For our residents who have been impacted by the flood, we are committed to helping you navigate the many steps towards recovery. We are engaged and involved in the many aspects of recovery and rebuilding and are here to support you and our community along the way.

– Boulder County Commissioners

Flood Rebuilding & Permit Information Center (FRPIC)

The Flood Rebuilding & Permit Information Center is staffed by experts in floodplain regulations, transportation, on-site wastewater (septic) systems, planning and building codes. The FRPIC is located at the Rembrandt Yard building (1301 Spruce St.) and open 10 am - 4 p.m. Some questions that may be addressed at the FRPIC include:

- What are the floodplain/floodway regulations and how do they affect my property?
- Do I need to have a structural engineer to inspect the safety of my home?
- My private residential bridge/culvert/driveway was destroyed by the flood. How do I begin repairs?
- My property was affected by the flood but I don’t know what impact it had to my septic system. How do I know if the system is still working properly?
- What steps are necessary to repair/rebuild my home?
FRPIC Cont.

**Flood Rebuilding & Permit Information Center**

Where: Rembrandt Yard, at 1301 Spruce Street in Boulder (across from the Boulderado Hotel)

What: Resources for unincorporated Boulder County residents impacted by the 2013 Flood

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

Contact: floodrecovery@bouldercounty.org or 303-441-1705

Types of permits needed for flood-related rebuilding and recovery:

- **For minor floor repairs and restoration** - A Flood Recovery, Restoration and Repair Permit is available for flood repairs and restoration of flood-damaged (not destroyed or severely damaged) buildings to pre-flood configuration. Eligible flood-damaged components include replacement of drywall and insulation, doors, windows, siding, roof recovering, replacement of furnaces, boilers, water heaters, electrical wiring and equipment, gas piping, and plumbing.

- **To repair or rebuild private roads, driveways, culverts and bridges** - Residents, who need to repair or rebuild private roads or driveways to public roads, including culvert replacement and temporary waterway crossings, need to obtain a Flood Recovery Access Permit. Property owners who have repaired or rebuilt accesses to properties without a Flood Recovery Access Permit are encouraged to contact/come into the FRPIC.

- **For work in the floodplain** - Most work in a floodplain requires a Floodplain Development Permit. Property owners who have moved earth or made repairs to a structure in a floodplain, or property owners who are considering these types of projects are encouraged to contact/come into the FRPIC.

- **Residents who did work during or after the flood event** - Boulder County recognizes that during a flood or other emergency and times of imminent danger property owners may decide to do what they determine is necessary to protect their property. An emergency does not remove the property owner’s responsibility to obtain necessary permits following the immediate emergency situation. The authorization of an emergency permit is limited to the minimum work necessary to prevent an imminent unsafe condition that can harm the environment, threaten people or property, and/or perform the minimum work necessary to protect a structure from the elements. Temporary Emergency Permits are not issued in order to make a structure habitable.

- **To rebuild or repair severely damaged or destroyed structures**, a Hazard Mitigation Review (HMR) is required. This includes structures impacted by flooding, debris flows, mudslides, slope instability, drainage channel shifts, area drainage system impairments or failures, soil saturation, or related hazards.

Hazard Mitigation Review will help property owners evaluate and understand the hazards that have occurred on individual properties as a result of the extreme rain event. It is designed to allow safer, more resilient redevelopment which takes into account predicted hazards as well as realized hazards.

The application fee is $260 and includes a site visit by Land Use staff. To apply for Hazard Mitigation Review, contact the FRPIC.
Housing and Human Services

The Department of Housing and Human Services (DHHS) is committed to helping the community recover from the 2013 Flood. DHHS can provide resources for food, clothing, and household items, as well as resources for clean-up and rebuilding.

We believe that a strong community is measured by its response in times like these. Boulder County Housing and Human Services is offering many resources in the effort to help with long-term flood recovery:

- **Benefits:** Rental, food, and financial assistance as well as help accessing medical care.
- **Resource Navigation:** Service referrals/case management, mountain community assistance, FEMA rental assistance and housing location services
- **Foreclosure Prevention:** Counseling services to help you avoid foreclosure and assistance in negotiating with lenders to defer payments
- **Housing Rehab/Repair and Weatherization:** Flood rehabilitation and repairs and emergency weatherization services
- **Planning for More Housing Options:** We are working with town officials and other organizations to help increase the supply of affordable housing options within the county.

Please call or e-mail HHS at 303-441-1000 (option 2) or hhsfloodrecovery@bouldercounty.org for more information or to get connected with available services.

