populations, identified as those within Boulder County with less access to testing and/or who have been disparately impacted by the pandemic.

On September 21, Governor Polis announced a change in the COVID-19 testing program, which will now “offer Rapid-At-Home testing to Coloradans directly in their homes without the need to have a medical professional witness test administration.”²⁸ As of the date of this announcement, the state has purchased 2 million rapid at home tests. The program is “specifically designed to provide parents, guardians, and caregivers some peace of mind by making it easy to test their children and help keep schools open.”²⁹ Individuals, schools, and school districts are eligible to sign up for this program to receive at home tests.

²⁷ Why COVID-19 testing is the key to getting back to normal. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institute on Aging, September 4, 2020. Accessed September 30, 2021: <https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/why-covid-19-testing-key-getting-back-normal>.

²⁸ Governor Polis Announces New COVID-19 Community Vaccination Sites & Launch of At-Home Testing Program. Press Release from the Office of Governor Polis. September 21, 2021. Accessed on October 28, 2021: <https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/6311-gov-polis-announces-new-covid-19-community-vaccination-sites-launch-home-testing-program>.

²⁹ Rapid At-Home Testing Program. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Accessed on September 24, 2021: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-testing-at-home>.

Due to the changing nature of the pandemic and testing needs, more information will be needed to determine next steps in this category.

Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [COVID Testing](#).³⁰

COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Case investigation, contact tracing, and outbreak investigation is the process where public health officials track how COVID-19 is spreading and provide guidance to the public and to facilities to contain spread. While community transmission is high in Boulder County, the rates of deaths and hospitalizations remain low. Since the start of the pandemic to date, Boulder County Public Health has continued to conduct contact tracing.

Case investigation, contact tracing, and outbreak investigation and follow up are required core public health containment activities at all levels of transmission. BCPH receives funding for these activities through CDPHE as part of the CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement (ELC).

Enacting additional layers of mitigation when transmission trends towards substantial or high is necessary to contain community spread.

Early in the pandemic, in alignment with the Metro Denver Partnership for Health, BCPH structured the epidemiology program to address priority populations including:

- People who are unhoused
- People who are detained or incarcerated (jails, prisons, and detention facilities)
- People in long-term care, assisted living facilities, and supportive living environments such as group homes
- Young children and families with young children
- Medically vulnerable (people over age 65, isolated seniors, people with intellectual and physical disabilities requiring support with activities of daily living, people with chronic conditions and immunocompromised health status, and people with complex behavioral health needs)
- New Americans (immigrants, refugees, migrant agricultural workers, and people without documentation)
- Colorado Tribes and Tribal Organizations (including Coloradans from all tribes)
- People who work in essential industries who may have dangerous job conditions and low wages and lack adequate protections and supports such as personal protective equipment and sick leave³¹

³⁰ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

³¹ COVID-19 Public Health Strategies for Priority Populations. Metro Denver Partnership for Health, June 2020. Accessed on September 30, 2021:

The program is still structured and operates in alignment with these priority groups. When a surge is experienced, cases associated with these groups are prioritized for case investigation, contact tracing, and outbreak investigation.

Prevention in Congregate Settings

The ARPA/SLFRF guidelines generally describe congregate living facilities as nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, and group living facilities.³² Recent mandates by the state and County governments have required masking indoors and congregate care settings.

- *Public Health Order 2021-08*: Boulder County requires mask wearing in all indoor public spaces for all individuals 2 years and older regardless of vaccinations status.³³
- *Sixth Amended Public Health Order 20-38*: State of Colorado requires unvaccinated people to wear masks in specific settings, including medical facilities (including long term care facilities), homeless shelters, prisons, and jails. The state also requires universal mask use for staff, visitors, and residents in residential care facilities regardless of vaccination status.³⁴

In October 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are expected to release guidance requiring vaccinations for all workers at most health care settings – hospitals, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical settings, and home health agencies – that participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Additionally, on August 30, 2021, the Colorado State Board of Health approved a vaccine requirement for staff in health care settings with high-risk patients. The emergency rule applies to the following types of CDPHE-licensed health care facilities:³⁵

- Acute treatment units
- Ambulatory surgical centers
- Assisted living residences
- Behavioral health entities/ Community mental health centers
- Birth centers
- Community clinics
- Community integrated health care services agencies

https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/sites/default/files/file_attachments/Priority%20Populations%20June%202020_1.pdf.

³² Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule (31 CFR Part 35). U.S. Department of the Treasury. Accessed on September 24, 2021: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf>.

³³ Public Health Order 2021-08. Boulder County. Accessed on September 24, 2021: https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/bcph_pho_2021-08.pdf.

³⁴ Sixth Amended Public Health Order 20-38 Limited COVID-19 Restrictions. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Accessed on September 24, 2021: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FKIAWsK1iVHy7mLhTK7AhJa6WOYQnEZB/view>

³⁵ Vaccine Laws and Regulations, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Updated September 17, 2021. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-laws-regulations>.

- Dialysis treatment clinics
- Home care agencies
- Home care placement agencies
- Hospices
- Hospitals
- Facilities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Nursing homes

Despite high vaccination rates and recent mask mandates, prevention in senior congregate settings will continue to be a challenge due to the medical vulnerability of the residents, potentially lower immunologic response to the vaccine, and the environmental conditions in these settings including living and gathering in proximity, and potential exposures from staff, visitors, or resident outings when community transmission is high. Continued outbreaks in congregate settings presents an ongoing challenge for Boulder County.

Engagement with senior congregate settings to conduct infection prevention and control including rapid response testing whenever there is a single case and maintaining the outbreak definition at 2 or more cases within 14 days, and consistently applying mitigation measures is a best practice to prevent transmission. Although facilities continue to experience outbreaks, the burden of disease has been reduced. Facilities are experiencing fewer cases, hospitalizations, and deaths when outbreaks occur. These facilities experience staffing shortages and high turnover so continuous engagement and support for infection prevention and control is necessary.

In addition to the challenges experienced in senior congregate settings, vaccination rates are lower than the community average among people experiencing incarceration and people experiencing homelessness.³⁶

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [Juvenile Assessment Center extension of COVID FTE term positions](#).*³⁷

Personal Protective Equipment

At the initial stages of the COVID 19 pandemic, Boulder County undertook a large operation to support local hospitals, medical providers, and long-term care facilities to purchase and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) and other vital supplies to healthcare and frontline essential workers throughout the County. In addition to purchasing equipment, Boulder County also received support from federal and state partners as part of this mission. While greatly reduced in scope, this support work continues to occur.

³⁶ Data came from internal communication with Boulder County Public Health.

³⁷ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

Furthermore, Boulder County distributed PPE directly to small businesses serving the public in person and to frontline essential workers of lower incomes, within both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking communities. This work started in earnest in late 2020 with funding from the federal CARES Act.

To support the safety of all the community members, including children who are not eligible for vaccination, BCPH issued Public Health Order 2021-08, which requires mask wearing in all indoor public spaces for all individuals 2 years and older regardless of vaccination status.³⁸ The order went into effect on September 3, 2021.

More data and information may be necessary to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category within specific sectors in the community as Boulder County is currently one of a few counties in Colorado with an indoor mask mandate.

Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)

More data and information from Boulder County Public Health, local hospitals, and other health care stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency

More data and information from Boulder County Public Health, local hospitals, and other health care stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

COMMUNICATION

Proactive, clear, and consistent public communication is essential to ensure community members understand and can follow current public health guidelines and orders, participating fully in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. As emphasized by a recent article published in *The Lancet*:

A key component of an effective pandemic response is communication between governments, health professionals, scientists, the media, and the public.... A paucity of scientific knowledge has undermined responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have

³⁸ Public Health Order 2021-08: Requiring Facial Coverings in Public Indoor Spaces During Periods of Substantial or High Transmission of COVID-19. Accessed on October 26, 2021: https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/bcph_pho_2021-08.pdf.

witnessed the amplification of unverified information, which has triggered misunderstandings, reactions of fear, and a loss of trust, which can inhibit effective responses to the pandemic.

Developing and maintaining effective communication strategies is and will continue to be an essential tool in the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [Community-engaged support and communications to advance vaccinations and vaccine equity](#).*³⁹

ENFORCEMENT

Boulder County Public Health works with the Boulder County Attorney's Office and local law enforcement to enforce local public health orders related to pandemic, when necessary.

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

Isolation is the necessary separation of individuals that have tested positive with COVID-19 from other individuals to prevent the spread of the disease. *Quarantine* is the separation of people who have been exposed to the virus to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19. Both are necessary public health tools to prevent the spread of the virus and protect the public's health; however, isolation and quarantine requirements have had and continue to have a significant impact on individuals and families during the pandemic.

Isolation and quarantine requirements can impact a child's ability to attend school and an adult's ability to work, shop, and take care of basic living needs. The loss of several employees due to isolation and quarantine can also significantly impact a business's ability to operate.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, changes in paid leave policies have been made to accommodate for the loss of work hours due to isolation or quarantine requirements. Below are details of the Federal and State paid leave policies:

- Federal Paid Leave Credits expired on September 30, 2021, which allowed businesses that provided paid leave to its employees to claim these dollar-for-dollar tax credits for wages paid through September 30, 2021.
- Colorado's Healthy Families and Workplace Act requires employers provide up to 80 hours of paid sick leave to employees for COVID-19 reasons, including having COVID-19 symptoms and seeking diagnosis, being required to quarantine or isolate, caring for someone else who is required to quarantine or isolate, or caring for a child due to a COVID-19 school closure.

³⁹ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

Colorado's COVID-paid leave requirements will be in effect up to 4 weeks after the Public Health Emergency (federal, state, or local public health emergency declaration) ends.

Employees are currently at the end of the calendar year, and many have utilized all Paid Time Off, possibly even the first round of COVID pay because of an exposure or infection earlier in the year. Many employees are dealing with either breakthrough events or having to stay home with children. The most vulnerable are single parents with multiple children with employers that are refusing to allow employees to miss work due to the need for isolation and quarantine and those with employers refusing to pay medical leave.

Boulder County Public Health's COVID response team has seen an increasing amount of confusion related to COVID paid leave during the month of October 2021. Through both the Public Health Call Center and Resource Navigation, some employers who have contacted Public Health reference the expiration of the tax credit and share that the current pandemic has left them barely making ends meet, and they will not comply with the Healthy Families and Workplace Act unless legal action is taken.

Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support the [Low Wage Workers Fund](#).⁴⁰

PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) recognizes a need to enhance informatics capacity at the local level to manage, quality assure, and report sub-County data for public health staff (to inform interventions), and for residents (to inform behaviors). The department's current data systems, though improvements are in progress, are still insufficient to expand to the needs of an ongoing pandemic and effectively interact with the many data sources in use by state and local entities, while maintaining business as usual functions to support the rest of the agency's work.

Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19

Boulder County has incurred significant costs responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, Boulder County has expended \$6.4M in staffing public health. These costs were directly related to public health response to and recovery from COVID-19.

Mental Health Services

Mental and behavioral health has long been a priority for Boulder County. A 2018 Community Health Needs assessment by Mental Health Partners stated, "Behavioral Health in some aspect was identified

⁴⁰ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

as a priority need by all community needs assessments review, including those by Boulder County Public Health, Broomfield Health and Human Services, and all hospitals serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties.”⁴¹ Additionally, in an *Out Boulder* survey, “almost a third of respondents said they lacked human connection in the prior month, with a quarter reporting feeling sad or hopeless. Thirteen percent had made a suicide plan, and 4% had attempted suicide.”⁴²

Mental health issues have largely been exacerbated because of the pandemic. National research from the Kaiser Family Foundation has found that “about 4 in 10 adults in the U.S. have reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder, a share that has been largely consistent, up from one in ten adults who reported these symptoms from January to June 2019.”⁴³

According to the Colorado Health Foundation’s Pulse survey, in 2021 “most adult Coloradan’s report having experienced anxiety over the last 12 months; more than one-third have faced a range of other mental health challenges.”⁴⁴ The Pulse survey also reported data that indicates an underutilization of professional mental health services with only three in 10 Coloradans speaking with a health professional about mental health challenges.⁴⁵

There are equity challenges when looking at emotional strain and mental health challenges because of the pandemic.

- **Age as an Indicator.** The rise in mental health issues during the pandemic appear to be acutely affecting children and teens. Children Hospital Colorado has seen a 90% increase in demand for behavioral health treatment in the past two years and has declared a Youth Mental Health State of Emergency.⁴⁶ In 2021 Boulder County Public Health has reported a 47% increase in suicide ideation and attempts among youth ages 10-17.⁴⁷
- **Race/Ethnicity as an Indicator.** Trestle Strategy Group found through interviews with the Latinx community in Boulder County that many Latinx community members are “suffering from anxiety, stress, or even depression, partly due to their financial situation, larger families in smaller accommodations, online school, and a sense of isolation that the stay-at-home order and fear of COVID-19 have provoked.”⁴⁸ According to the statewide Pulse survey, “women of

⁴¹ Community Health Needs Assessment 2018. Mental Health Partners, 2018 (p 1).

⁴² Boulder County Trends: The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators. Community Foundation Boulder County, 2019 (p 43).

⁴³ The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Kaiser Family Foundation. February 2021. Accessed on October 28, 2021: <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-implications-of-covid-19-for-mental-health-and-substance-use/>.

⁴⁴ The Colorado Health Foundation Poll. 2021 Survey. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.copulsepoll.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2021%20Pulse%20-%20Master%20Deck%20-%20Final%20%28ENGLISH%29.pdf>.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Children’s Hospital Colorado Declares a ‘State of Emergency’ for Youth Mental Health. May 25, 2021. Accessed on October 28, 2021: <https://www.childrenscolorado.org/about/news/2021/may-2021/youth-mental-health-state-of-emergency/>.

⁴⁷ Mental Health and Substance Use Slides July 22, 2021. Boulder County Public Health, 2021.

⁴⁸ COVID-19 Qualitative Impact Study Final Report. Boulder County Office of County Administrator. January 2021. (p 2).

color are far more likely to consider mental health to be a serious problem, and they report some of the highest levels of mental strain.”⁴⁹

- **LGBTQ+ as an Indicator.** Additionally, a survey conducted by *Out Boulder* in June 2021 found that “64% of LGBTQ+ respondents indicated the past year has been extremely or very stressful compared to 44% of non-LGBTQ+ respondents. The LGBTQ+ subgroup reporting the highest levels of stress was the 18-24 age range, with 77% indicating the pandemic has been extremely or very stressful.”⁵⁰ In Colorado as a whole, “almost 3 out of 4 (74%) lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) Coloradans report experiencing anxiety in the last year, and a majority have experienced a host of other mental health challenges.”⁵¹

Boulder County Public Health regularly facilitates a “Mental Health Recovery and Unmet Needs Dialogue” with key community partners to identify broad County mental health needs. Below is a complete list of unmet mental health needs in the County as identified by this group:

- Workforce shortages
- Culturally responsive and affirming supports-bicultural/bilingual, LGBTQ+
- Universal Screening-jail, new parents, youth
- Mental health promotion, skill-building, and anti-stigma campaigns
- More prevention and early intervention
- Supportive housing-SUD, mental health
- Funding for safe jail mental health-related to new legislation
- Mental health diversion-reinstate funding
- Expanding services for high-risk youth (prevent out-of-home placement)
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the jail
- Peer supports

Workforce issues continue to be a challenge and priority for mental health, specifically for culturally relevant providers that work with the following communities: youth, bilingual/bicultural, BIPOC, LGBTQ+. Advancing or continuing mental health supports for the jail is also an identified priority by this group.

The Colorado State Legislature’s Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force is currently working to issue a report with recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor on policies to create transformation change in behavioral health, using funding the state receives from ARPA SLFRF.

⁴⁹ The Colorado Health Foundation Poll. 2021 Survey. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.copulsepoll.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2021%20Pulse%20-%20Master%20Deck%20-%20Final%20%28ENGLISH%29.pdf>.

⁵⁰ *LGBTQ+ COVID Impacts Survey Results*. Out Boulder County. June 2021. (p 20)

⁵¹ The Colorado Health Foundation Poll. 2021 Survey. Accessed September 30, 2021: <https://www.copulsepoll.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2021%20Pulse%20-%20Master%20Deck%20-%20Final%20%28ENGLISH%29.pdf>.

Substance Use Services

Data presented by Boulder County Public Health on substance abuse and hospitalizations show an increase in rates for emergency department visits for opioid and alcohol overdose in 2020 and 2021, as compared to 2019.⁵²

According to the American Medical Association, the nation's covid pandemic made nation's drug overdose epidemic worse. Every state has reported an increase of overdose deaths or other problems during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The epidemic now is driven by illicit fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, methamphetamine, and cocaine, often in combination or in adulterated forms. Overdose related to prescription opioids and heroin remain high and also are increasingly adulterated with illicit fentanyl."⁵³ The Boulder County Harm Reduction/Syringe Access program saw an increase in the number of syringes going out in the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the previous year, while seeing a slight decrease in the numbers of clients participating in the program in the program.⁵⁴

This is a broad expenditure category and is often included in the larger and more comprehensive "behavioral health" label. More data and information from Boulder County Public Health and other substance use programs throughout the County will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Other Public Health Services

More data and information and guidance from Boulder County Public Health will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

⁵² *Mental Health and Substance Use Slides July 22, 2021*. Boulder County Public Health, 2021.

⁵³ Issue Brief: Nation's drug-related overdose and death epidemic continues to worsen. American Medical Association. September 20, 2021. Accessed on October 28, 2021: <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/issue-brief-increases-in-opioid-related-overdose.pdf>.