Health & Safety

**Tetanus Risk**
Exposure to flood waters alone does not increase the risk of tetanus. However, during flood cleanup, the risk of wounds may be increased. Cleanup workers should be sure that they are up-to-date with tetanus vaccination. Residents may receive the vaccination at a Boulder County Public Health Immunization clinic. The cost is $21.50.

**Mold**
Failure to remove contaminated materials and to reduce moisture and humidity after a flood can present serious long-term health risks. There are also certain legal requirements that landlords must fulfill to ensure a property is fit for human occupation. Contact Boulder County Public Health at 303-441-1564 for more information.

**Well Water and Septic System Testing**
Private water wells should be tested. Additionally, flooding may have caused damage to your septic system, and a repair permit might be needed. Please contact Boulder County Public Health at 303-413-1564 for help with well or septic matters.

Parks & Open Space

Boulder County Parks and Open Space properties were extensively damaged by the 2013 Flood. There was damage to trails, trailheads, restrooms, historic buildings and agricultural properties. The high water also caused massive damage to many properties along the St. Vrain River and many dams were breached (see “Creek Recovery on Boulder County Parks & Open Space Properties” page 6).

Most public parks and trails (over 90%) have been repaired since the floods and opened to the public. The remaining damaged properties will take months, perhaps years, to repair:

- **Pella Crossing** - A reclaimed gravel mining site which was a network of ponds and ditches that sustained various breaches and failures. Boulder County has contracted an engineering company to assess the damage and make recommendations for rebuilding.

- **The Anne U. White trail** - This trail lies below Fourmile Canyon Creek. The entire area was severely damaged; assessment is planned for 2014.

- **Heil Valley Ranch** - The entrance road and the main trailhead on the south side of the park were severely damaged. The Wapiti Trail and Lichen Loop Trail on this side will likely remain closed until next year. Assessment and recovery measures are planned for 2014. On the north side, the Picture Rock Trail, Wild Turkey Trail, and the Ponderosa Loop are open and can be accessed from the Picture Rock Trailhead in Lyons.

For a list of public parks and trails and their status, visit www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/trails or contact Vivienne Jannatpour, Communications Specialist, at vjannatpour@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6277.
Mental Health

It is important to remember that everyone reacts differently to trauma and each person has their own tolerance level for difficult feelings. You may benefit from seeking mental healthcare.

Signs of when to seek help include but are not limited to:
- Nightmares and recurring thoughts about the event
- Avoiding thoughts and conversations about the event
- Continued difficulty falling/staying asleep
- Jumpy or easily startled
- Overly concerned about safety
- Feeling guilty, worthless, or hopeless
- Having thoughts of death or suicide

The following resources are available to flood survivors to help with mental health services:

**Free Drop-In Centers: Mental Health Partners**
No appointment is necessary. Three sessions free with an opportunity to extend. Experienced therapists are available to serve all ages.
Mon-Fri 12-7 p.m. Call 720-415-9740 for locations.

**Free Vouchers for ‘Mountain Communities’: Foothills United Way**
These vouchers are for anyone living in the mountain communities of Boulder County who was directly affected by the 2013 Flood. To receive a voucher or for more information, contact Amy Hardy, Mountain Resource Coordinator, at ahardy@unitedwayfoothills.org or 303-895-3418.

**Boulder Institute for Psychotherapy and Research (BIPR)**
BIPR uses a sliding scale to find a workable fee arrangement. The length of treatment is not limited. 1240 Pine Street; Boulder, CO 80302
303-442-4562, www.bipr.org, info@bipr.org

Road Construction

The county’s Transportation Department is actively engaged in repairing and rebuilding county public roads damaged in the flooding. Along with existing staff resources, the county has hired additional personnel and consultants to evaluate and design the restoration of the county transportation system.

Several contracts have already been executed to complete the initial steps of rebuilding roads by creating emergency access roads – one-lane, high clearance roads that give access to emergency personnel and residents to retrieve personal belongings and winterize their homes.

The next phase for most severely damaged roads is to construct a winter road: A two-lane facility suitable for passenger vehicles and snow plowed by maintenance crews. These roads would allow more convenient access to properties for the short-term, which may be up to two or three years, and will be open for regular use (including bicycles and non-resident traffic) once appropriate traffic control (signing, delineation, etc.) is installed. Several miles of roads have been completed to this level and the remaining winter roads are scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2014.