⁵⁴ Boulder County Public Health, Harm Reduction Program. 2021.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, “The initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the U.S. economy was widespread and affected people across all age groups and all states while the initial mortality impact targeted mostly older people.”⁵⁵ This economic impact was not felt equally by all racial and ethnic groups. According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, “People of color, particularly Hispanics, were more likely to be working in low-wage jobs most vulnerable to furloughs and layoffs, especially in hard-hit industries such as leisure and hospitality, retail, and construction. In these jobs, people were least able to work from home, and the COVID-19 crisis turned some of them into frontline workers.”⁵⁶

The SLFRF allows recipients to use funds to respond to the negative economic impacts caused by COVID-19. Funding in this broad category should “address an economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency” and should “assess the connection between the negative economic harm and the COVID-19 public health emergency, the nature and extent of that harm, and how the use of this funding would address such harm.”⁵⁷

Household Assistance: Food Programs

According to the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2018, a Boulder County family of two adults, an infant, and a preschooler needs \$92,542 to meet basic needs.⁵⁸ Alternatively, to qualify for the BCPH WIC Gap or Fruit and Veg Program, a family of four must make less than \$46,435.⁵⁹ Additionally, not all areas throughout the County have similar access to food. In 2018, four of the six mountain communities in Boulder County identified themselves as food deserts.⁶⁰

The Colorado Health Foundation found in 2021 “24% of people living on low incomes have skipped meals because they couldn’t afford food.”⁶¹ Boulder County’s Department of Housing and Human Services did not see a significant increase in individuals accessing County food programs; however,

⁵⁵ Initial Impact of COVID-19 on U.S. Economy More Widespread Than on Mortality. March 8, 2021. U.S. Census Bureau. Accessed on October, 12, 2021: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/03/initial-impact-covid-19-on-united-states-economy-more-widespread-than-on-mortality.html>.

⁵⁶ A Triple Pandemic? The Economic Impacts of Covid-19 Disproportionately Affect Black and Hispanic Households. Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. July 7, 2021. Accessed on October 12, 2021: <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/a-triple-pandemic-the-economic-impacts-of-covid-19-disproportionately-affect-black-and-hispanic-households>.

⁵⁷ Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule (31 CFR Part 35). U.S. Department of the Treasury. Accessed on September 24, 2021: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf>.

⁵⁸ The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2018. Prepared for Colorado Center on Law and Policy by the University of Washington. December 2018.

⁵⁹ Internal Document: BCPH Preliminary Pandemic Response and Recovery Priorities for 2021-2023.

⁶⁰ Strategic Plan 2018-2020. Peak to Peak Housing and Human Services Alliance, 2018 (p 10).

⁶¹ The Colorado Health Foundation Poll. 2021 Survey. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.copulsepoll.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2021%20Pulse%20-%20Master%20Deck%20-%20Final%20%28ENGLISH%29.pdf>.

Community Food Share, the largest distributor of food-to-food banks across Boulder County did see an increase in need.

- Local food insecurity in Boulder and Broomfield Counties increased by an estimated 35% between March 2020 and March 2021
 - ♦ 1 in 7 children in Boulder and Broomfield Counties are now facing hunger, a 64% increase from the previous year⁶²

According to Community Food Share, while demand of food program services went up, disruptions in food supply and volunteerism created an increasingly challenging environment to operate.

- At times during the pandemic, food donations dropped by 40%
- Food prices went up by up to 25%
- Delivery took four to six times longer to reach distribution facilities⁶³

The pandemic has resulted in greater food insecurity within Boulder County, and programs that serve “gap” populations (who are not eligible for Federal programs) or that supplement insufficient programs are seeing larger wait lists. Boulder County supported Community Food Share with CARES Act funding in 2020 to assist in purchasing additional food.

Boulder County Public Health is currently utilizing County 2021 SLFRF funds to increase access to food through its Women Infants and Children Gap Program to immediately provide food benefits to an estimated 109 additional families that are not served by other federal programs and are currently on the WIC program’s waitlist.

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [programs that address food insecurity](#).*⁶⁴

Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

The high cost of housing has been a challenge in the County for years. In 2017 “more than half (58%) of renters in Boulder County spend more than a third of their income on housing costs, according to Census data, compared to 46% of renters nationally.”⁶⁵ Additionally, the “median cost of a single-family home more than doubled from 2003 to 2019 in Boulder, Louisville, Lafayette and Superior.”⁶⁶

⁶² March 2021 Impact Report: Stronger Together. Community Food Share. Accessed on October 26, 2021: <https://1ssc3vxp4bjp4bmj942yfroz1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Pandemic-Impact-Report-Community-Food-Share.pdf>.

⁶³ COVID-19 Response: The Latest Updates on our Pandemic Response. Community Food Share. Accessed on October 26, 2021: <https://communityfoodshare.org/coronavirus/>.

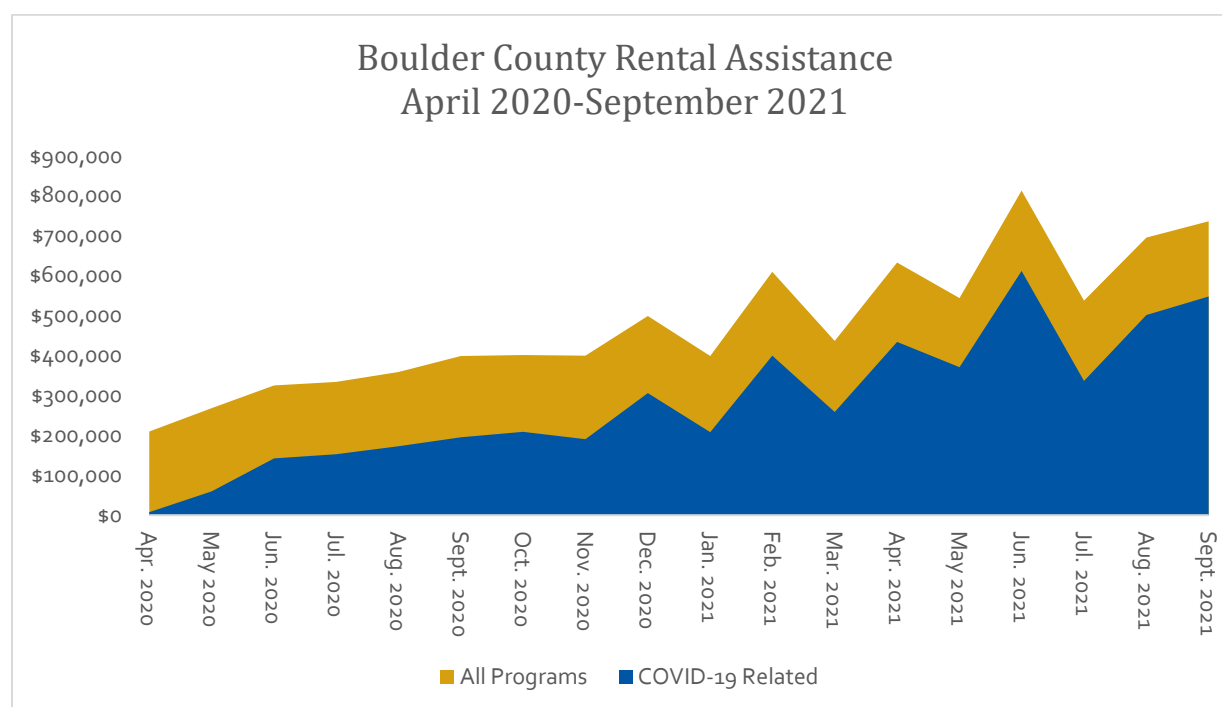
⁶⁴ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

⁶⁵ Boulder County Trends: The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators. Community Foundation Boulder County, 2019 (p 53).

⁶⁶ Ibid.

The Pulse Survey from the Colorado Health Foundation found that housing is still a major concern among Coloradans across the state, and the pandemic has increased financial pressures for renters and homeowners. Forty-four percent (44%) of households with incomes under \$50,000, are worried about losing their own home because they are unable to pay their rent or mortgage; that Coloradoans of color are more likely to express this worry.⁶⁷

Boulder County has continued to invest and manage programs to address needs in rent, mortgage, and utility support. The Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services has tracked total rent and utility dollars distributed to community members in need, which includes existing and COVID-related assistance, distributing more than \$8.5 million in rental and utility assistance since March 2020.⁶⁸ See chart below for the County's rental assistance spending.



Source: Internal Email Communication from Stefanie Kenny, September 29, 2021.

In 2020, Boulder County utilized CARES funding to increase staff to respond to phone calls and assist constituents with accessing housing assistance via the Housing Helpline in English and Spanish and established a program with community-based organizations to reach people with the greatest needs.⁶⁹

⁶⁷ The Colorado Health Foundation Poll. 2021 Survey. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.copulsepoll.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2021%20Pulse%20-%20Master%20Deck%20-%20Final%20%28ENGLISH%29.pdf>.

⁶⁸ All programs include Emergency Rent Assistance Program (ERAP), Housing Stabilization Program – Human Services Safety Net – COVID (HSSN-COVID), Continuum of Care Rapid Rehousing (CoC- RRH), Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid Rehousing (ESG- RRH), Emergency Solutions Grant – COVID Rapid Rehousing (ESG-CV1 RRH), Next Steps – ESG- Homelessness Prevention (Next Steps ESG-HP), and Housing Stabilization Program – Human Services Safety Net (HSP- HSSN, non-COVID).

⁶⁹ Internal Email Communication from Stefanie Kenny, September 29, 2021.

Family Resource Centers in Boulder County, Emergency Family Assistance Association, Sister Carmen, and Our Center all reported record numbers of utility need in 2020. Boulder County and the City of Longmont provided CARES Act funding in 2020 to address this need. Additionally, Boulder County staff are managing an allotment of ARPA SLFRF funds to continue to provide utility assistance in 2021.

More data and information will be needed to fully assess the on-going need for additional funding sources for rent, mortgage, and utility-related assistance throughout the County.

Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [assistance for the Family Resource Centers to support community need](#).⁷⁰

Household Assistance: Cash Transfers

Conditional and unconditional cash transfer have been a social policy tool for decades in developing countries across the world. A rigorous review of these policies and programs found there is “strong evidence that cash transfers are associated with reductions in monetary poverty. The evidence consistently showed an increase in total expenditure and food expenditure and a reduction in poverty measures.”⁷¹

There are several possibilities and potential avenues for spending within this funding category. As defined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury:

A cash transfer program may focus on unemployed workers or low- and moderate-income families, which have faced disproportionate economic harms due to the pandemic. Cash transfers must be reasonably proportional to the negative economic impact they are intended to address. Cash transfers grossly in excess of the amount needed to address the negative economic impact identified by the recipient would not be considered to be a response to the COVID–19 public health emergency or its negative impacts.⁷²

Additionally, for jurisdictions that allocate funds in this expenditure category must do the following:

- Identify the amount of the total funds that are allocated to evidence-based interventions, AND
- Must report on whether projects are primarily serving disadvantaged communities.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) authorized two significant federal cash transfer programs to eligible individuals and families: the COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments and the Advance Child Tax Credit.

⁷⁰ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

⁷¹ “Understanding the impact of cash transfers: the evidence.” ODI Briefing. July 2016. Accessed on October 28, 2021: <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/11465.pdf>.

⁷² Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule (31 CFR Part 35). US Department of the Treasury. Accessed on October 8, 2021: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf>.

- COVID-19 Economic Impact Payment
 - ♦ \$1,200 in April 2020
 - ♦ \$600 in December 2020/January 2021
 - ♦ \$1,400 in March 2021
- Advance Child Tax Credit
 - ♦ Up to \$3,000 per qualifying child between ages 6 and 17
 - ♦ Up to \$3,600 per qualifying child under the age of 6⁷³

Trestle Strategy Group found in a Latinx Community focus group that “the main financial support source that was named is the Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA), which provided rent relief for up to 3 months to some families.”⁷⁴

Left Behind Workers Fund is a cash assistance program created during the pandemic to provide financial support to workers that cannot access traditional unemployment benefits. This Fund has been funded by Boulder County immediate needs funding as well as other sources.⁷⁵

For the Left Behind Workers Fund and other cash assistance programs, there are equity issues that may arise such as how the “unbanked” can access direct assistance. Other examples of cash assistance or measurable impacts of cash assistance is needed to fully understand their potential impact throughout the County.

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [Left Behind Workers Fund Extended Support](#).*⁷⁶

Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs

In April 2021, the Pew Research Center found that parents with lower incomes report that “their child was unable to complete their schoolwork because they did not have computer access at home (25%), or that they had to use public Wi-Fi because they did not have a reliable internet connection at home (23%).”⁷⁷ Additionally, the National Consumer Law Center reported “that there are persistent racial disparities with access to broadband service due to cost. Over the past decade, US Census data shows that a greater percentage of African American, Latinx, Asian American and American Indian or Alaska Native households have consistently reported not having internet service at home because it was too

⁷³ Advance Child Tax Credit and Economic Impact Payments – Stimulus Checks. USA.GOV. Accessed on October 26, 2021: <https://www.usa.gov/covid-stimulus-checks>.

⁷⁴ COVID-19 Qualitative Impact Study Final Report. Boulder County Office of County Administrator. January 2021. (p 2).

⁷⁵ Left Behind Workers Fund January 2021 Report. Impact Charitable, 2021.

⁷⁶ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County though the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

⁷⁷ Schaeffer, Katherine. “What we know about online learning and the homework gap amid the pandemic.” Pew Research Center. October 1, 2021. Accessed on October 26, 2021: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/10/01/what-we-know-about-online-learning-and-the-homework-gap-amid-the-pandemic/>.

expensive.”⁷⁸ Widespread home learning that occurred during 2020 has highlighted the persistent inequality of students that lack access to the internet at home.

There is a continued need for more information about impacts of the digital divide on different disproportionately impacted groups throughout the County. The costs of accessing broadband internet and necessary equipment can be a challenge for many individuals, families, and students with lower incomes.

There are federal subsidy programs to fund broadband and other internet access programs in areas with low rates of connectivity. The FCC established the Emergency Broadband Fund during the COVID - 19 pandemic as an interim solution, which provides a \$50 subsidy per month for households, \$75 a month to Tribal constituents, and a \$100 one-time subsidy for purchase of equipment by meeting certain criteria and working with designated providers. According to internal communications, “digital divide remains a gap though investments thus far are helping. Access to phones, computers for community members [with lack of access, such as those] who are homeless, are also an ongoing need.”⁷⁹ Boulder County utilized CARES funding to support digital divide issues across the County in 2020, but issues remain.

Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support a [Digital Divide Project Manager](#).

Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support a [Digital Divide Resource Navigator](#).

Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [Increasing Community-Based Digital Equity, Access, and Literacy in Boulder County](#).⁸⁰

Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention

The cities of Boulder and Longmont have each offered community mediation services to prevent eviction for decades, helping residents navigate through conflict and avoid the potential expense, time, emotional toll, and community resource drain which often result from unnecessary dispute escalation. In both cities, mediation has become firmly embedded into the essential services offered to residents and word-of-mouth has created strong community support. Further, many housing providers rely on mediation services to help resolve landlord/tenant and neighbor/neighbor problems within their housing units. To expand those crucial services, Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services contracts with the City of Boulder and City of Longmont mediation programs to provide mediation services to the balance of the County.

⁷⁸ Broadband Service is a Racial Equity Priority. National Consumer Law Center. September 2020. Accessed on October 27, 2021:

https://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/energy_utility_telecom/telecommunications/IB_Broadband_Racial_Equity.pdf.

⁷⁹ Internal email from Elizabeth Crowe to Tessa Hale, August 27, 2021.

⁸⁰ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

The Boulder County Emergency Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) has a strong relationship with the City of Boulder and City of Longmont mediation programs that allows a quick resolution for tenants who are headed to eviction court. Each week, the mediators share the list of tenants going to eviction court the following week and the Housing Helpline staff and ERAP staff work together closely to outreach to household and get rent assistance applications completed prior to the court date. This allows mediators to enter court with the background needed to help negotiate for people to stay in their homes when non-payment of rent is the primary reason for appearing in court. In some cases, this partnership has also worked to prevent people from going to court at all which saves time and resources for all parties. Boulder County's strong relationship also allows tenants and landlords calling the Housing Helpline to be efficiently referred to mediation services if they are struggling to communicate with their landlord or need support around other tenant/landlord issues.

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [the No Eviction without Representation Boulder County program](#).*⁸¹

Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers

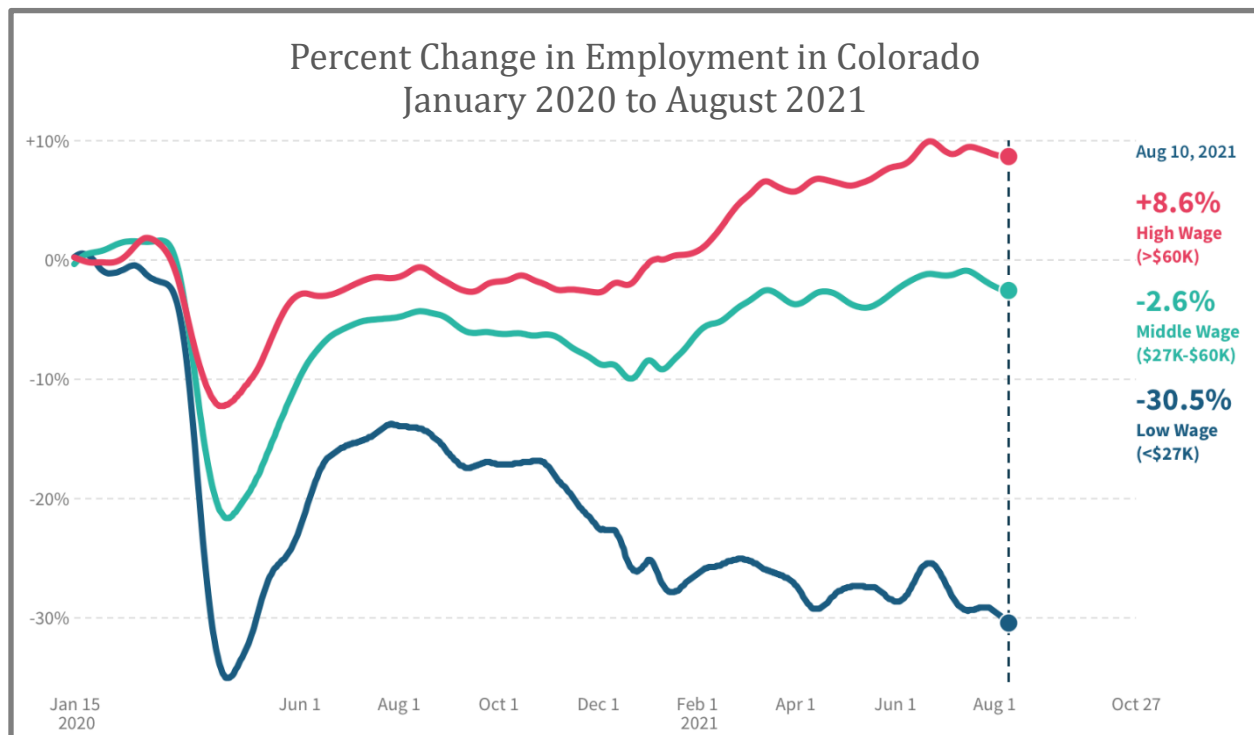
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government established several additional benefit programs, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), and Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC). These programs expired on September 6, 2021, and as of the writing of this report have not been reinstated. Claimants on regular state unemployment claims will continue to receive their standard weekly benefits.