Additionally, the Transportation Department is acquiring and upgrading specialized maintenance equipment to help keep culverts and drainage facilities clear, along with anticipating and addressing roadway erosion concerns.

Transportation has staff available at the Flood Rebuilding and Permit Information Center. Staff members are available to provide answers and assistance to property owners for rebuilding and access.

For more information, contact the Transportation Department main offices at 303-441-3900, Road Maintenance at 303-441-3962 or transportation@bouldercounty.org.

Neighborhood Engagement

We know many neighborhoods in unincorporated Boulder County are already forming together into groups to host meetings, help gather information, and serve as a place of support for each other.

Boulder County wants to help neighborhoods and individuals impacted by the 2013 Flood to better connect with each other. If your neighborhood is on the list below and you would like to be connected with that group, please contact Katie Arrington (720-470-0964 or karrington@bouldercounty.org) to obtain contact information. If your neighborhood is not listed or organized, please contact Katie.

- Apple Valley
- Four Mile/Salina/Wallstreet
- Longmont Dam Road
- Lower Lefthand Creek (Streamcrest Drive)
- Middle/Upper Lefthand Canyon
- North/South St. Vrain
- Raymond/Riverside
- Springdale/James Canyon
- Wagonwheel Gap Road
Spring Run-Off Preparedness
Boulder County wants you to be prepared for any flooding or debris flow situations. The following information provides a snapshot of preparedness strategies.

Know the Risks:
There is potential for more flooding or debris flows in the areas already impacted by the 2013 Flood during Spring 2014 run-off.
- Spring/Summer thunderstorms produce the highest risk for flooding
- Flash flooding can occur quickly, even when it's not raining at your location

Preparing Makes Sense:
Take the time now to plan for how you will take care of yourself and your family during a flood or debris flow emergency. You may need to take action before an “official” warning is issued. Planning ahead, can help you:
- Take steps to minimize the effects of a disaster
- Reduce fear and anxiety by knowing what to do
- Be self-sufficient for three to five days, if first responders can’t reach you immediately

Being prepared also means having access to supplies in case of an emergency. The Boulder OEM website has guidance on making plans and gathering supplies.

Only shelter in place if your home is on high ground and is not in danger from debris flows. Gather supplies to shelter in place:
- Battery Operated Radio
- Two Flashlights and Extra Batteries
- Extra Blankets
- Non-perishable foods
- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Important Documents

It is also useful to have an emergency kit to grab if you need to leave your home quickly. The following can be in a to-go kit:
- The options mentioned previously
- Necessary medications
- Change of clothes
- Rain gear

Family Emergency Plan:
Planning before a disaster can help your family evacuate faster, as well as help family members who may be separated meet at the same location.
- Have an out-of-state contact for everyone to call and check in. Local phone connections can be unreliable in emergencies.
- Have at least one, preferably two, safe (higher ground) meeting locations for family members.
- Practice moving to your safe locations, choose different routes to get there.
- Make sure family members (and neighbors) know your plans for communication, and the safe meeting location.

Vehicle Safety:
- Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related. As little as 18 inches of water can float your vehicle.
- Never drive your vehicle through flood waters.
- If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

If you would like further assistance in emergency planning or if you have any questions, call the Boulder Office of Emergency Management at 303-441-3390 or visit www.BoulderOEM.com.

Debris Collection
Boulder County has contracted with a removal company to perform roadside pickup of flood debris on all county-owned roads.

Guidelines
- Debris should be placed 3ft from the side of the roadway to allow for any snow removal
- Haulers have a potential reach of about 8ft from the edge of the road lane; debris piles should be very near the 3ft boundary as possible
- Do not block the roadway, waterways or any culverts with debris
- Debris removal vehicles will only be able to access existing, county-maintained, accessible roads
- Separate debris by type (see guidelines at www.bouldercounty.org/flood/health/pages/debris.aspx)

Hazardous Materials
All hazardous materials must be hauled to the Hazardous Materials Management Facility at 1901 63rd Street in Boulder.

Large Debris Volumes
Residents who have large volumes of debris on private property which they cannot move to the roadside themselves, and would like to seek county assistance in removal, should report the debris on the Boulder County website. Residents should also fill out the Right of Entry form (page 6) so the county can access private property to assess debris. The county may not be able to assist in removing any or all debris from private property, but is currently creating a database of debris locations and exploring options for removal.