Data from Workforce Boulder County indicates that unemployment claims in 2020 were at an all-time high. According to Workforce Boulder County, "the number of people receiving unemployment insurance in Boulder County peaked in May 2020. From May through the end of the year, the weekly number of recipients never dipped below 6,000. This is more than six times higher than the number of recipients receiving UI at the beginning of March (908 people) before COVID-19 closures took place mid-month."⁸²

The loss of employment during the pandemic was greater among people earning lower wages. The graph below shows that in Colorado, as of August 10, 2021, employment rates among the workers earning the lowest wages (those earning less than \$27,00 annually) decreased by 30.5% compared to January 2020. In contrast, employment rates among high wage workers (those earning more than \$60,000 annually) increased by 8.6% in the same time frame.

⁸¹ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

⁸² Workforce Boulder County 2020 COVID-19 Impact Data Brief. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/WFBC-data-Brief-2020-Final.pdf>.



Source: Track the Recovery. Accessed on October 27, 2021: <https://www.tracktherecovery.org>.

In addition to the uneven employment gains between low-wage and high wage workers, wages in Boulder County are not keeping up with increases in the cost of living in the County. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculators, a living wage for one adult with no children in Boulder County is \$38,545.⁸³ However, the Workforce Boulder County estimates that 63% of all positions in Boulder County pay a starting annual wage under \$39,000. These low wage positions see the highest turnover in Boulder County. The 2021 Boulder Economic Council Summit reported that people of color are overrepresented among people earning less than \$27,000.⁸⁴ Data in the table below shows that in Boulder County occupations with the highest turnover rates offer the lowest median annual salaries.

Occupation Group	Median Annual Earnings	Turnover Rate (2020)
Entertainment Attendants and Related Workers	\$26,341	197%
Other Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers	\$26,459	189%
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	\$25,519	180%
Agricultural Workers	\$33,207	149%
Other Protective Service Workers	\$31,716	145%
Funeral Service Workers	\$31,834	137%
Cooks and Food Preparation Workers	\$30,471	136%

Source: EMSI Job Postings and Occupation Tables.

⁸³ MIT Living Wage Calculator. Accessed on October 27, 2021: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/08013>.

⁸⁴ New Economic Baseline. Boulder Economic Summit. October 14, 2021.

The low wage, high turnover occupational categories listed above, generally have increased exposure to COVID-19, and fewer benefits such as paid sick leave, paid health insurance, and other supportive benefits. As these workers re-enter the workplace, they are often seeking jobs that pay a living wage in Boulder County or more supportive benefits.

Job Training Assistance

e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives

Workforce Boulder County has funding for reskilling, upskilling, next skilling, and providing innovation grants to local businesses and individuals.⁸⁵ In 2020, Workforce Boulder County “served 26,233 people during 2020, over three times more than the last few years.”⁸⁶ Services include:

- Career counseling
- Career and academic exploration and planning
- Tuition, fees, and books
- Employer-provided training
- Incumbent worker training
- Work-based learning
- Needs-based services (supportive services)
- Activities to support job quality initiatives with employers and job seekers

More data and information will be needed to fully assess the ongoing and changing needs of job training assistance in Boulder County for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [Employment Services, Workforce Boulder County](#).

Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [Workforce Boulder County Virtual Call Center \(VCC\)](#).⁸⁷

Contributions to Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Funds

States are authorized to use ARPA SLFRF funds to replenish their unemployment compensation trust funds. Colorado has paid out \$3.5 billion in state-funded unemployment benefits since the start of the pandemic, in addition to the \$9 billion provided by the federal government in extended and expanded benefits, for a total of about \$12 billion between January 27, 2020, and September 11, 2021.⁸⁸

⁸⁵ Boulder County Economic Recovery. Consortium of Cities, 2021.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

⁸⁸ States Have \$95 Billion to Restore their Unemployment Trust Funds—Why Aren’t They Using It? Tax Foundation. September 22, 2021. Accessed on October 27, 2021: https://taxfoundation.org/state-unemployment-trust-funds-2021/#_ftn1.

Small Business Economic Assistance (General)

Small business and economic support throughout the pandemic have been one of the main topics of interest for many governments in the early stages of the pandemic. There was a myriad of programs to support businesses during this time including the federal Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loan, Shuttered Venue Grant, Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and Small Business Association Debt Relief. Boulder County distributed two rounds of small business COVID-19 relief grants to eligible small businesses in unincorporated Boulder County in 2020. The County also administered \$1.9 million dollars in state funds in January 2021 to specific types of small businesses designated by the state legislature as impacted by public health orders.

Economic and business support continues to be an issue in Boulder County and is a stated priority of the Funders Collaborative.⁸⁹ Some small local businesses and non-profits organizations are reporting challenges to hiring and retention, in part because of the increasing wage needs of local workers and desire for work in lower risk jobs (less potential exposure to COVID-19).⁹⁰ Additionally, as Workforce Boulder County and many national organizations have reported, workers are seeking quality jobs, and the U.S. is experiencing what some are calling, the “Great Resignation.” According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4 million Americans quit their jobs in July 2021. Businesses (and nonprofits, governments, and other employers) are also experiencing a labor shortage. In September 2021, there were 10 million job openings and 8.4 million people unemployed according to Labor Department statistics.⁹¹

The nature of this pandemic is constantly changing and impacting the business community in different ways. In August 2021, The Boulder Economic Council highlighted the following priority issues identified by small businesses:⁹²

- Uncertainty
- Unable to hire (increasing cost of labor)
- Supply chain (increasing cost of materials)
- Funding (“Grants, not loans”)
- Marketing help
- Using technology to do business
- Need increase revenue and sales
- Navigating in-person vs. remote
- Space-related issues (affordability)
- Startups
- Environmental sustainability

⁸⁹ *COVID Needs and Priorities 2021 Assessment: Presentation and Discussion with LACs*. Boulder Co Funders Collaborative, 2020.

⁹⁰ *Boulder County Economic Recovery*. Consortium of Cities, 2021.

⁹¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

⁹² *Boulder County Economic Recovery*. Consortium of Cities, August 2021.

Moreover, the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Boulder County identified the following specific gaps in areas of support for the Latinx business community.⁹³

- Building vaccine confidence with Spanish language and culturally appropriate educational resource materials.
- Community based-outreach for targeted door-to-door engagement & trust building
- Mobile clinics at Latinx-transit places, location of work, and neighborhoods
- Support services, including group learning & one-on-one assistance
- Grant & loan programs targeted to minority-owned businesses
- Access to technology & affordable digital services, including software and marketing
- Targeted outreach via nontraditional channels to bring awareness to available resources
- Eco-friendly materials & recycling/compost services
- Bridging the gap between Latinx and other communities, encouraging business between each other
- Presence and voice at the planning and decision table of influence

Many of the broad issues identified by the County's business community overlap with other felt needs of the community such as need for more affordable childcare, housing, and access to technology, and a more equitable public health response to COVID-19.

More specific feedback from the business community on funding allocation strategies will be helpful to identify ways SLFRF funding can specifically fill needs and gaps that are not currently being fulfilled.

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support [Pandemic Funding and Technical Assistance Resources for Small Businesses](#).*⁹⁴

Aid to Nonprofit Organizations

In December of 2020, Boulder County Community Services, in partnership with Forward Together Safely, administered a grant program for non-profit human services and animal-serving agencies due to financial need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants were provided to 39 agencies in a total amount of approximately 1.3 million dollars and assisted in, primarily, replacing lost revenue and reimbursing COVID-specific spending.

As of 2021, impacts of the pandemic vary depending on agency, but many agencies across the County are still experiencing challenges. Themes that have emerged include financial and staffing difficulties as well as an increase in clients needing services. Financial difficulties continue to be seen most prominently by agencies who offer basic needs services; those that provide food and utility assistance to clients continue to report abnormally high need and expenditures in these areas. Many agencies experience difficulties adjusting their service models, including technology, capital, and additional

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

resource needs. Several agencies are also reporting increased staff burnout, staff retention challenges and difficulty hiring. Agencies providing mental health and legal services are seeing an increase in clients seeking assistance, with some looking for additional funding to hire more staff.

Like other broad expenditure categories, there are several possibilities and potential avenues for spending within this funding category.

Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

The Leisure and Hospitality sector and the Government sector experienced the steepest job loss within the Boulder Area with each showing a loss of 4,000 or more jobs since February of 2020.⁹⁵ Transportation to heavily visited public lands and trails such as the Eldorado Shuttle alternatively increased. Boulder County Department of Community Planning and Permitting reports that Hessie Shuttle is on pace to roughly double the previous single session record “with about 30,000 boardings for the season, which is somewhere in the neighborhood of 300 people per day visiting the area.”⁹⁶ While Tourism, Travel, and Hospitality have been heavily impacted in Boulder County, more details on funding support and its overall impact will be helpful to determine the needs within these sectors.

Aid to Other Impacted Industries

While this is a broad funding category, many stakeholders pointed to impacts on public transport as a result from low ridership and revenue reduction. According to the Boulder County Department of Community Planning and Permitting, since 2019 the Regional Transportation District (RTD) has experienced a 70% reduction in ridership and has lost over \$150 million dollars in annual revenue.⁹⁷

Driver shortages is also a common issue throughout the County. “RTD, Via Mobility Services, and Local School Districts are experiencing extreme staff shortages due the COVID-19 pandemic. On average, transportation providers are operating at a capacity of 65-85% of the operators needed to provide reliable service.”⁹⁸ This issue of driver shortage is linked to a larger national shortage of Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) drivers.

Other Economic Support

The possibilities are abundant in this broad funding category.

For example, the 2019 *Boulder County Trends* report found a large gender-based wage gap. “The County has the largest gender-based wage gap of any of its closest neighbors and lags Colorado and

⁹⁵ Workforce Boulder County 2021 PP With New Grants and UI Wage Data, 2021.

⁹⁶ Internal Email Communications from Stacy Proctor. October 1, 2021.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

the U.S. as a whole in gender pay equity.”⁹⁹ An update from the Boulder Economic Summit in October 2021 reported that women continue to earn less than their male counterparts for the same job performed.¹⁰⁰ Additionally, since February 2020, 2.3 million women have dropped out of the labor force, compared to 1.8 million men, suggesting that the economic impacts of this pandemic are disproportionately impacting women’s participation in the U.S. labor force.¹⁰¹

Another example discussed in the Trends report is the concept of “citizenship loans.” “Hundreds of families have left Longmont since 2017, and officials suspect that they are pulling their children out of the local schools to relocate to their communities of origin” which ultimately impacts the dropout rate among Latino students in SVVSD.¹⁰² High Plains Bank in Longmont began offering “citizenship loans” to financially assist immigrants applying for U.S. Citizenship.¹⁰³ By offering this assistance, Longmont could potentially decrease dropout rates, and assist community members with low incomes.

More recent trends in the Colorado state Medicaid program might also guide decision making in this category. According to the Boulder County Department of Health and Human Services, the number of clients seeking Medical Assistance through Health First Colorado¹⁰⁴ has steadily grown since early 2020.¹⁰⁵ The chart below for the rise in Coloradans seeking medical assistance through the state’s Medicaid program.

⁹⁹ Boulder County Trends: The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators. Community Foundation Boulder County, 2019 (p 55).

¹⁰⁰ New Economic Baseline. Boulder Economic Summit. October 14, 2021.

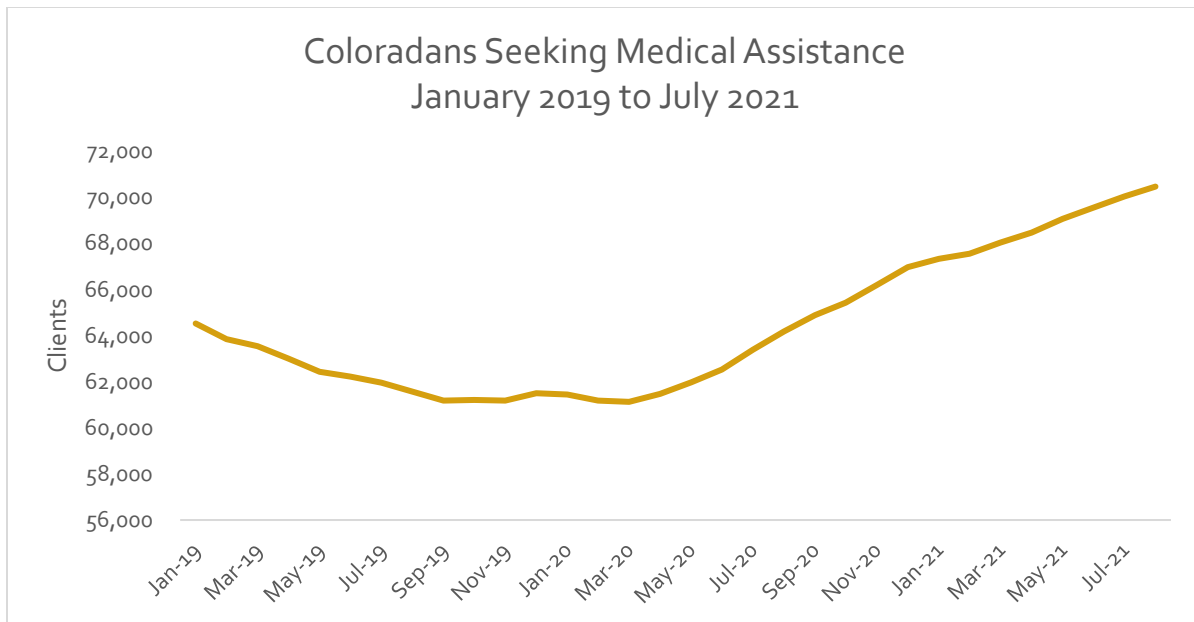
¹⁰¹ A Year of Strength and Loss: The Pandemic, The Economy, and the Value of Women’s Work. National Women’s Law Center. March 2021. Accessed on October 28, 2021: https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final_NWLC_Press_CovidStats.pdf.

¹⁰² Boulder County Trends: The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators. Community Foundation Boulder County, 2019 (p 86).

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Health First Colorado is public health insurance for Coloradans who qualify. It is funded by the federal government and Colorado state government and is administered by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

¹⁰⁵ Internal Email Communication from Stefanie Kenny, September 29, 2021.



Source: Internal Email Communication from Stefanie Kenny, September 29, 2021.

Feedback from the County and other stakeholders, and guidance from the Community Engagement survey may provide insight into potential funding opportunities in this expenditure category.

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to [Unmet Needs for Court Reporter Funding](#).*¹⁰⁶

Rehiring Public Sector Staff

Boulder County employees reported increased mental health and anxiety issues and increased workload during the pandemic in a 2020 Boulder County employee survey.

Several Boulder County employees work in positions with direct contact with the public during the pandemic, which include, but are not limited to, law enforcement officers, including jail officers, parks and open space employees, front desk staff, some case workers, and others. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a 21% turnover rate across state and local governments (excluding education), in 2020.

Boulder County did not layoff any employee off during COVID and many employees were reassigned to respond directly to the pandemic. So far in 2021 the county is trending towards a 12% turn-over rate, with 18% of which are retirements.

More data and information will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁶ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County though the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

¹⁰⁷ Internal Boulder County staff communications. October 28, 2021.