Please report any debris piles that have been placed near the roadside, or any debris piles unable to be moved to the roadside due to quantity, location or access issues. Contact 720-564-2222 or debrisresponseteam@bouldercounty.org, or online at www.bouldercounty.org/flood/health/pages/debris.aspx.
The 2013 Flood severely altered local creeks, resulting in extensive county-wide damage. To make creek stabilization and recovery decisions, engineering analyses and a knowledge of actions taken along the creek corridors is required. Without informed, coordinated decision-making there are several risks, including:

- Bridges and culverts not being sized correctly to handle floods
- Debris/sediments in creek beds that could cause new flood risk
- Damaged irrigation ditch diversion structures that are no longer connected to creeks, creating issues with water delivery and water rights.

Boulder County’s Comprehensive Creek Planning Initiative (CCP) will provide a forum to:

- Understand specific concerns, goals and ideas from affected property owners, residents and related interests
- Identify, evaluate and communicate the changes to the hydrology, creek location, elevation, natural resources and environment
- Coordinate local, state and federal agencies that regulate, permit, or fund potential activities related to these efforts

The CCP initiative has both short- and long-term milestones. Short-term creek recovery actions target the April 1 spring run-off season. Longer term actions are targeted for August 2014.

If you have questions about Boulder County’s CCP initiative, email ccp.teammailbox@bouldercounty.org or call Julie McKay, CCP Project Manager at 720-564-2662.

Creek Recovery on Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties

Boulder County-owned Parks and Open Space (POS) properties suffered extensive creek-related damages. Three POS Creek teams will work on creek recovery in and around Boulder County-owned properties:

- The St. Vrain Creek Team
  - Focused on the five mile-creek corridor from Lyons to Longmont. Planning efforts include moving the St. Vrain River back to its original channel.

- The Boulder Creek Team
  - Working with the City of Boulder in coordinating planning efforts on jointly owned properties and community planning needs for neighboring landowners.

- The Lefthand Creek Team
  - Working on the Lefthand Creek corridor, the Coal Creek/Rock Creek corridor and other smaller corridors in the watershed.

These teams are staffed with POS planners, outreach specialists, water resource specialists, wildlife biologists, plant ecologists and GIS specialists. A water engineer has been assigned to oversee our creek planning and our on-the-ground water improvement projects.

If you have questions about Boulder County’s POS Creek Recovery efforts, you may send an email to David Bell, Project Manager at dbell@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6234.

Right of Entry Form

The 2013 Flood was a major natural disaster and the community will not be able to recover unless everyone cooperates in a concerted effort to address the damage that occurred.

Boulder County and its agents may need to access your property in order to work on flood recovery projects to protect the public health and safety of Boulder County residents and facilitate rehabilitation of infrastructure and improvements located on or accessed by your property. Please check the map at http://maps.bouldercounty.org/roeresidents/ to see if Boulder County may need to access your property. Requested properties are highlighted in pink. The Right of Entry form is online, at www.bouldercounty.org/doc/flood/privatepropertyform.pdf.

The intent of the Right of Entry form is to allow Boulder County, other governmental entities, and their agents to have access to private property to assess flood damage and, potentially, to undertake remedial measures to either repair public roads or other infrastructure accessed by private property or to undertake work on the private property itself to mitigate imminent threats to public health by removing flood-related debris, re-channelizing streams and/or stabilizing stream banks.

The basic terms of the Right of Entry form are not negotiable because changes will render Boulder County ineligible for reimbursement from FEMA.

If you have any questions about the form, please contact Francesca Gonzales, at fgonzales@bouldercounty.org or 720-564-2726.
A Note from the Assessor

The Boulder County Assessor’s Office is working to assist county residents in reaching a temporary fair market value for any home or real estate property that was destroyed in the 2013 Flood.

Property values will be adjusted downward to reflect the destruction to a physical residence or structure. In all cases land values will hold their value, but constructed buildings will be prorated to reflect the reduction in value.

A proration in property value for destroyed structures (resulting in a reduction of 2013 taxes) will be calculated for the dates of Sept. 12 through Dec. 31, 2013 (payable in 2014). Our guidelines for prorating are based on the amount of destruction to the structure which must be severe enough to make it unsafe. Currently, we have identified 337 structures that fall into this category for 2013.

Damaged and destroyed properties will be re-evaluated in 2014 and adjusted according to how much land and improvement impact there is, whether a destroyed building is being or has been rebuilt, and whether the property has suffered significant market impact. These properties will be reevaluated at the beginning of each subsequent year until they have recovered.

State laws allow us to keep the residential classification in place for a property, even if the structure hasn’t been rebuilt, for up to two years after the year of destruction.