SERVICES TO DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

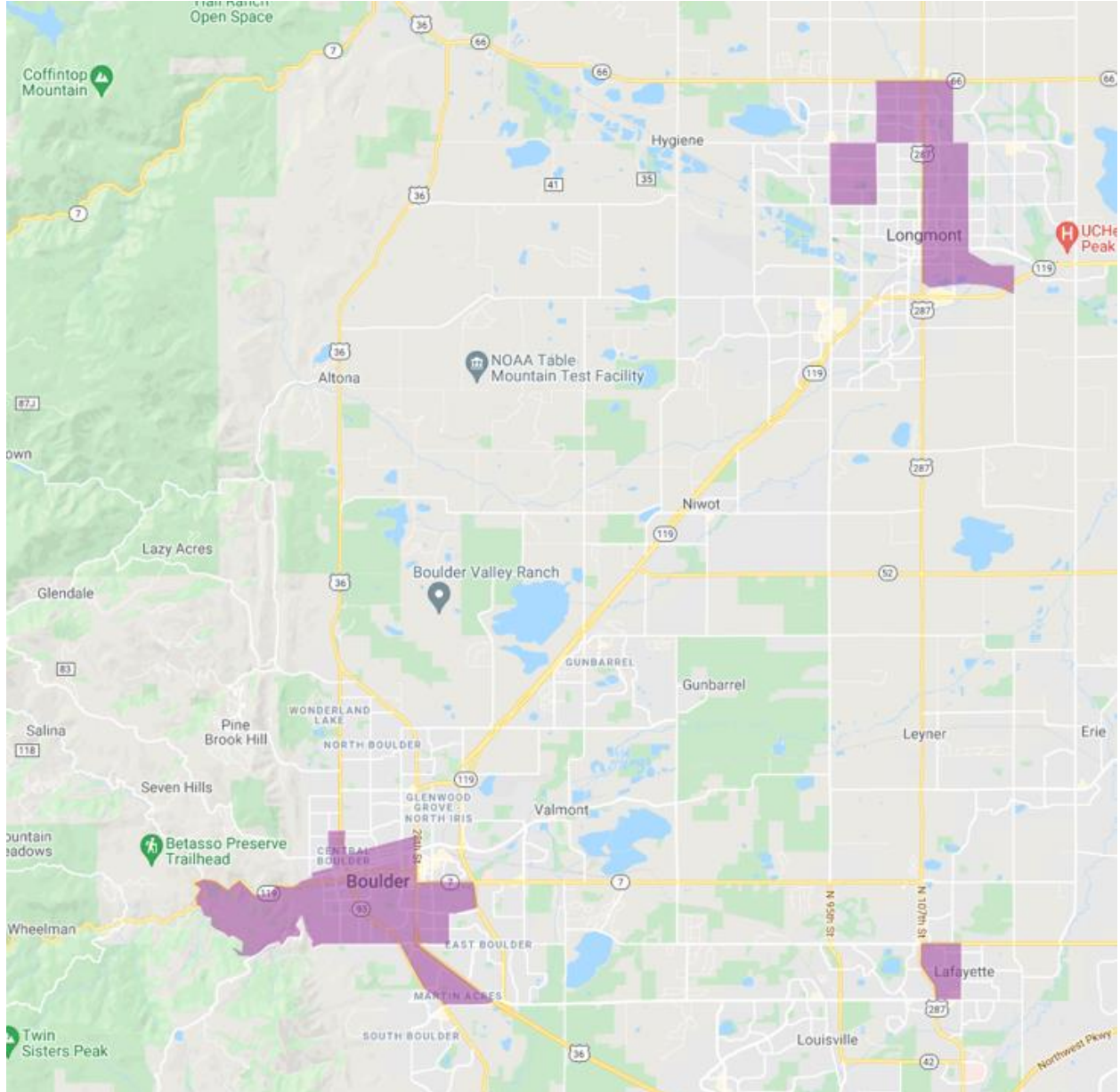
In recognition of the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on health and economic outcomes, recipients of SLFRF funds may provide services to specific populations, households, or geographic areas. Eligible services include the following:

- Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health, including community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs
- Building stronger neighborhoods and communities, including supportive housing and other services for individuals experiencing homelessness, development of affordable housing, and housing vouchers and assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher levels of economic opportunity
- Addressing educational disparities exacerbated by COVID-19, including early learning services, increasing resources for high-poverty school districts, educational services like tutoring or afterschool programs, and supports for students' social, emotional, and mental health needs; and
- Promoting healthy childhood environments, including childcare, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.¹⁰⁸

Projects that are targeted to economically disadvantaged communities must be located in or serve beneficiaries that live within a Qualified Census Tract as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A map of Boulder County's Qualified Census Tracts is included below.

¹⁰⁸ Frequently Asked Questions (As of July 19, 2021). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Accessed on October 18, 2021: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf>.

Map. Boulder County Qualified Census Tracts, as of October 2021



Source: Qualified Census Tracts and Difficult Development Areas. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Education Assistance: Early Learning

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has identified the following eligible expenses in Early Learning: New, expanded, or enhanced early learning services, including prekindergarten, Head Start, partnerships between pre-kindergarten programs and local education authorities, or administration of those services.

Boulder County's Department of Community Services manages the County's Head Start program. As early childhood educators, Head Start teachers have been on the frontlines providing care and education to some of the County's most impacted young children and families. Boulder County Head Start program received direct CARES Act and ARPA funding to address impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Boulder County and cities within Boulder County also supported childcare and early learning centers in 2020 with CARES Act funding.

Further information may be needed from Boulder County's Early Childhood Council and other leaders in Early Learning to assess need in this area.

Please also see the [Health Childhood Environments: Childcare](#) section below for more data and information on early learning and early care.

Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts

More data and information from BVSD and SVVSD, or the Colorado Department of Education will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Education Assistance: Academic Services

Prior to COVID-19, graduation rates for economically disadvantaged, limited English proficiency, and Latino students were lower than white students in BVSD and St. Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD). But all categories of students in BVSD and SVVSD outperform the Colorado average.¹⁰⁹

A study conducted by McKinsey and Company found that by fall 2020, "students, on average, started school about three months behind where we would expect them to be in mathematics. Students of color were about three to five months behind in learning; white students were about one to three months behind."¹¹⁰

No local data sets or reports were provided by BVSD or SVVSD for this report, therefore, felt academic services needs from the two major school districts as a result of the pandemic are not recorded here.

¹⁰⁹ Boulder County Trends: The Community Foundation's Report on Key Indicators. Community Foundation Boulder County, 2019 (p 29).

¹¹⁰ COVID-19 and learning loss-disparities grow and students need help. McKinsey and Company. December 8, 2020. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/covid-19-and-learning-loss-disparities-grow-and-students-need-help>.

More data and information will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services

Prior to 2020, significant increases in risk factors and incidence of suicidality were reported among Colorado youth. The percentage of youth experiencing sadness or hopelessness every day for at least two weeks rose from 24% in 2011 to 30% in 2015. The percentage of youth reporting suicide ideation rose from 15% in 2011 to 17% in 2015.¹¹¹ These risk factors were not equally experienced by all groups. “There are wide disparities in incidence across racial/ethnic populations as well as for youth who identify with a minority gender or sexual orientation such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer/questioning.”¹¹²

This issue has been aggravated during the pandemic. Boulder County Public Health reported suicide ideation and attempts among youth ages 10-17 are 47% higher in 2021.¹¹³ These metrics identify the extremes. Identifying other data sources or reports that gauge other social and emotional impacts on children. More data is needed from local school districts and other providers regarding the impacts of the pandemic on social, emotional, and mental health services within education.

Education Assistance: Other

An analysis by the Department of Education on the pandemic’s impact on education came to this stark conclusion.

Although the pandemic’s effects will be studied for many years to come, we know from early studies that for many students, the educational gaps that existed before the pandemic—in access, opportunities, achievement, and outcomes—are widening. And we can see already that many of these impacts are falling disproportionately on students who went into the pandemic with the greatest educational needs and fewest opportunities—many of them from historically marginalized and underserved groups.¹¹⁴

National data indicate the need for more support and resources for education assistance to address a wide range of impacts from COVID-19 on the education system. More feedback, data, input is needed from both BVSD and SVVSD to identify potential avenues for other education assistance needed to alleviate impacts from COVID-19.

Healthy Childhood Environments: Childcare

Childcare costs in Colorado have increased 76% since 2000. Annual childcare cost for one preschooler in Boulder County is \$26,796; in Pueblo the cost is \$15,060.¹¹⁵ The Colorado Health Foundation found that

¹¹¹ Community Health Needs Assessment 2018. Mental Health Partners, 2018 (p 9-10).

¹¹² Community Health Needs Assessment 2018. Mental Health Partners, 2018 (p 10-12).

¹¹³ Mental Health and Substance Use Slides July 22, 2021. Boulder County Public Health, 2021.

¹¹⁴ Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impacts of COVID-19 on America’s Students. Department of Education/Office for Civil Rights, 2021.

¹¹⁵ Boulder County Trends: The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators. Community Foundation Boulder County, 2019 (p 51).

in 2021, 67% of parents with children under 5 and 54% of parents with school-aged children consider the cost of to be a “very serious” problem.¹¹⁶

Early Milestones Colorado conducted a statewide survey during the summer of 2020 to measure the impact of the virus on families, care providers and the workforce. They found that total enrollment in early learning programs dropped by 53.2% statewide and 23.3% of the sector’s workforce in Colorado was furloughed or laid off.¹¹⁷ During the pandemic, 58% of friend, family, neighbor caregiver respondents reported earning \$0-100/week, indicating a lack of established childcare facilities across Colorado.¹¹⁸

Lack of public financing of childcare is a widespread issue throughout the United States. A recent report by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), found that on average the United States spends \$500 annually per child on early childhood education and care. This contrasts with the average annual spending of \$14,436 per child among other OECD countries. This report specifically recognizes the role of local governments in this service role. “Local governments often play a key role in financing, and sometimes provide childcare services.”¹¹⁹

In Colorado, government support of childcare for working parents is a concept largely supported. In the Colorado Pulse Survey, state government investment in childcare is widely supported, with 71% of Coloradans in support.¹²⁰ In September 2021, Governor Polis announced \$275 million in childcare investments in the state of Colorado.¹²¹

In 2020, Boulder County partnered with cities in the County and the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County to provide rapid response grants to childcare centers throughout the County with CARES Act funding.

In 2021, Boulder County Public Health is utilizing SLFRF funds to provide a rapid response to address child health and development needs through child health promotion.

¹¹⁶ The Colorado Health Foundation Poll. 2021 Survey. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.copulsepoll.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2021%20Pulse%20-%20Master%20Deck%20-%20Final%20%28ENGLISH%29.pdf>.

¹¹⁷ Measuring the Impact of COVID-19 on Colorado’s Early Care and Learning Sector. Early Milestones Colorado. March 2021 (p 14). Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://earlymilestones.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COVID-Wave-1-Report-Web.pdf>.

¹¹⁸ Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Care in Colorado: Research Findings and Direct Cash Assistance Program. Mile High United Way (Longmont Early Childhood Coalition), 2021.

¹¹⁹ Public Spending on Childcare. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Family Database. September 2021 Update.

¹²⁰ The Colorado Health Foundation Poll. 2021 Survey. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.copulsepoll.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2021%20Pulse%20-%20Master%20Deck%20-%20Final%20%28ENGLISH%29.pdf>.

¹²¹ Governor Polis, CDHS Announce \$275 million Investment in Colorado’s Early Childhood Sector to Help Build Back Better. Press Release, September 20, 2021. Accessed on October 27, 2021: <https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/6286-governor-polis-cdhs-announce-275-million-investment-colorados-early-childhood-sector-help>.

A deeper exploration into 2021 recovery priority childcare issues and public financing mechanisms throughout the County, State, and Nation is needed to clarify potential opportunities using Boulder County ARPA/SLFRF allocations.

Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting

Home visiting programs provide structured visits from health, parent educators, and social service professionals to pregnant women or families with young children to offer education and assistance navigating resources for economic support, health needs, or child development.

According to the Casey Foundation:

Evidence-based home visiting programs that complement the work of child protective services reduce the potential for future harm, leverage the talent and expertise of professionals trained in infant and child development, and expand the network of partners that can help keep children safe. High-quality home visiting programs also contribute significantly to effective and safe reduction of the use of out-of-home placement. They help parents access the services they need, such as parenting skills and child development education, supporting them to raise their children successfully in nurturing, caring, and supportive environments.¹²²

Boulder County is home to six home visitation programs that have worked together over the past several years to ensure children and families have access to the right program at the right time. The programs are Nurse Family Partnership, Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs, Community Infant Program, GENESIS, Early Head Start, and Parents as Teachers.

As of 2021, Boulder County applied to become a Colorado Family Support through Primary Prevention Demonstration Project, to move towards universal home visitation for every child born in Boulder County.

Boulder County is utilizing ARPA/SLFRF funds to accelerate implementation of the Child First Universal Home Visitation model that BCPH has been working to bring to Boulder County to meet the needs of all Boulder County infants and their families beginning at the time of birth. BCPH is working in partnership with local hospitals, the Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families, Illuminate Colorado, Denver Public Health, and Jefferson County Public Health to implement Family Connects, an evidence-based, universal approach to supporting newborns and their families. The program will connect with each parent after the birth of their child, offer supportive guidance to the family, link families to needed community resources, and help parents connect with their child. The program is administered by registered nurses that are integrated into the hospital, community, and public health systems. Families receive 1-3 no-cost home visits in the weeks following the birth of their child. The program has been studied in two randomized control trials and is proven to result in reduced emergency medical care for infants (for each \$1 in program costs, the program yields \$3.02 in savings in emergency health care

¹²² Which home visiting programs are effective in reducing child maltreatment? Casey Foundation. May 29, 2018. Accessed on October 27, 2021: <https://www.casey.org/home-visiting-programs-reduce-maltreatment/>.

costs), improved maternal mental health, enhanced home environments, higher quality parenting behaviors, and greater community connections.

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to increase support [childhood health and development](#).*¹²³

Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System

Risk factors for child abuse and neglect include (but not limited to): low parental income, parental substance abuse, parental mental health issues, social isolation, parenting stress, community violence, and concentrated neighborhood disadvantage.¹²⁴

There is a notable connection between previously identified risk factors for child abuse and neglect and impacts or results from the pandemic. Children involved in the child welfare system or in foster homes, are among the most vulnerable members of our County. The economic and public health impacts of this pandemic accentuated this vulnerability. Closures in school, preschools, and daycare resulted in a decrease of interactions between children and mandatory reporters and other professionals trained to recognize signs of maltreatment or neglect. A study in New York City, found a drop in child maltreatment reporting and child welfare interventions in May 2020. This drop “coincided with social distancing policies designed to mitigate COVID-19 transmission.” The authors of this study also hypothesized, “that many families may endure great economic hardships in the months ahead and given that material hardship and infrequent employment have been shown to be associated with increased child maltreatment.”¹²⁵

Colorado’s Child Protection Ombudsman analyzed the impact of the pandemic on Colorado’s Child Welfare system and reports the “demand for Child Protection Ombudsman services increased by 40%. Citizens involved with the child protection system are calling the CPO more than ever before.”¹²⁶ The child protection system includes child welfare services, child welfare departments, and the Colorado Division of Youth Services (DYS). According to the Ombudsman, these agencies all “saw an increase in family stress, spurred for many by isolation, unemployment, health concerns, food insecurity and other impacts of the pandemic.”¹²⁷

¹²³ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

¹²⁴ Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2016 (p 8).

¹²⁵ Reporting of child maltreatment during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in New York City from March to May 2020, Child Abuse & Neglect, Volume 116, Part 2, 202. Accessed on October 25, 2021: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145213420303744>

¹²⁶ One Year of COVID: CPO analysts describe the impacts of the pandemic on the child protection system. Child Protection Ombudsman of Colorado. March 26, 2021. Accessed on October 27, 2021: <https://coloradocpo.org/2021/03/26/part-three-one-year-of-covid-cpo-analysts-describe-the-impacts-of-the-pandemic-on-the-child-protection-system/>.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

National research has shown “providing families with basic economic support in the form of paid family leave, Earned-Income Tax Credit, child tax credits, and increases to the minimum wage may significantly reduce the risk for child maltreatment” as these policies improve the financial well-being of families.¹²⁸ Systemic issues related to workforce, early intervention, and a focus on prevention are other evidence-based policy options that can also be explored in this expenditure category. More data, information, and guidance from Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

More data, information, and guidance from Boulder County staff will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to increase support [childhood health and development](#).*¹²⁹

Housing Assistance: Affordable Housing

Affordable housing has been a consistent pain point in the County for years. In 2017 “experts declared a complete end to affordable housing” in Boulder County.¹³⁰ The Boulder County Regional Housing Partnership was formed in 2016 under the guidance of the Boulder County Consortium of Cities to help address escalating housing costs. The Partnership spearheaded the development of a new regional housing plan that aims to triple the amount of affordable housing in the region over the next fifteen years. Ten jurisdictions have now signed on to the strategy, committing to increasing their own stock of affordable housing to achieve the collective goal of 18,000 affordable homes preserved or developed by 2035.¹³¹

The pandemic brought increasing home prices as many people moved to Colorado during the pandemic when work from home and virtual schooling were the norm. “Statewide, sold listings rose nine percent, days-on-market dropped by roughly eight percent, and the median home price rose by more than nine percent, to \$415,000.”¹³² Home prices in Boulder County were up 11.4% for January 2021 compared with January 2020, according to the CoreLogic Case-Shiller Index.

¹²⁸ How COVID-19 Is Placing Vulnerable Children at Risk and Why We Need a Different Approach to Child Welfare. Herrenkohl TI, Scott D, Higgins DJ, Klika JB, Lonne B. Child Maltreatment. 2021;26(1):9-16.

¹²⁹ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

¹³⁰ Boulder County Trends: The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators. Community Foundation Boulder County, 2019 (p 50).

¹³¹ Expanding Access to Diverse Housing for Our Community: Regional Housing Strategy. The Boulder Regional Housing Partnership. Draft v4 September 29, 2017. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/affordable-housing-draft-plan.pdf>.

¹³² COVID-19 Created the Hottest Real Estate Market Denver Has Ever Seen. 5280 May 2021. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://www.5280.com/2021/05/covid-19-created-the-hottest-real-estate-market-denver-has-ever-seen/>.

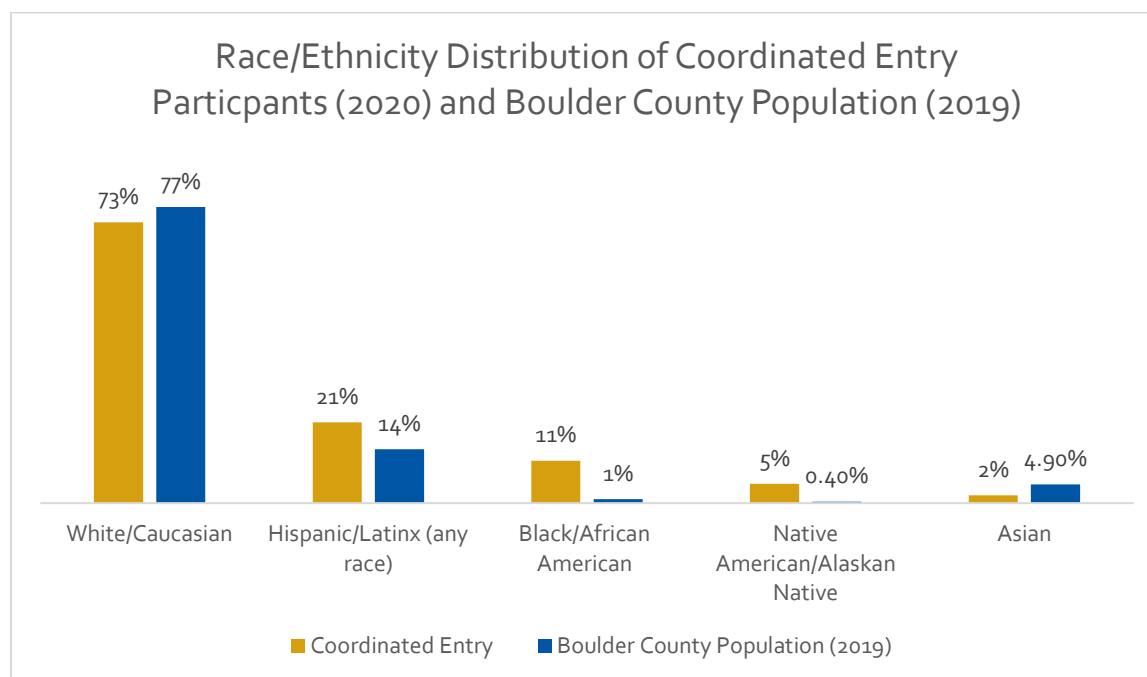
This report would benefit from more guidance to prioritize the most immediate needs and identify a strategic direction on long-term investment strategies in collaboration with the state of Colorado’s SLFRF investments in affordable housing.

Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons

Boulder County manages Homeless Solutions Boulder County (HSBC), a collaborative of many government and nonprofit partners within Boulder County. HSBC, a Housing First model, connects individuals experiencing homelessness with housing solutions. In 2018, the annual cost of homelessness on public services was \$43,000 per resident. Alternatively, the annual cost of permanently supportive housing was \$20,000 per resident, indicating a cost effectiveness of a housing first model.¹³³

HSBC is also Boulder County’s local Coordinated Entry (CE), which is the system entry point for single adults experiencing homelessness. In 2020, a total of 1,170 CE screenings were completed in Boulder County. Of these screenings, 68% (799) were completed in the City of Boulder, 32% (369) were completed in the City of Longmont, and less than 1% was completed in “other” locations.

Information is also collected on the race and ethnicity of participants, as shown in the chart below. Those who identify as Hispanic/Latinx, Black/African American, and Native American/Alaskan Native have higher rates of homelessness or unstable housing than other racial and ethnic groups in Boulder County.



Sources: 2020 Annual Report. Homeless Solutions for Boulder County, 2020 and Boulder County Public Health population data, 2019.

¹³³ Boulder County Trends: The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators. Community Foundation Boulder County, 2019 (p 58).

A total of 321 (27% housing exit rate) individuals experiencing homelessness resolved their housing crisis in 2020. Of the 321 individuals who resolved their experience of homelessness, 33% (108) were served through Diversion Services, 35% (111) were served through Navigation Services, and 32% (102) were served through Housing Focused Shelter Services.

In March 2020, with the first confirmed COVID-19 case in Boulder County HSBC partners (Boulder County, the City of Boulder, and the City of Longmont) and Boulder County Public Health opened the COVID Recovery Center (CRC) through the Countywide Emergency Operations Center (EOC) system. This 24-hour facility supported individuals experiencing homelessness who were either symptomatic, tested as positive, or were exposed to an individual who tested positive with COVID-19. As of December 31, 2020, the CRC had been open for 287 consecutive days and had served 184 individuals experiencing homelessness.¹³⁴

CARES Act funding provided critical support to the community, helping to ensure that those most vulnerable were not left behind. HSBC was able to use these dollars to provide the following services to individuals experiencing homelessness:

- Distributed 400 cell phones with 500 prepaid minutes to ensure the ability to connect with Countywide resources and access Coordinated Entry.
- Funded motel stays as bridge housing for individuals in Longmont while searching and securing housing placements.
- Conducted additional outreach efforts in Boulder and Longmont to provide resources to unhoused and unsheltered individuals.
- Installed port-o-lets and sanitation stations to improve hygiene and reduce spread of the virus in the City of Boulder.
- Increased number of housing vouchers to support Rapid Rehousing efforts in partnership with Boulder County Housing Authority and County Housing and Human Services Department.

Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to connect [Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Services](#).

*Boulder County has allocated ARPA funds to support the [Successful Implementation of the Emergency Choice Vouchers](#).*¹³⁵

Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

A 2020 Housing Market Analysis and Needs Assessment found the City of Longmont has a need for housing subsidies to assist a variety of cost burdened households, while the City of Boulder has identified a critical need for housing subsidies for people with disabilities (many older adults).¹³⁶

¹³⁴ 2020 Annual Report. Homeless Solutions for Boulder County, 2020.

¹³⁵ COVID Response Requests include projects funded by ARPA immediate need pandemic-related funding, which were allocated by Boulder County through the summer and early fall of 2021. Each COVID Response Request listed in this document are linked to the Appendix below which provides more details of the specific funding request.

¹³⁶ Housing Market Analysis and Needs Assessment Supplement. Boulder Broomfield Regional HOME Consortium, 2020.

Boulder County's Housing Helpline provided over \$1 million in assistance to 414 households between April-December 2020. Assistance includes rental support, mediation and legal services, financial coaching, etc.¹³⁷ The constantly shifting nature of the pandemic, combined with existing federal funding sources for many housing related assistance needs will require a closer look at potential impacts of ARPA funds used for housing assistance.

Social Determinants of Health: Other

This is a very large and ambiguous expenditure category.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines the Social Determinants of Health as "the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks."¹³⁸ A 2015 meta-analysis found that "Racism was associated with poorer mental health...and also associated with poorer general health."¹³⁹

The community engagement results, or other departmental direction may help guide prioritization of investments in this expenditure category.

Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

In the aftermath of the 2013 floods, Resilience for All/Resiliencia Para Todos was established to identify lessons learned during the flood, and to build, share, and cooperate around a culture of resilience throughout Boulder County. Resiliency for All (RFA) identified barriers, offered solutions and created a bridge between some sectors of the Latino population, community resources and local governments in the City of Longmont and Boulder County.

As part of the Resilience For All/Resiliencia Para Todos community engagement process focus group participants identified the following barriers.¹⁴⁰

- Social network gaps: lack of connection to resources for both family and community needs
- Media communication: lack of dissemination of information in multimedia channels
- Language: lack of Spanish language in all forms of communication
- Basic needs: lack of access for job opportunities, health issues, insurance, education, financial transactions, and general institutions

¹³⁷ Boulder County Housing Helpline distributes \$1.1 million in assistance during COVID-19 Emergency. Boulder County Press Release December 2, 2020. Accessed on October 28, 2021: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/news/boulder-county-housing-helpline-distributes-1-1m-in-assistance-during-covid-19-emergency/>.

¹³⁸ What are social determinants of health? U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed on October 27, 2021: <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>.

¹³⁹ "Racism as a Determinant of Health: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis." Robert K. Hills (editor). Public Library of Science. Published online September 23, 2015.

¹⁴⁰ Resilience for All/Resiliencia Para Todos: A Colorado Collaborative Project Assessing a Vulnerable Population in Boulder County after the 2013 Floods. City of Longmont, 2016.

- Fear and insecurity: lack of safety and trust
- Relationships: lack of connections between community members and institutions

Data was reviewed and compiled by a community-based Recommendation Committee in July and August 2017. They solidified recommendations for any industry, organization, or agency to incorporate.

The recommendations created included:

- Provide the connection, guidance, attempt to alleviate and or remove the barriers that clients face when accessing services/resources.
- Embrace word of mouth as a trusted source of referral and connection to resources.
- Determine collaboration between department resource agencies. Professionals must work together and streamline the lines of communication that will allow clients to access resources.
- Provide existing bi-lingual emergency resources to all community partners currently working with the multi-cultural organizations.
- Exchange resources with local community organizations that would provide services/resources that general Emergency Services may not provide i.e., legal resources for transgender folks.
- Create a safe [local] neutral point of resource for consumers to formalize complaints.
- Finance non-profits that focus on outreach teaching English.
- Financially recruit, reward, and retain cultural brokers in local agencies and community.
- Implement programming such as Bi-literacy seal or bilingual pay scales.

As part of the follow up from the Resiliency for All/Resiliencia Para Todos report, Boulder County created the Cultural Brokers Resilience Program, including the Mosaics project to train and track the inclusion of cultural brokers in the region, and BoCo SUMA, which provides a platform or a meeting place to share information in an accessible and equitable way for the entire community. BoCo SUMA shares resources, programming, and events for residents of the Boulder County region. The Cultural Brokers Resilience Program also works in the areas of Professional Development, and Community Resilience Efforts in partnership with other agencies throughout the County. BoCo SUMA was and remains active during the pandemic in connecting Spanish-speaking and English-speaking community members to resources.

During the pandemic, the County paid Community ambassadors to address disparities in vaccine access among communities with barriers to access. "Promotores" or other community health worker models and similar concepts may be eligible for ARPA SLFRF funding, and more details and reports are needed to identify specifics. More data or feedback from the community engagement survey will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Boulder County has hired bi-lingual and bi-cultural community engagement staff to support outreach in assessing pandemic-related impacts in the community. The results from that work will be available in the community engagement report, facilitated by Rebuild By Design. In addition, Boulder County is in the process of hiring additional bilingual community engagement staff to support on-going needs in this area.

More data or feedback from the community engagement survey will be utilized to better assess the full need for allocations in this expenditure category.

Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation

According to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development, “of the 26,419 rental units built before 1978, 45 percent may be subject to lead-based paint hazards. These potential hazards are at HUD upper bounds of risk. It is important to note that Boulder’s hazards, in particular, may be lower due to remodeled units driven by high demand for housing.”¹⁴¹ This report did not identify lead remediation as a priority in 2020.

Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation reported a 3.9% increase in crimes reported in Colorado throughout 2020. A few highlights of these statewide crime rates are listed below:¹⁴²

- Crimes against property increased 10.4% between 2019 and 2020
- Violent crime incidents increased by 6.5% in 2020 compared to 2019 reports

Colorado has experienced a recent increase in hate crimes. The U.S. Department of Justice tracks hate crime statistics for the state and recorded a notable increase in hate crimes between 2018 and 2020.¹⁴³

Bias Motivation Categories	2018	2019	2020
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	78	117	184
Religion	16	36	35
Sexual Orientation	24	47	49
Disability	2	7	5
Gender	0	0	0
Gender Identity	3	5	10

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, 2020 Hate Crime Statistics for Colorado.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on the ongoing crisis of violence within the home. Closures to schools, furloughed workers, and work-from-home requirements, had more people confined to their homes. While domestic-violence prevention advocates prepared for an increase of demand for services, such as domestic-violence hotlines. However, “in some regions, the number of calls dropped by more than 50%. Experts in the field knew that rates of IPV had not decreased, but rather that victims were unable to safely connect with services” as stay-at-home orders left many domestic violence/intimate partner violence victims trapped with their abusers.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴¹ Draft 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. City of Boulder, Boulder County, City and County of Broomfield, City of Longmont, 2020 (p 79).

¹⁴² 2020 Statewide Crime Statistics Available. Colorado Bureau of Investigation, March 9, 2021. Accessed on September 30, 2021: <https://cbi.colorado.gov/news-article/2020-statewide-crime-statistics-available>.

¹⁴³ 2020 Hate Crime Statistics for Colorado. U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed on October 11, 2021: <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/state-specific-information/colorado>

¹⁴⁴ A Pandemic within a Pandemic—Intimate Partner Violence during COVID-19. New England Journal of Medicine. December 10, 2020. Accessed on October 28, 2021: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2024046>.

As a direct result of COVID-19 and the public health emergency, the District Attorney's Office (DA) has seen many unmet needs and concerning trends associated with community violence prevention and enforcement in Boulder County.

Due to necessary COVID-19 public health orders, the District Attorney's Office was not able to hold jury trials during the pandemic and the resulting backlog of jury trials is extensive. While the DA's Office is working hard to bring all these past cases to trial, there is no shortage of new cases being set for trial which is compounding the problem. Importantly, beyond jury trials, the overall number of cases on the court's calendar continues to grow. Anecdotally there were concerns that the recidivism rates and failures to appear rates increased during the public health crisis, so the DA's Office has partnered with Boulder County Criminal Justice Services to analyze recidivism and failures to appear for court during the public health crisis. While the final analysis and report is still pending, initial data paints a stark picture. Of cases reviewed where the offender was released from jail during a three-month period in 2020 there was a 44% recidivism rate by offenders. For those released on felonies, there was a 47% recidivism rate and for those released on misdemeanors there was a 41% recidivism rate. Approximately 30% of individuals who were booked into the jail and later released failed to appear to court within 6 months. Over 50% of offenders not booked into the jail but rather released on summonses failed to appear for court within a 6-month period.¹⁴⁵

With court cases not resolving during the pandemic and due to the high failure to appear rate, charges for crime victim compensation and crime victim assistance are not being assessed and collected in criminal cases and therefore the state funds that support several victim advocate positions within the DA's Office have experienced revenue shortfalls and we anticipate these shortfalls leaving insufficient funds for three essential positions.

Additionally, the rates of serious crimes increased during the pandemic. For example, while there was an overall drop in 2020 for total cases within the DA's Office (attributable to a reduction in cases coming from law enforcement during the pandemic and stay-at-home orders), there was a 9% increase in felony assaults, a 7% increase in domestic violence cases, and a 35% increase in bias and hate crimes. Further, the reduction in cases was smaller in 2020 for felonies and misdemeanors compared to prior years than for lower-level traffic and juvenile cases. Importantly, as stay-at-home orders were lifted and people began going back to school, work, or out into the community calls to victim service providers for domestic violence increased by more than 150% and calls about concerns regarding children to the Safe2Tell program increased by about 100%.

Lastly, as a method for resolving as many cases from the backlog as possible, and part of an increased commitment to expanded programming and diverting cases from the criminal justice system, cases are being diverted and resolved through the District Attorney's diversion programs. However, the program is finding offenders that require higher-level supervision and increased needs for substance abuse and behavioral health services for these individuals. The acuity of cases the program is seeing was compounded by COVID-19 stressors (death/illness of loved ones, economic uncertainty, and depression and anxiety) as well as the lack of treatment providers and treatment opportunities in the community. Mental Health Partners has reported having 80 vacant positions for providers. The diversion case

¹⁴⁵ Internal communication with Boulder County staff.

managers are thus doing more crisis service provision and higher-level case management due to this increase in needs of offenders and lack of community providers.

PREMIUM PAY

State and local government can use SLFRF payments to provide “premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the COVID–19 public health emergency or to provide grants to third-party employers with eligible workers performing essential work.”¹⁴⁶

Furthermore, many essential workers are people of color or low-wage workers. These workers have borne a disproportionate share of the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

Such workers may include:

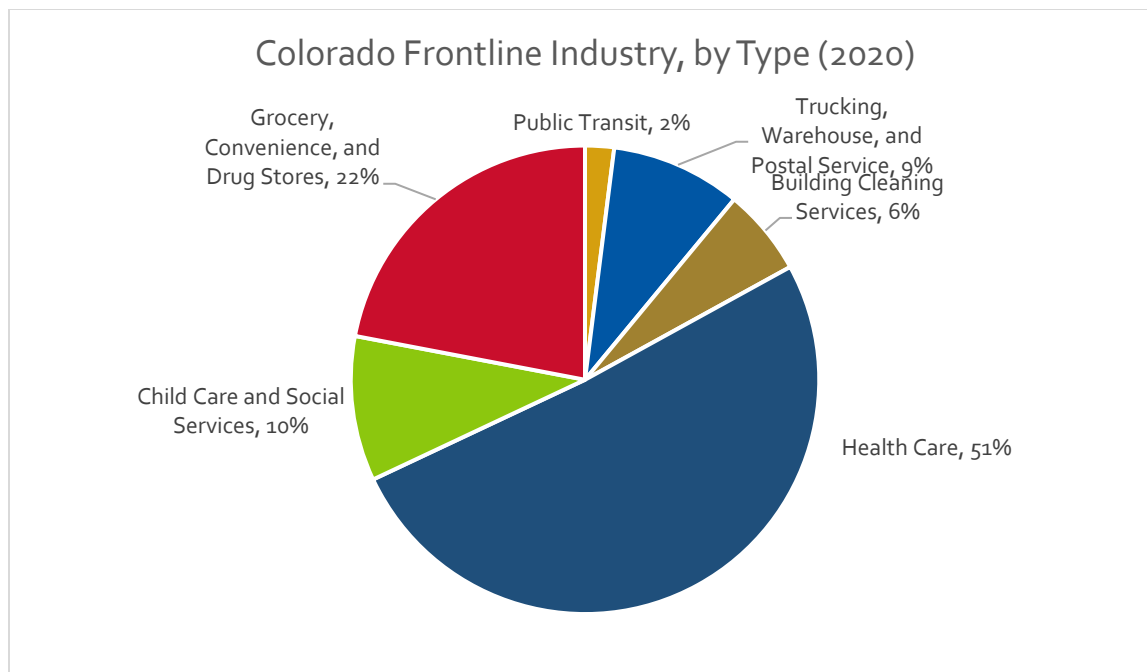
- Staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home care settings
- Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants
- Janitors and sanitation workers
- Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers
- Public health and safety staff
- Childcare workers, educators, and other school staff
- Social service and human services staff

Guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury recognizes that many essential workers are low- to moderate-income and encourages the prioritization of premium pay supplements to eligible low-income workers that perform essential work.

According to data collected by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, health care workers make up more than half of Colorado’s frontline worker industry, while 22% are grocery, convenience, and drug store workers.¹⁴⁷ The chart below details the breakdown of Colorado’s frontline workers by industry type and percentage.

¹⁴⁶ Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule (31 CFR Part 35). U.S. Department of the Treasury. Accessed on September 24, 2021: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf>.