Please feel free to contact the Assessor’s Office at 303-441-3530 or email us, at assessor@bouldercounty.org, to inform us about flood impacts to your property or provide a forwarding address.

Jerry Roberts
Boulder County Assessor

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**FEMA “Buyout Program”**

**What is the Purpose of the Program?**
According to FEMA’s website, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) – also known as the “buyout program” or “404 funding” – funds certain long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The program was created to reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property due to future natural disasters.

**How Do I Participate in the Program?**
FEMA has very specific guidelines regarding which properties can qualify, and not all destroyed or substantially damaged properties will be eligible. Residents with interest in this program should contact Abby Shannon at ashannon@bouldercounty.org or 720-564-2623.

**How Much Funding Will Be Available?**
According to both FEMA and the state, funding for this program is limited and will not be sufficient to address all of the need in Colorado.

**How Can Funds Be Used?**
Uses can include: Property acquisition for willing sellers (a.k.a., the “buyout program”), elevation of flood-prone structures, minor flood control projects such as drainage and retention ponds and other critical measures that reduce risk of future loss.

**What is the Process and Timing of the Program?**
This program is a long process from start to completion, so participating residents will need to plan accordingly. Buyouts can take one to three years to complete. A Notice of Intent is due by local governments to the state by January 31. Final applications are due March 14. A second round of funding applications will be due in August 2014.

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**Recovery Grants**

**What is the Purpose of the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)?**
The purpose of CDBG-DR is to help communities recover from a major disaster. The grant is intended to address “unmet need” in disaster recovery.

**How Can Funds Be Used?**
Funding is divided into three categories: Housing, Public Infrastructure and Economic Development.

**What is the Timing of the Program?**
This is a slow-moving pool of funds and we anticipate CDBG-DR funding could begin flowing any time between March and June 2014.

**Who Can Apply for Funding?**
Individuals do not apply for CDBG-DR funding directly. The state will submit an Action Plan that describes the needs and projected uses of the CDBG-DR grant in Colorado and then grant funds to local governments.

**How Much Funding Will Be Available?**
In December, an allocation of $63 million was announced for all of Colorado with 80 percent of that amount directed to Boulder, Weld and Larimer Counties.

**How Do I Make Sure My Personal Unmet Needs Are Addressed?**
The Long-Term Flood Recovery Group may be able to help (see the LTFRG section, page 2). Ideally, the LTFRG’s resources and CDBG-DR funding will work together to ensure residents can recover as fully as possible.
Rebuilding Community with Resiliency

A message from the Board of County Commissioners

Many people in our community were impacted by the 2013 Flood. Hundreds of County residents can’t return home, have no home to return to, or have significant damages to their homes.

This disaster was different than past disasters in Boulder County in how it has changed the landscape. Rivers and creeks have selected new paths. Properties have been washed away and covered in tons of debris. Access to homes has been destroyed. Debris clogs many waterways. The drainages and watersheds that have historically absorbed and slowed down runoff during the spring thaws and heavy rains may no longer have the topsoil necessary for this task.

We have been using this word “resiliency” when talking about recovery from this disaster. Rebuilding with resiliency means protecting your home or business so that it can better handle the next incident, and for some, this means not rebuilding at all, at least not in the same location.

There is a sense from some of our neighbors that they alone are taking the risk to return home. But their risk is the community’s risk. It is a risk to our first responders who help rescue people and to private property and public infrastructure downstream who will receive the debris from construction in the floodplain. Local governments such as Boulder County have a responsibility to regulate development in the floodplain or else we may jeopardize the ability for everyone in our jurisdiction to obtain flood insurance.

Boulder County is taking a thoughtful and cautious approach to rebuilding. We need to understand the long-term implications of decisions we make today and how they will impact and inform the outcome of the next disaster. We have instituted a Hazard Mitigation Review process which will allow those people who can effectively mitigate future hazard risk to get back to their homes. While our cautiousness may seem frustrating to some, we believe it will result in a safer, more resilient community that has been (re)built to last.

The county is working diligently to assess the future hazards and make informed decisions that will provide the base for further activities in recovery. People’s lives have been turned upside-down by this event. Boulder County is working with the community to balance the need to rebuild with the need to plan wisely for the next natural disaster.

In the words of the late Gilbert F. White, Professor of Geography at the University of Colorado and founder and Director of the university’s Natural Hazards Center:

“There is a sobering finality in the construction of a river basin development; and it behooves us to be sure we are right before we go ahead.”