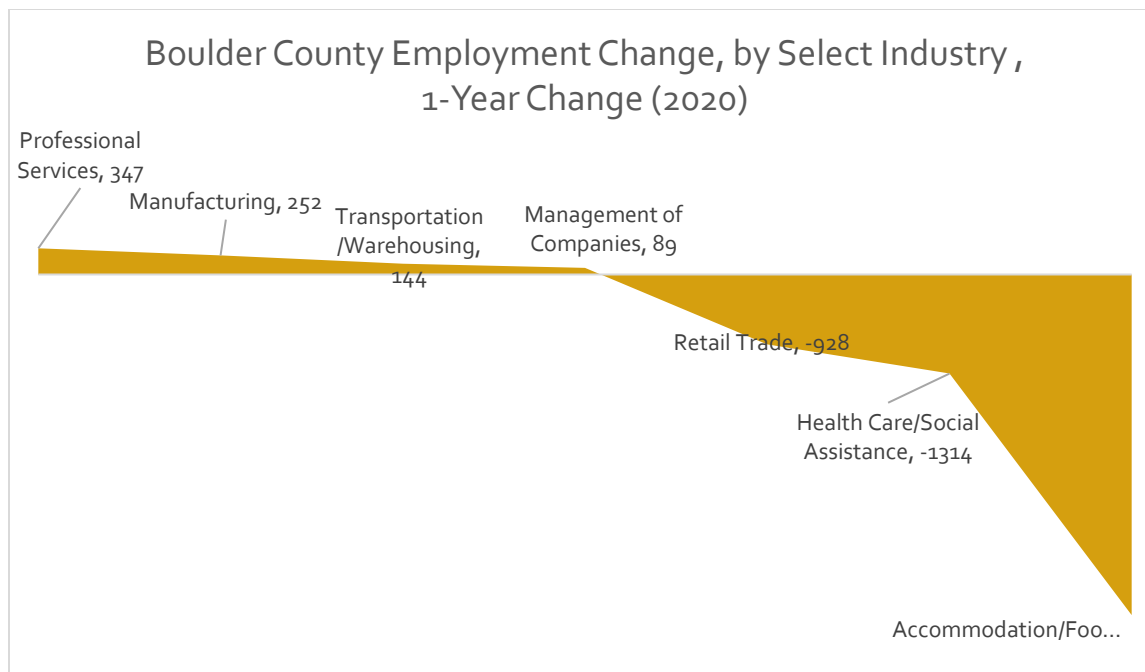
¹⁴⁷ A Basic Demographic Profile of Workers in Frontline Industries. Jin Rho, Hye, Hayley Brown, and Shawn Fremstad. Center for Economic and Policy Research, 2020.



Source: A Basic Demographic Profile of Workers in Frontline Industries. Washington D.C.: Center for Economic and Policy Research, 2020.

Additional research conducted by the Leeds School of Business University of Colorado Boulder shows that accommodation and food service, health care and social service, and retail trade are the industries in Boulder County that have lost the most employees.¹⁴⁸ These categories roughly correspond with the most common types of frontline industry jobs in Colorado, indicating that economic recovery in frontline industries and for frontline workers is not keeping up with the pace of the recovery in other industries in the County. The chart below illustrates the change in employment by industry in Boulder County in 2020.

¹⁴⁸ Boulder Industry Study. Business Research Division, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder. August 2021.



Source: Boulder Industry Study. Business Research Division, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder. August 2021.

Public Sector Employees

More data and information from a wide variety of Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers

Please see the [section above](#) for information and data on the economic recovery of frontline industries.

More data and information from a wide variety of Boulder County stakeholders and the business community will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The interim final rule provides governments receiving SLFRF funds with wide latitude to identify investments in water and sewer infrastructure that are of the highest priority for their own communities, which may include projects on privately-owned infrastructure. The interim final rule does this by aligning eligible uses of the Fiscal Recovery Funds with the wide range of types or categories of projects that would be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).¹⁴⁹

Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Recipients of SLFRF may use funds to construct publicly owned treatment infrastructure, manage and treat stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitate water reuse, and secure publicly owned treatment works, among other uses.

The Eldorado Springs Local Improvement District (the District) was formed in 2003 to construct a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and collection system for the Eldorado Springs community with funds from state grants and loans. The WWTF began treating wastewater generated by the residents of Eldorado Springs in December 2009 under Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) Permit No. CO-0047651. Prior to the WWTF construction the Eldorado Springs residents relied on septic tank/leach field systems for wastewater treatment. The condition of these older systems was a concern to Boulder County Public Health as an environmental assessment of the septic tank/leach field systems determined that many of the septic systems in Eldorado Springs were not in compliance with the Boulder County Sewage Disposal Regulations. Today the WWTF processes wastewater for 94 homes and several businesses, which include these priority populations that are at greater risk for COVID-19 infection:

- Young children and families with young children
- Individuals with underlying health conditions

The District needs to invest in equipment and infrastructure that will ensure the wastewater plant is releasing effluent into the South Boulder Creek that meets State-permitted antidegradation standards. By meeting the antidegradation standards, the District will help maintain a high level of environmental quality of the South Boulder Creek and Watershed, which supplies safe drinking water for populations downstream of the wastewater plant. Downstream drinking water users include the City of Lafayette who derive drinking water directly from the South Boulder Creek, the residents of Sans Souci who derive drinking water from a groundwater well in the South Boulder Creek Watershed and all other residents who utilize well water in the South Boulder Creek Watershed. The proposed upgrades include:

- Emergency Back-up Generator
- Underground Digester design and Construction

¹⁴⁹ Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule (31 CFR Part 35). U.S. Department of the Treasury. Accessed on September 24, 2021: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf>.

- E One Sludge Pumps
- Davit Crane

Clean Water: Decentralized Wastewater

The cost to replace failing or aging onsite wastewater systems (OWTS) can reach up to \$50,000 for more complex systems. According to Boulder County staff, there are at least 14,000 properties with these wastewater systems, the majority of which are in unincorporated Boulder County. In some regions of the County, these systems are near waterways making these areas a potentially higher risk to impacting water quality. Conducting in stream water quality analysis in the areas with higher risks would allow better distribution of resources in the OWTS program. Additionally, creating a property assessed or other low interest loan program for homeowners, could preserve clean and safe water for recreation and consumption for users and all those downstream communities.

Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows

More data and information from internal Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure

More data and information from internal Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Clean Water: Stormwater

Boulder County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) identified 67 Detention Basin and Swale Water Quality Retrofit facilities associated with residential subdivisions. These detention facilities function for flood control, but do not provide any type of water quality treatment. Boulder County intends to assess the potential for water quality retrofits to existing detention facilities and swales (i.e., stormwater infrastructure) and provide conceptual designs for two sites. This service is needed because Boulder County has several waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards. Detention facility infrastructure is an appealing way to improve water quality as the level of treatment and return on investment can be more readily quantified.

Many of these facilities are managed by Homeowners Associations, who may not know they are responsible for maintenance or have the knowledge required for adequate upkeep. Additional education and outreach targeted for HOAs, and other property owners is a significant need to ensure that existing detention facilities are properly maintained and provide their intended water quality benefit.

Storm Drain Outfall Screening and Water Quality Improvements

Boulder County's GIS identifies approximately 30 storm drain outfalls that are located on Parks and Open Space lands. Boulder County Stormwater Quality staff are currently doing field assessments (i.e., screening) of these outfalls to identify pollution problems. It is anticipated that the outfall screening will result in the need to do stormwater infrastructure upgrades to achieve water quality improvements.

Clean Water: Energy Conservation

More data and information from internal Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Clean Water: Water Conservation

Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff identified three priority water infrastructure improvements for water conservation and water quality. Details below:

1. **Water Efficient Irrigation Management.** Boulder County Parks & Open Space has acquired or installed 38 pivot sprinklers on agricultural lands over the last 18 years in an effort to improve water use efficiency on County owned lands and water quality within the local watersheds. These sprinklers have helped to convert over 4,700 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation within the County. Sprinkler irrigation allows tenant farmers to more highly control application amounts and rates, reduces soil and nutrient runoff, and improves soil health. Broadly speaking flood irrigation is only 40-50% efficient, compared to a 98% efficiency of sprinkler irrigation. Sprinkler irrigation also reduces water logging, which can increase soil salinity, an effect that can reduce our yields and land value.

Moving forward, Parks & Open Space staff plans to install 15 additional sprinklers to further water conservation and water quality efforts. As with all infrastructure, pivot sprinklers have a limited life span and become less effective and eventually inoperable over time. Many of the pivots installed over the past 18 years need replacement as they have reached or are very near their functional life span. More specifically, 17 of the 38 existing pivots will need replacement by 2026 or sooner. To maintain and improve water conservation and water quality in the face of a changing climate, installation of new and replacement of this aging infrastructure will be imperative.

2. **Aging Water Storage Infrastructure.** Prince Lake No. 1 is a Boulder County-owned water storage reservoir located near the Town of Erie. The reservoir provides irrigation water for more than 150 acres of agricultural land owned by the County. Built in 1893, the reservoir is in dire need of rehabilitation to comply with State of Colorado Dam Safety rules, protect residents, and improve the functionality of the infrastructure. In addition, as with most reservoirs, sediment accumulation over the years has caused a reduction in the storage capacity of the reservoir and as a result lowered the functionality and firm yield of the water rights. This reservoir rehabilitation project combines public safety and

regulatory compliance, while providing water efficiency and water conservation benefits from modernizing the water storage and delivery infrastructure.

3. **Resiliency, Efficiency and Habitat Improvement at Instream Diversion Structures.** Boulder County is actively working in partnership with water users, utilities, agricultural operators, land management agencies, and other interests on multiple projects in our local rivers and streams to advance water conservation and water efficiency goals and to improve stream, human, and ecosystem health. Presently, one area of focus in Boulder County is working on smaller-scale infrastructure, namely, diversions, dams, and reservoirs, much of which was built more than 100 years ago when the area was just being settled and irrigated agriculture was first being implemented. The devastating flood that occurred in the area in 2013, accentuated vulnerabilities that must be addressed and revealed opportunities for designing and constructing more resilient infrastructure that provides multiple benefits for more efficient agricultural and utility operations, resiliency with changing climate conditions, and a greener approach to engineering.

Two principal projects are being planned in the next 5 years, these are diversion improvements at the Howell Ditch on Boulder Creek and the Beckwith Ditch on St. Vrain Creek. The Howell Diversion Reconstruction project will provide for more efficient diversion and use of agricultural water rights to County owned property and will integrate stream restoration and habitat improvements including fish passage. The Beckwith Diversion Project will seek to remove the diversion altogether and restore the creek to a more safe, resilient, wildlife friendly stream reach.

Clean Water: Nonpoint Source

Boulder County has been impacted by wildfires in recent years. Post wild-fire watershed protection may be a needed intervention moving forward. More data and information from internal Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Drinking Water: Treatment

More data and information from internal Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Drinking Water: Transmission & distribution

More data and information from internal Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution: Lead Remediation

More data and information from internal Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Drinking Water: Source

More data and information from internal Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Drinking Water: Storage

More data and information from internal Boulder County stakeholders will be needed to fully assess the need for additional funding sources in this expenditure category.

Drinking Water: Other Water Infrastructure

Boulder County Public Health staff have received complaints over the past several years on issues related to water quality in mobile home communities across the county. BCPH staff have worked closely to resolve issues, when possible, with mobile home residents, city staff, park owners, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment. Concerns related to drinking water in mobile home parks are complex and typically fall into three overarching categories: water quality and palatability; the cost of specific park generated water bills; and deferred maintenance on aging infrastructure.

The quality of mobile home park infrastructure, including utility lines within the park and plumbing within individual homes, also presents unique challenges. Utility infrastructure located within a mobile home park is typically privately owned by the mobile home park landowner. Mobile home plumbing located within the home is the responsibility of the homeowner. The Colorado Mobile Home Park Act requires that park owners maintain and repair sewer and water lines, and that park plumbing infrastructure must conform to applicable laws in effect at the time the plumbing was installed. As a result of the regulations in the Mobile Home Park Act, park owners are not incentivized to upgrade infrastructure to meet current plumbing best practices, and instead defer maintenance. Often times, mobile home parks operate the original utility infrastructure for decades, making patchwork repairs rather than full scale upgrades. This could result in diminished water quality and palatability, as well as discoloration of water entering homes. Additionally, even in cases where park infrastructure is properly maintained, and the water quality is good, old plumbing within individual homes can cause discoloration, odor or sediment in water. More information and analysis within different communities would be necessary to assess needs within the county, and staff at Public Health have additional information, data, and recommendations available.

Broadband: “Last Mile” AND Other Projects

A 2016 report from the World Bank found that a 10% increase in fixed broadband penetration can increase GDP growth by up to 1.21% in developed economies.¹⁵⁰ According to the Boulder County IT department, there are several areas within the County that lack broadband access.

There are large areas of the County that have rural populations that require broadband for telehealth, distance learning, agriculture, etc. and based on geographical constraints, providers cannot justify a capital expenditure to consider providing or deliver services. On the other end of the spectrum, there are urban areas in the County that are excluded because of affordable service plans to families with limited economic resources, or a lack of network facilities that can provide basic services, even though adjacent areas have high speed internet and at least 1-2 choices in service providers.

The County IT Department has proposed the several strategies to resolve existing broadband accessibility issues throughout the County. Consulting this Department in potential project identification and cost implications of potential projects is a natural next step in this planning process.

¹⁵⁰ Exploring the Relationship Between Broadband and Economic Growth. Background Paper Digital Dividends World Development Report 2016, World Bank. January 2015.

REVENUE REPLACEMENT

In a recognition that “90% of cities have reported being less able to meet the fiscal needs of their communities,” ARPA/SLFRF funding allows recipients to use payments for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to COVID-19.

Government services can include, but are not limited to:¹⁵¹

- Maintenance or pay-go funded building of infrastructure, including roads; modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure
- Health services
- Environmental remediation
- School or educational services
- The provision of police, fire, and other public safety services.

Boulder County is continuing to analyze the potential for any revenue replacement that might be eligible under ARPA/SLFRF guidelines.

Provision of Government Services

According to recent State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund 2021 report, the state has proposed 30% of federal stimulus funding to go to revenue replacement.¹⁵² The City and County of Denver has dedicated 15% of SLFRF spending to go towards revenue replacement.¹⁵³ Larimer County has proposed 1% of SLFRF to be reserved for revenue replacement.¹⁵⁴

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs conducted a survey of 80 local governments from every region of the state.¹⁵⁵ Below is a snapshot of how these local governments are planning on spending the ARPA Funds. On average, these surveyed local governments are planning on using 14.9% of funds on revenue replacement.

¹⁵¹ Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule (31 CFR Part 35). U.S. Department of the Treasury. Accessed on September 24, 2021: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf>.

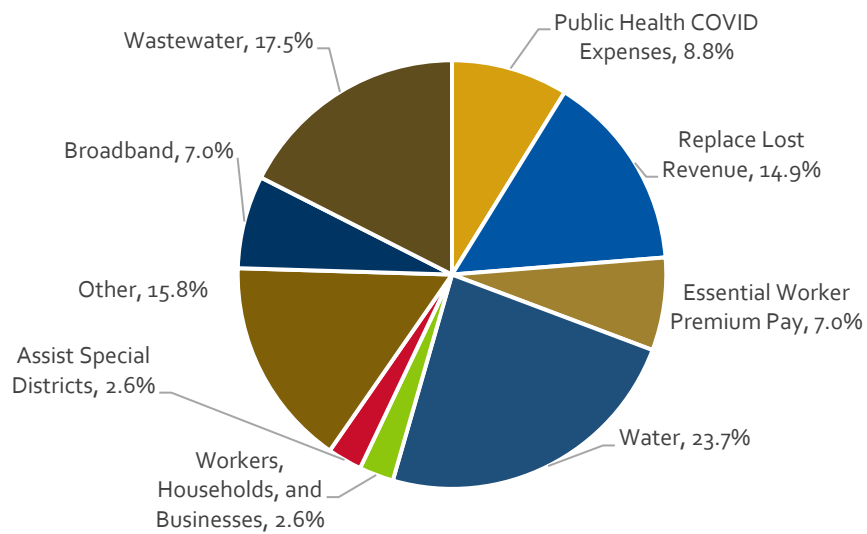
¹⁵² Colorado's Comeback Roadmap to Building Back Stronger, 2021.

¹⁵³ City and County of Denver Recovery Plan: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2021 Report.

¹⁵⁴ State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2021 Report, Larimer County Colorado, 2021.

¹⁵⁵ Local Government Survey: ARP Funds Presentation. Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

ARPA Funds Planned Expenditures Across 80 Local Governments in Colorado



Source: Local Government Survey: ARP Funds Presentation. Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

CONCLUSION

The goal of this report is to provide a foundation of data and research in each expenditure category, as identified in the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) guidance. This report provides an incomplete picture of the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Boulder County. The information in this report provides details on specific ARPA eligible expenditure categories and serves as one piece of the pandemic response and recovery story. Feedback from the Community Engagement Survey will also serve as another piece of this important story.

Federal guidance for ARPA emphasizes that recipients have broad flexibility in using ARPA funding to meet specific community needs. Many advocates have identified the unique, and important role local leaders have in smart and transformational community investments. In most municipalities, this is the "largest fiscal jolt to their budgets in decades and represents a once-in-a generation opportunity to stabilize communities, invest in future prosperity, and enable inclusive recovery from COVID-19."¹⁵⁶ In planning for the use of ARPA funds, Boulder County's Board of County Commissioners can look to this report to identify data-driven spending priorities and to identify information gaps where specific communities are not represented.

¹⁵⁶ How should local leaders use their American Rescue Plan funding? Brookings Institute. March 23, 2021. Accessed on October 23, 2021: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2021/03/23/how-should-local-leaders-use-their-american-rescue-plan-funding/>.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Boulder County Racial Equity Impact Assessment Tool

*Answer all the questions if you are ready for it. If time is limited, please start by answering questions 2,3,7,8 and 9. You can submit your racial equity tool to be reviewed by the Racial Equity Team after answering questions 2,3,7,8 and 9.

DATE: Click or tap to enter a date.

SUBJECT:

1. WHO PARTICIPATED IN COMPLETING THIS ANALYSIS (names, Departments) IF YOU ARE IN AN FTS TEAM, NAME THE TEAM? PLEASE SHARE HOW THE PARTICIPANTS RACIALLY IDENTIFY.
2. WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM STATEMENT OR PROBLEM OF PRACTICE? *
3. WHAT IS THE DECISION (SOLUTION) UNDER CONSIDERATION? PLEASE DESCRIBE BRIEFLY. *
4. WHAT ARE THE INTENDED OUTCOMES OF YOUR PROPOSAL? HOW COULD YOU DEFINE OR ENVISION RACIALLY EQUITABLE OUTCOMES RELATED TO THIS PROPOSAL? HOW COULD THIS PROPOSAL ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY?
5. WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL YOU? DID YOU RACIALIZE DATA IN YOUR ANALYSIS? Y/N? WHY?
6. HAVE COMMUNITY VOICES BEEN HEARD? IF SO, WHO IN THE COMMUNITY WAS ENGAGED? WHAT WAS THEIR INPUT?
7. WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS DECISION? *
8. WHO WILL BE BURDENED BY THIS DECISION? *
9. ARE THERE STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE ANY UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DECISION? *
10. WHAT IS THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN?
11. HOW WILL WE ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY, COMMUNICATE AND EVALUATE RESULTS?

APPENDIX B: ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS (EODH) BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR INVESTMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO TRANSFORM COMMUNITY AND RECOVERY BETTER

The following section includes notes from a brainstorm session with the County's elected officials and department heads regarding "transformational" approaches to ARPA. This meeting was held on May 17, 2021.

Purpose of the meeting:

- To brainstorm high-level, transformative opportunities where Boulder County could invest federal pandemic funds to address crucial issues or needs in the community
- To brainstorm investments and projects that support the best recovery from the pandemic and transformative investments in the community as a result of the pandemic

Transformative Investments

(Acronyms: MH = mental health; BH = behavioral health)

- Infrastructure – Broadband, water investments incl. stormwater and sewer, health insurance and other insurance deficits, lost revenue.
- Human services – Affordable housing. Accessible services for broad groups, better resource navigation, whole community participation, stronger trust in government.
- Small business resiliency – Support for small businesses. Innovation. Assistance to underrepresented and disadvantaged potential entrepreneurs. Tax burdens. Streamlined permitting processes, loans. Worker training. Creating a worker training program for public infrastructure that would address unemployment in lower income or underrepresented groups. Thriving businesses and families go hand in hand.
- Childcare. Every \$1 in childcare brings \$17 more.
- Connecting affordable housing for employees, as well as older adults and lower income.
- Human services sector. MH and BH investments. Caregiving sector, childcare workers, long-term care facilities, shortage in this area. Need these people for folks to age in place or for moving into congregate care environment.
- Folks that are unhoused.
- Business sector. Property tax collections, businesses that went out of business and can't pay outstanding taxes. Revenue loss and also long-term ongoing economic impact to businesses. Restaurants, gyms, but also performing artists that make our communities and economies rich.
- Staff who had to come to work still during the pandemic.
- MH and BH needs. Ties with criminal justice, indicators of health, suicide rates and substance abuse rates.
- Housing affordability and childcare both internally and for the community.
- Employee training and redevelopment.
- Work-life balance, resources are tapped.
- Hybrid service models to meet needs of population. Make easy stuff easier and focus on the hard stuff.
- Digital divide, big infrastructure plays to be had from near- to mid- to long-term.

- Resilience in small business. Grants that we did this year. Don't just spin them up in time of critical need but make them available all the time.
- BH and MH crisis, effects everything (hospitals, courts, criminal justice...). Group wanting to MH tax Countywide, but not sure what to do. Hire consultant to look at system, do gaps analysis.
- Affordable living. Housing and transportation. Also impact criminal justice, people who want to work here and live here, the service sector having to commute long distances.
- Several large projects going on now – Alternative sentencing facility, new intake, new court structure funded by sales tax. Cost of materials through the roof and sales tax shortfalls for that. \$4-6m shortfall. Also, Lafayette hub project.
- HS internet Countywide. Have islands with no access, but it's necessary to function in society.

Projects and Investments Ideas

- Innovative paths to affordable housing. Mobile home communities purchasing the park from the park owners. If we could help with financing that, the aging infrastructure, getting it up to code. Partner with other agencies or municipalities to make this happen.
- Exploring zoning changes to integrate multifamily into single family to make sure there's not concentrated poverty, break down barriers and stereotypes in zoning.
- Infrastructure – Immediate relief projects in transportation to alleviate problems in the community. Fare box buyout to pay for fare on RTD. Fund first and final mile programs/projects, e.g., Hessie shuttle. Concerted effort to help get people back on the buses.
- Engaging the community in the solution designs. A Center for Community Building, reaching out with nonprofits. Also, what can we do for the nonprofits so they can function better. Co-op model for health insurance to help get insurance for their staff.
- Businesses, enhancing entrepreneurial programs and workforce centers. Helping people who've never started their own business, what it takes to make is successful. Not sure how to stand that up, municipalities are very engaged. Help people in underrepresented communities to own a business and help with economic vitality.
- Being leaders in our remote work. 2000 employees and talking about a hybrid-remote plan. Engage with business and community leaders, talk about how minimize building footprint, energy footprint, roll out as model.
- Also, innovate for our own buildings. Onsite health clinic or something else transformative for our employees. E.g., indoor bike storage at Kaiser.
- County's Personal Investment Enterprise is a homeownership, business ownership, education program. We have that training component in partnership with the chambers and Small Business Devel Corp. Scaling and expanding that would be great.
- Housing, seed dollars to attract other dollars, expand existing programs. Housing affordability for specific sectors or employers.
- Wage supports. Asset building. How people stabilize their lives through some income supports. Research shows those monies become sustainable over time. Work with Family Resource Centers to identify families where UBI would give them space to catch their breath and engage in asset building or work training.
- Invest in business infrastructure and related workforce, whether pay inequities, attracting and training workforce, childcare, and other supports.
- Pool of investment dollars for new and emerging issues.

- Investing in researching some of these ideas. Some of these ideas have been done in other communities with really good outcomes.
- Creative partnerships. E.g., Parks work with indigenous populations. Or crafting parks infrastructure to address health inequity issues.
- Invest in our own staff. Recognition of the risk factor that many of our staff took early on and support that.
- Stormwater issues on Parks properties.
- Having money available when mobile home communities are ready to become homeowner owned. Need to do research re: how to help people build assets.
- Water and wastewater infrastructure at mobile home parks. Create partnerships. How to also create policy if park homeowners don't want to participate, and then build out partnerships. Do manufactured business in Boulder County.
- Small business and more creative ways to help them sustain long term.
- How to incentivize other partners to participate.
- Broadband ombudsman who would give us direction for how we look at small coops, NextLight etc. to provide services around digital divide. Also inform virtual platforms for mental health and substance abuse. Could help to engage our tech community and build partnerships.
- Revenue losses to continue programs that might be underfunded due to loss of revenue. Fairgrounds, tax money for alternative sentencing, state budget reductions, etc.
- Substance abuse facility.
- Workforce training, entrepreneurship – how do we get youth of color involved.
- Early childhood. Building space for childcare.
- Sales tax-reduction-impacted projects, use ARPA for those as they are underway or shovel ready. Alternative sentencing facility, Lafayette hub.
- Food delivery services, partnership with nonprofits. Partnering with local farms to offer healthy food to families in need. Expanding those programs.
- BH and MH care. Hire someone to do a system-wide analysis, gap analysis, look at other models. Centering on community mental health.
- Transit services, free transit for all, e.g., Flex in Lafayette.
- Affordable housing, not just at 80% AMI, different models of rental and ownership. Build off the great planning document that already exists, Regional Affordable Housing Plan.
- Existing building stock is resources for healthy, safe, efficient, sustainability, which is a lot of work. Could build a green workforce.
- Internal operation's needs, building operations assessment needed with new remote workforce.
- Funding staffing needs from things funded from CARES Act.

APPENDIX C: COVID RESPONSE REQUESTS APPLICATION SUMMARIES

Approved CRRs as of 9.1.21

Boulder County allocated approximately 10% of American Rescue Plan Act funds throughout the summer and early fall of 2021 to respond to immediate pandemic-related needs across the County. The below list includes more details of each funded request.

1. [COVID-19 REQUEST FOR FUNDING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STAFFING, CRR 4 \(\\$1,280,406\)](#)

Funding for temporary staff to assist in administration and management of ARPA and various grant funding received between 2021 and 2024. Duties include facilitating requests for funding, eligibility evaluation, financial compliance, accounting, reporting, account reconciling, and audit preparation. Staff resources are also needed for communications, briefings, presentations, training, and other reporting and procedure development. This request includes FT Program Manager, FT Grant Accountant, PT Clerical Support, PT Eligibility Analyst, and Communications Specialist coordinating across BoCo units.

2. [Employment Services, Workforce Boulder County, CRR 6 \(\\$385,000\)](#)

This request involves hiring five individuals to support the employment and re-employment needs of our local residents. Workforce Boulder County will hire four "Employment Advisors" supported by one supervisor. The advisors will meet one on one with the public, provide triaging services, information, and referrals, coaching and connecting to jobs. Two advisors will work from the St. Vrain Community HUB and two will work out of the Boulder Office at 1333 Iris. This service will complement other services including the Virtual Call Center, Career Development Workshops, and the more intensive case management services (including training and retraining).

3. [Support for a Successful Implementation of the Emergency Choice Vouchers, CRR 11 \(\\$120,000\)](#)

A full-time case manager specializing in Move On protocols will provide support to individuals experiencing homelessness. This position will help connect individuals with vouchers and secure vacant apartments. HUD has released Emergency Choice Vouchers to eligible Public Housing Authorities to address connecting individuals experiencing homelessness to housing. These one-time funds are an opportunity to positively impact unhoused individuals. By providing up to two months of market rate rent to landlords who report a vacant unit, we can ensure individuals with vouchers can rapidly connect to a unit willing to receive it. This approach can also assist with individuals who have challenging backgrounds as these funds and approaches can be used as a tool to recruit new landlords.

4. [Connecting Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Services, CRR 12 \(\\$21,600\)](#)

Providing more cellular minutes to individuals experiencing homelessness who have run out and still have flip phones, flip phones for access to services, tablets, hot spots, and data cards to support mountain communities engaging with unhoused campers over the summer months. Individuals experiencing homelessness are still challenged with accessing services as not all service providers have returned to 100% in-person capacity. To ensure individuals experiencing homelessness have access to critical services, Homeless Solutions of Boulder County requested support in meeting that need. Lack of

access to in person services has negatively impacted individuals experiencing homelessness to connect to critical services.

5. [Juvenile Assessment Center extension of COVID FTE term positions, CRR 13 \(\\$130,084\)](#)

Throughout the pandemic and into the recovery stage the Juvenile Assessment Center has operated continuously in person as a secure juvenile detention facility for Boulder County law enforcement. The Juvenile Center is the only County-funded intake, assessment, and short-term detention facility in the state, with a maximum holding capacity of 20 youths, ages 10 to 17. This facility provides structured programming including educational and life skill activities in order to further reduce harm. The need for well trained and sustained full-time positions is a critical need throughout COVID-19 and the recovery to maintain safe and secure care for our County's most vulnerable families and juveniles. The scope of work for this request extends two full-time term positions throughout the COVID-19 recovery.

6. [Workforce Boulder County Virtual Call Center \(VCC\), CRR 15 \(\\$370,000\)](#)

The Virtual Call Center is regarded as a "hub" for anyone impacted by unemployment. VCC responds to the COVID-19 pandemic in that it addresses the direct need of people who lost jobs due to the economic downturn initiated by the pandemic, helping people in our community regain economic and employment stability for themselves and their families. People who lost their jobs due to the pandemic experienced significant wait-times attempting to reach the state Unemployment Office (UI), and WfBC's VCC provided a place for people to reach resolution.

The scope of work is answering calls, identifying the unique needs of each person, and determining the next best steps towards sustainable employment. VCC agents specialize in understanding the unemployment system, have a working knowledge of the career development process, stay abreast of the internal and external sources available to provide warm referrals, and strive to offer the best in public service.

7. [Left Behind Workers Fund Extended Support, CRR 20 \(\\$370,000\)](#)

The Left Behind Workers Fund (LBWF) provides financial support to workers that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are ineligible for unemployment insurance and other stimulus funds. The LBWF provides \$1000 in direct cash assistance to workers who experienced loss of employment after February 2020, including complete job loss, current job loss of 20+ hours/week, or previous loss of 20+ hours/week for month or more, as well as those impacted by an unpaid leave of absence from work due to school or daycare closures, the need to care for family members, or the need to remain quarantined after possible COVID-19 exposure.

8. [ARPA Planning Contractor, CRR 40 \(\\$100,000\)](#)

A consultant for the Boulder County Commissioners' Office will synthesize input from a diverse set of internal and external stakeholders on pandemic response and recovery needs and use of ARPA resources and potentially other available pandemic-related funds. The consultant will deliver a gap analysis to the BOCC that analyzes data on how the pandemic has impacted Boulder County and input gathered to date from the community, staff, and other partners. This will include input specifically related to use of SLFRF funds as well as other existing reports that reflect the priorities and needs of different parts of the Boulder County community. In addition to summarizing common themes and

priorities, the gap analysis will identify information gaps where specific communities are not represented. This gap analysis can be utilized to ensure that the subsequent final report captures the views of the community in an equitable and comprehensive way. The report will present data and input from a variety of stakeholders and define high-level options for use of SLFRF funds that is reflective of and responsive to this stakeholder input, includes equity and racial equity considerations, meets BOCC policy objectives, and is compliant with federal guidelines and regulations.

9. Digital Divide Project Manager, CRR 2 (\$104,177)

Several departments (Community Services, Public Health, Housing and Human Services, Community Planning and Permitting, and Information Technology) met to determine how best to support the public in accessing services during COVID-19 and post COVID-19 as many services will remain or continue virtually. This need will result in multiple CRR requests for virtual devices as well as partnering with community-based organizations who also serve disparately impacted community members in need of technological resources. Due to the high demand and workload of staff from these departments, these departments will coordinate the project management of technology resources by adding a temporary project manager who would help procure, disseminate, document, and coordinate the success of this program.

10. Digital Divide Resource Navigator, CRR 3 (\$74,000)

This position is public facing, supporting clients receiving technology resources and support in order to access County services. This staff will help clients navigate the resources and obtain additional training, information, or technology in order to access services in the pandemic recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

11. Digital Divide: Increasing Community-Based Digital Equity, Access, and Literacy in Boulder County, CRR 16 (\$365,641)

Access to affordable broadband, equipment like computers, tablets, and smart phones, and the digital skills needed to navigate and participate online is inequitable across Boulder County – this request includes funding for seven community-based organizations, including:

Bridging Digital Divides (\$208,175) to provide affordable technology and home broadband internet, teach basic digital skills, and support community organizations through training and other collaborative efforts. Funding includes program coordination, instructors, promotoras, equipment, and childcare.

Engaged Latino Parents Advancing School Outcomes (ELPASO) (\$33,250) to provide equipment and technology training to up to 50 Spanish-speaking parents with children 0-18 years old to participate in monthly parent leadership program. Funding includes technology instruction, equipment, and Wifi boosters. **Association of Community Living (ACL) (\$25,000)** to facilitate access to health care, support/interest groups, information sources, and community leadership opportunities through blended in-person and virtual meetings capacity to ensure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are able to participate in virtual appointments, stakeholder meetings, and leadership positions. Funding includes virtual facilitation and training. **Center for People with Disabilities (CPWD) (\$65,566)** to support ongoing training of consumers to use adaptive techniques and assistive technology. Funds will be used to support phone, internet and data services and subscriptions, hardware, IT administration, and training. **OUT Boulder (\$3,600)** to continue to facilitate vaccine outreach and registration to underserved communities. **EFAA (\$9,050)** to support internet service,

laptops, and training for Participant Advisory Committee (PAC) members. **Family Learning Center (\$20,000)** to upgrade technology on-site for students to complete online assignments, homework, and other educational activities.

12. Digital Divide: [Continuation of services for individuals in custody](#), CRR 17 (\$6,000)

Working towards improving access for clients and inmates to partners and professionals. Due to COVID-19 Boulder County's population has had to find new ways of communication such as video court calls and communication with peers/coaching who cannot come into the jail. This will help them stay in contact with professionals they are court ordered to see. Funding will provide services of cell phone minutes to individuals who run out of minutes on their phones to access court-ordered professionals, iPads for programs to support outside treatment providers with connections while in custody, and wireless headphones for clients/inmates to have private conversations with professionals while in custody. This is currently being used in the jail to support the Sheriff's Office.

13. [Pandemic Funding and Technical Assistance Resources for Small Businesses](#), CRR 19 (\$14,130)

Small businesses disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 have not fully recovered yet and are still in need of funds to open and/or recover levels of revenue. There is an abundant amount of information on funding opportunities that is not centralized. Navigating this information can be confusing, time consuming, and overwhelming for small business owners. There is a disproportionate opportunity to access information that can contribute to an inequitable recovery of small businesses. Because funding is coming from a variety of sources, businesses who are not connected to or knowledgeable about the differing sources of funding do not end up being able to access them. The scope is the provision of a centralized website hosted by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) where available funding information (federal, state, local, other) is regularly updated, as well as dissemination of weekly updates to businesses regarding resources and funding opportunities as applicable. The SBDC is a key entity in (and partner to) Boulder County; it is a trusted source for services and advising for Small Businesses. The centralized website has already been created and a portion of the requested funding would go to website maintenance and updating as well as email update generation, all hosted and managed by the SBDC. These funds would support the project through the end of 2021, at which the continuing need would be re-evaluated.

14. [BCPH Community-engaged support and communications to advance vaccinations and vaccine equity](#), CRR 25 (\$1,813,000)

This funding supports several community communications efforts: 1) BCPH requested funds to continue the VECC (Vaccine Equity Coordinating Committee) to reach much of the remaining 95,000 people in Boulder County who still need to be vaccinated and continue containment and mitigation outreach. Funding is for the VECC Coordinator and Project Manager from March 2021 to August 2022 to coordinate and support planning and implementation of vaccination programs. 2) Support for COVID-19 communications, including support until Aug 2022 for a Bilingual Communications Specialist, and funds for bilingual COVID-19 vaccination campaigns. Community Ambassadors are interested in continuing the collaboration to ensure priority populations are protected and increasingly vaccinated, and funding will continue that collaboration through January 2022. 3) The delta variant has

created an urgent need to fully staff the BCPH Call Center to provide accurate information to the public including information on testing, vaccinations, and new Public Health Orders. Funds will cover staff from March 3 to June 15, 2021, and funds to provide three staff from September 2021 to February 2022. 4) Finally, support is needed to immediately reconvene a Business and Community Liaison team to respond to the business/community needs related to the Delta surge. Funding is for a Coordinator and two staff (at least one bilingual/bicultural), along with up to \$100,000 pass through funds for a) legal support from the County Attorney's office and b) to retain and pay for outside counsel for investigating, filing, and litigation individual and business violations of public health orders and for representing Boulder County Public Health in legal proceedings concerning public health orders.

15. [BCPH COVID Testing, CRR 24 \(\\$377,200\)](#)

Access to COVID-19 testing, especially for vulnerable and hard to reach populations, is a critical immediate need given the recent spike in cases due to the delta variant. BCPH has been working with Boulder Community Hospital over the past year to ensure access to testing in congregate settings, shelters, outbreak sites, and more remote mountain communities such as Nederland. These populations represent priority populations (e.g., older adults in LTCF's, homeless, homebound, etc.) and vulnerable groups, including those in congregate settings (e.g., assisted living, etc.) who have been exposed to a positive case, as well as geographically remote residents. Funding is for Boulder Community Hospital, reimbursement of services since March 3, 2021, and pass-through funds to continue the work through December 31, 2021. Funding also will continue to support the BCPH testing coordinator for six months minimum, 12 months preferred. Testing is currently not supported by any BCPH COVID-19 grants, but if funding becomes available, BCPH would transfer to that funding source and not ARPA.

16. [BCPH Increased support for childhood health and development, CRR 29 \(\\$155,000\) 50%](#)

17. [BCPH Increased support for childhood health and development, CRR 29 \(\\$155,000\) 50%](#)

Home visiting: BCPH proposes a rapid response to address child health and development needs with home visiting: Accelerate implementation of the Child First Universal Home Visitation model that BCPH has been working to bring to Boulder County in order to meet the needs of all Boulder County infants and their families beginning at the time of birth. BCPH is working in partnership with our local hospitals, the Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families, Illuminate Colorado, Denver Public Health, and Jefferson County Public Health to implement Family Connects, an evidence-based, universal approach to supporting newborns and their families. The program will connect with each parent after the birth of their child, offer supportive guidance to the family, link families to needed community resources, and help parents connect with their child. The program is administered by registered nurses that are integrated into the hospital, community, and public health systems. Families receive 1-3 no-cost home visits in the weeks following the birth of their child. The program has been studied in two randomized control trials and is proven to result in reduced emergency medical care for infants (for each \$1 in program costs, the program yields \$3.02 in savings in emergency health care costs), improved maternal mental health, enhanced home environments, higher quality parenting behaviors, and greater community connections.

Childcare: BCPH proposes a rapid response to address child health and development needs through child health promotion: BCPH will expand the BCPH Child Health Promotion Program to include

Family-Friends-Neighbors (FFN) Network of informal day care providers, which is the childcare of choice for 50% of Latinx parents of young children. Efforts will bring this previously unserved group into BCPH's program, and focus on ensuring safe environments for children, adherence to public health COVID-19 guidelines among informal care givers and supporting reliable care for families returning to the workforce through education, training, and enhanced safety opportunities to enhance health outcomes and increase quality of childcare for young children and families. The outreach to over 300 local Family Friends and Neighbors (FFN) unlicensed care providers will be done in partnership with ECCBC, ELPASO, El Centro Amistad, Philanthropiece, the Family Resource Centers, and SOMA. Additionally, BCPH will increase access by PH-served families to developmental screening supports including social emotional development in English and Spanish, as well as parent education to support children's socio-emotional development.

18. [BCPH response to increased food insecurity, CRR 30 \(\\$130,178\)](#)

The pandemic has resulted in greater food insecurity within Boulder County, and programs that serve "gap" populations (who are not eligible for Federal programs) or that supplement insufficient programs are seeing larger wait lists. To best facilitate an urgent response, BCPH will increase pass-through funding to BCPH's WIC Gap Funding program to immediately provide food benefits to an estimated 109 additional families that are not served by other federal programs and are currently on our waitlist. This program enhances WIC fruit and vegetable benefits, offering a weekly home delivery and a market model that provides reliable and consistent nutrition benefits. In a typical year, WIC families may only receive \$8 per person per month for fresh produce. This program fills a nutrition gap not offered through the federal program or local programs. Even with the temporary increase in benefits right now, 65% of WIC recipients stated that the benefit increase did not reduce their need for the WIC farmers market support. This funding will increase direct support to families to enhance food security, while supporting local farmers and agriculture and partners at the Boulder and Longmont Farmers Markets, as well as economic revitalization through multiplier effects and supporting healthy food consumption.

19. [Unmet Needs for Court Reporter Funding, CRR 35 \(\\$450,000 *Recommend initial 12-month funding only, prorated at ~\\$130,000+ actual 12-month cost TBD\)](#)

The District Attorney's Office continues to manage a large backlog of criminal cases and jury trials that were not able to be resolved during the pandemic as in-person litigated hearings and jury trials were not being held. The backlog of jury trials and court cases is extensive and causing the trial docket to be over capacity and set many cases deep during any given trial week. The most serious offenders and the most serious criminal cases, such as sexual assault, crimes against children, and homicide, remain unresolved and must continue to proceed through litigated hearings and jury trials. Due to state budget cuts from the pandemic, the 20th Judicial District State Courts laid off every one of their Court Reporters. Court Reporters are an essential part of the criminal justice process in each case in order to make an accurate record of all proceedings. Without a proper record for appeal, the information is assumed to be non-existent in the record and that can lead to the case being overturned and sent back down to the trial court for retrial by the District Attorney's Office. Additionally, it is often very difficult to proceed to a jury trial for a second time and secure a similarly successful outcome twice based on the now unavailability of evidence or witnesses present in the first trial. Funding is provided to continue prior BoCo CARES funding of court reporting contract services over 12 months.

20. [Low Wage Workers Fund, CRR 43 \(\\$250,000\)](#)

Many low-wage workers in Boulder County cannot afford to quarantine or isolate. Although there are some paid leave protections in Colorado, they don't apply to all workers and many employees don't feel they can advocate for their employee rights for a myriad of reasons, including documentation status and/or fear of retaliation. Exposure to COVID-19 can result in isolation/quarantine. These periods of time where one is prohibited from working can cause financial strain, especially for low-wage workers. This program will provide direct cash assistance (administered by the Family Resource Centers) to individuals who need to isolate/quarantine as a way to ensure their financial stability, such as affording general household expenses, and reduce the further transmission of COVID-19 throughout the community. Qualification Requirements include Boulder County resident, individual tested positive OR applicant is a caregiver to a child (0-17) in their household that test positive for COVID-19; individual Income: Earns \$600 or less per week; household Income: Eligible for Health First Colorado; and worked within last two weeks prior to testing COVID-19 positive or having to caregiver. Cash supports shall be between \$1000-\$1500. Assistance is limited to one grant per household.

The entire \$250,000 would go to outside entities. OUR Center (40%), Sister Carmen Community Center (35%), and EFAA (25%) will assist clients in filling out the application and will receive administrative funds for this purpose. AidKit would likely be administering the funding and would charge a fee of 4-8% of the total funding to do so.

21. [No Eviction without Representation Boulder County, CRR 45 \(\\$50,000\)](#)

The City of Boulder's "No Eviction w/o Representation Program" provides legal aid and representation to those who are facing eviction and cannot afford legal support. The City of Boulder program is funded by a landlord fee required through a newly passed ballot measure. Currently, similar services are not available throughout the rest of Boulder County except through grant-funded services when available. Due to COVID-19 and the end of the eviction moratorium, the number of people Countywide, but not in the City of Boulder, needing legal aid who are facing eviction continues to/will increase, and funds are needed to provide these services. Currently, the City of Boulder contracts with Bridge to Justice, and this agency has been taking on non-COB clients on an as needed basis. More funding is needed because Bridge to Justice was provided supplemental funds last year through Senate Bill 20B-002 in the amount of \$25,793.53 that, to their knowledge, will not be available again this coming year. \$50,000 is requested for the continuation of this programming for Boulder County (non-City of Boulder) clients through the end of FY 2022 to cover the previously received supplemental funding and continued programming for Boulder County-specific services. This past year 31 of the 49 evictions were filed for nonpayment of rent due to COVID-19-related hardship, and 27 successful outcomes were tracked. The contractor's brochure was translated into Spanish, and they have a law student intern fluent in Spanish who translates for monolingual Spanish-speaking clients.

22. Community Support, CRR 46 (\$15,000)

Rebuild by Design and BoCo met to check in on budget needs after they have met with the 5 partner agencies, began to schedule appointments and events with the community engagement teams and have a budget request list.

The total- assuming we can do the print shop in kind/in house is \$14,100.00

We have been working diligently to start events and create materials over the last week and partner agencies need those in their hands to do work. We need to authorize a budget and are working with Leslie on how the monies will need to be invoiced etc. from a process standpoint.
...Authorization up to \$15k for items listed for this first phase of outreach so we can get items printed...

(23-25) [Assistance for the Family Resource Centers to support community need, CRR 7](#) (\$750,000)

23. Our Center FRC Support (\$300,000)

24. Sister Carmen FRC Support (\$262,500)

25. Emergency Family Assistance Association FRC Support (\$187,500)

The scope of work includes providing additional flexible funds to the Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to continue meeting immediate community needs across Boulder County. Additional funds provided to FRCs will be used to provide direct cash assistance to clients to support the payment of current and arrears utility bills, pay other expenses including but not limited to water, trash, and car repairs/insurance, provide gap funding to clients while they wait on additional assistance and benefits through other resources including the Housing Helpline and rental/mortgage assistance programs, provide direct cash assistance to clients who do not qualify for other government programs for assistance and or not willing to access the resources due to trust and fear.

The FRC's are an established system that most directly serves these identified populations including but not limited to the homeless/housing unstable, BIPOC, low income, and immigrant communities. The FRC's continue to report higher than normal needs and service delivery due to the pandemic, including additional wait times for appointments, increased direct financial assistance, increased calls, increased referrals to HHL, and \$40-\$50k monthly in utility billing assistance.

Proposed funding distribution is \$300k to OUR Center, \$262,500 to Sister Carmen, \$187,500 to Emergency Family Assistance Association. Note: Scope of Work and funding allocations subject to potential revisions, based on feedback from CRR Eligibility Team.

APPENDIX D: BOULDER COUNTY CARES ACT DISTRIBUTION 2020

In alignment with the county's strategic priority of Organizational and Financial Stewardship, CARES Act financial data is being publicly shared for all to review. Thanks to Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, Boulder County was able to help mitigate impacts of the COVID-19 crisis for both the public and staff, including providing testing and support, a public health call-center, and personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care providers and others. In total, \$27,983,411 was provided to Boulder County by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Of the money received, \$16,135,618 was used by Boulder County directly, while the remaining \$11,847,793 was distributed by the county to towns and cities.

Some of the larger programs CARES Act funds helped support included:

- Grants for childcare that allowed childcare programs to operate and provided essential workers with young children the ability to remain in their roles.
- Human services initiatives helping people who struggled with lapses in work or loss of work through utility and housing assistance.
- Local non-profit support, and additional opportunities to reach out for help.
- Telework resources for county staff, which increased accessibility for community members to access help during a time when many on-site services were either appointment-only or remote.
- Public health support that includes COVID-19 testing, a public health call-center, and purchasing personal protective equipment for health care providers, shelter workers, and other individuals working closely with the public.
- Economic assistance to local businesses through multiple rounds of grant funding.

Information on how a few community organizations used the funding they received is available at this link: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/government/budget-and-finance/cares-funding/>. The data shown is current as of March 2021.

APPENDIX E: POWERING THE COMEBACK RESOURCE GUIDE (RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS)

Powering the Comeback Resource Guide

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Renewable And Clean Energy Initiative

[The Renewable and Clean Energy Initiative](#) provides direct grant funding to local governments to support the development and construction of renewable and clean energy infrastructure throughout the state.

Learn more [here](#). Applications opened June 15, 2021, and remain open while funding is available.



Funding to Develop Affordable Housing

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has grant funding available to acquire land and/or existing properties to provide or develop affordable housing, supportive housing, or non-congregate shelter. Additional funding is available to support using these properties to rent to and provide housing services for households at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Additional funds may be also requested for the renting of and providing tenancy support services within the same properties to provide shelter or housing for households at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Learn more [here](#). Read the relevant 2021 law is [here](#).

Powering the Comeback Resource Guide

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Affordable Housing Development Incentives Grant



The [Affordable Housing Development Incentives Grant Program](#) provides grants to local governments to develop one or more affordable housing developments in their community that are liveable, vibrant, and driven by community benefits. These incentive grants can help cover tap fees, infrastructure, parks/playgrounds and other needs and amenities that support the affordable housing project. Learn more [here](#). The relevant 2021 law can be found [here](#).

Affordable Housing Planning Grant Program

The [Affordable Housing Planning Grant Program](#) provides grants to local governments to help them understand their housing needs and adopt policy and regulatory strategies to qualify for the Affordable Housing Development Incentives Grant Program.

Learn more [here](#). Applications are due September 20, 2021. The relevant 2021 law can be found [here](#).

Powering the Comeback Resource Guide

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Rural Economic Development Initiative

The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program is designed to help rural communities diversify their local economy and create a more resilient Colorado. REDI will support a wide range of creative projects in communities across the state, including planning and construction phases, programming, and capacity building, and a key goal of the projects will be to create and retain jobs, either directly or indirectly. All applications must create and retain jobs, either directly or indirectly. Learn more [here](#). Application cycle open through October 1, 2021.

Rural Jump Start Program

The Rural Jump-Start Program seeks to help economically-distressed communities attract new businesses and jobs. When a community is a designated rural jump-start zone, new businesses can receive tax relief and incentive payments, including credits, exemptions, and refunds from state income tax, state sales and use tax, as well as county and municipal personal property taxes. Counties, municipalities, and higher education institutions work together to apply for this program. [Click here](#) for more information on the program and how to apply.

Harm Reduction Grant Fund

The [Harm Reduction Grant Fund Program](#) supports local communities to help them rethink and expand opportunities to address problematic drug use using a public health approach, rather than through a criminal justice system model. Nonprofits that provide these services are eligible to apply for funding. Learn more [here](#).

Powering the Comeback Resource Guide

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Community Revitalization Grant Program

This grant program promotes economic recovery and diversification by supporting projects that combine creative industry workforce housing, commercial spaces, performance spaces, community gathering spaces, child care centers, and retail partnerships, and support creative sector entrepreneurs, artisans, and community non-profit organizations.

Learn more [here](#). Current application cycle closes October 1, 2021.



Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program

The forest service will issue forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grants for projects across Colorado. Grants can now fund capacity-building efforts to provide local governments, community groups, and collaborative forestry groups with the resources necessary to plan and implement forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation projects, including community and partner outreach and engagement, identifying priority project areas, coordinated planning, and acquiring community equipment for use by landowners. Learn more about the next round of grant funding and how to apply [here](#).

Powering the Comeback Resource Guide

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Agriculture Drought Resiliency Grant Program

The Agricultural Drought Resiliency Program was created in response to the 2020 drought season, which resulted in record-high temperatures, low humidity, extremely dry conditions, and rampant wildfires. These conditions have caused deep economic and ecological costs to agriculture, severely impacting our farmers and ranchers. The program is intended to support drought and climate resilience efforts for agricultural producers.

Learn more [here](#). Applications close September 30, 2021.

Watershed Restoration Grant Program

Organizations interested in developing watershed/stream restoration and flood mitigation studies and projects can apply for funding through the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund's [watershed restoration grants](#) and flood mitigation grants. Grants must support work to restore, mitigate, and protect streams and riparian areas susceptible to flooding and erosion following a wildfire, including installation or repair of water and debris control structures.

Interested applicants should [complete the application](#) and submit it by November 5, 2021.



Powering the Comeback Resource Guide

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

COMING SOON! Affordable Housing Toolkit Program

The [Affordable Housing Toolkit Program](#) will offer technical assistance to local governments that demonstrate an understanding of the housing needs of their residents and communities, and show a commitment to taking the steps necessary to make changes to their land use codes and related processes that can incentivize and reduce barriers to the development of affordable housing. The first RFP for communities will be released in July 2022.

The relevant 2021 law can be found [here](#).

COMING SOON! Housing Development Grants Hotels Tenancy Support Program

The Housing Development Grants Hotels Tenancy Support Program provides \$30 million in grants and loans for local governments and nonprofits to purchase underutilized hotels and motels and other underutilized properties to provide affordable housing or shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. Grant recipients are encouraged to invest in hotels and motels that are women and minority-owned, as well as those that are ADA compliant.

Learn more [here](#).

Powering the Comeback Resource Guide

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

COMING SOON! Outdoor Equity Grants

The Outdoor Equity grant program aims to reduce barriers to the Colorado outdoors for historically underserved communities, create pathways for formal or informal conservation, and offer environmental and Colorado outdoor-based educational opportunities by providing grants to applicants that will engage racially or ethnically diverse eligible youth from low-income families, LGBTQ youth, Native American or Indigenous youth, or youth with disabilities. More information will be made available later this fall.

COMING SOON! Broadband Deployment Funding

This year, the Legislature passed multiple pieces of legislation to support the development and expansion of broadband infrastructure. The newly-created Colorado Broadband Office will assist multiple state departments in disbursing over \$75 million to help local governments, Indian tribes or nations, school districts, and businesses deploy and expand broadband access, especially to underserved communities, and to subsidize certain households for broadband service, based on household income and local broadband accessibility.

The relevant 2021 laws can be found [here](#) and [here](#) – more information about how to access these programs is coming soon.

Powering the Comeback Resource Guide

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

COMING SOON! Charge Ahead Colorado Program

The [Charge Ahead Colorado Program](#) helps fund the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. Funding is directed to private nonprofit or for-profit corporations, state agencies, federal agencies, public universities, and public transit agencies, as well as local governments, landlords of multi-family apartment buildings and homeowner associations.

The next grant cycle opens October 4. More information on future grant opportunities is coming soon, and can be found [here](#).



COMING SOON! Funding to Support Coal Transition Communities and Workers

The Legislature allocated \$15 million to fund just transition programs and assist coal workers who are transitioning into other fields of work through education, reskilling, and more. Funding is designated for the implementation of the [Colorado Just Transition Action Plan](#). Eligible applicants include economic development districts, Indian tribes, registered apprenticeship programs, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations in addition to counties, municipalities and other political subdivisions of the State. Read the relevant 2021 law [here](#) – more information on how to access this funding coming soon.