

Colorado RESILIENCY Framework

2021 Progress Report

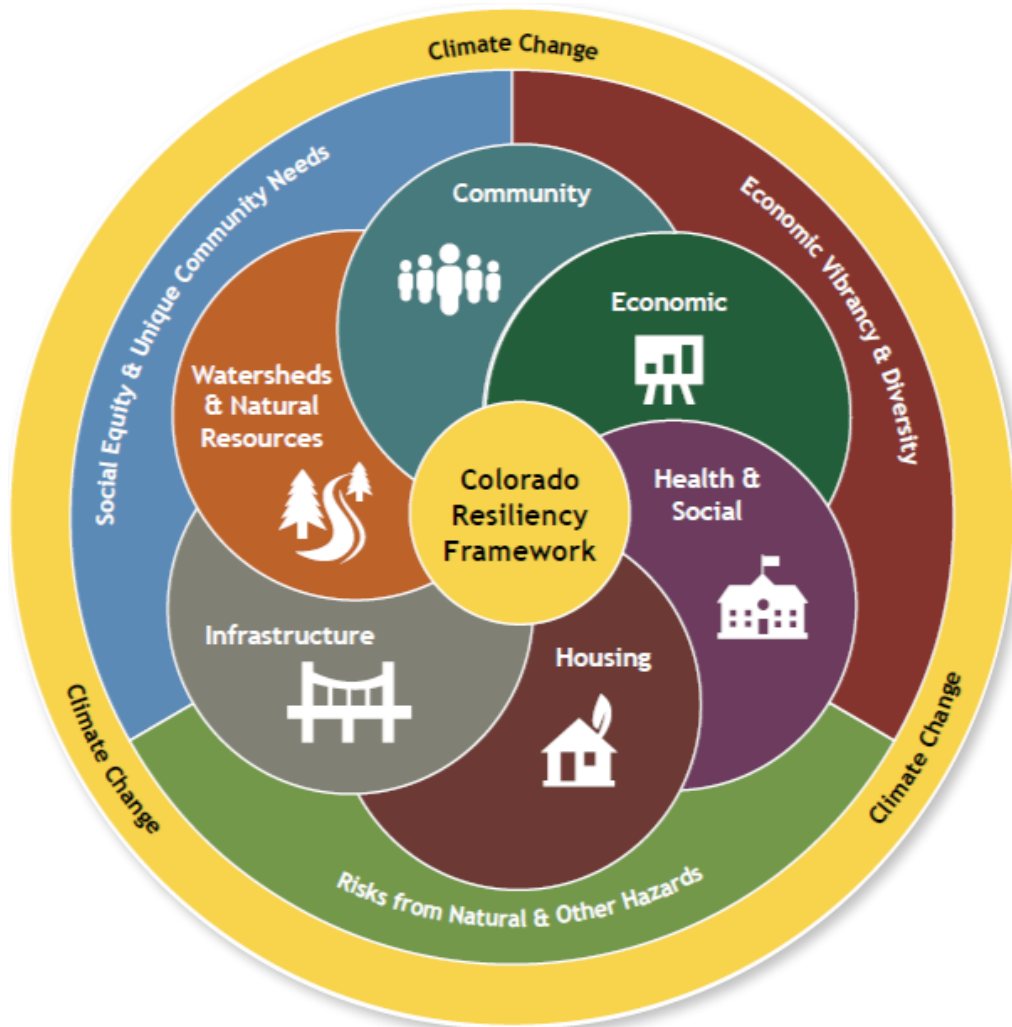


BACKGROUND

The original 2015 Colorado Resiliency Framework showcased Colorado’s ability and determination to build back with a resiliency strategy after the 2012 wildfires and 2013 flooding events. In 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Colorado Resiliency Office (CRO) finalized an updated [Colorado Resiliency Framework](#) (CRF) to provide a roadmap for the State to a more resilient future.

Through a collaborative engagement process and in the spirit of holistic thinking, we tapped into the expertise of six sector teams to identify emerging challenges and new opportunities for Colorado. The sectors include Community, Economic, Health and Social, Housing, Infrastructure, and Watersheds and Natural Resources. We aligned around an updated vision for resiliency:

Colorado creatively implements forward-thinking solutions that are sustainable and resilient to changing conditions and result in strong, equitable communities that can adapt to and thrive in the face of adversity.



The CRF lays out the State’s resiliency vision and goals and explores risks and vulnerabilities across four themes:

- Adapting to our changing climate,
- Understanding risks from natural and other hazards,
- Addressing social inequities and unique community needs, and
- Pursuing economic diversity and vibrancy.

The CRF provides 29 strategies across six priority areas that the State will implement over the next five years to reduce risk and vulnerabilities and be adaptive to changing environmental, social, and economic conditions. The implementation of these strategies will strengthen the State’s capacity to adapt and support local communities on their path to resiliency.

In 2021, as we continued to adapt, respond, and recover from the pandemic, we all learned to be more resilient and come together with our shared responsibility to move these priorities forward. The unprecedented amount of funding available through Federal and State stimulus packages has been an excellent opportunity to accelerate progress on our resiliency priorities. With the 2020 CRF update, the CRO established a 5-year review cycle to demonstrate progress on the strategy implementation. This is the first annual progress report in this cycle, and it is organized to highlight some of the accomplishments across the six priority areas.

IMPLEMENTING COLORADO’S RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK

The CRF represents the State’s commitment to a more resilient future and serves as a call to action for engagement, partnership, collaboration, and communication. It intersects and aligns with priorities and strategic plans of many State agencies. Implementation of the CRF requires taking collective steps toward strategic and deliberate action. The CRF Action Plan identifies the CRO as the overall coordinator for the implementation and the Colorado Resiliency Working Group (CRWG) as the leadership team that oversees and coordinates resiliency activities across State agencies.

The CRF details two broad overarching strategies and six priority areas where the State can take action to enhance resiliency and ensure a vibrant and livable future for all Coloradans:



The Action Plan includes the proposed “first moves” to begin or initiate strategy implementation, recommended timeline, implementation leaders, and related resiliency priorities that each strategy supports. The priority implementation teams each have a CRO coordinator and co-leaders from other State agencies.

Following is a summary of accomplishments and major progress in the overarching strategies and each of the six priority areas for 2021, the first-year of implementation of the CRF.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OVERARCHING STRATEGIES (OA)

While most of the strategies closely align with one of the six priorities, two strategies are broad and include foundational activities that will connect and strengthen all the resiliency priorities:

1. Establish a statewide resilient and sustainable community/regional program
2. Attract and leverage resiliency funding opportunities

Progress & Accomplishments

- Creative, long-term solutions and funding are needed to meet the growing adaptation challenges Colorado communities face. Toward building a path to create a sustainable funding source, the CRO received a technical assistance grant from a [resilience collaboration](#) between the U.S. Climate Alliance (USCA) and the European Union (EU) to explore expanding local resilience funding, including the design of a potential Colorado community resilience partnership fund focused on supporting local government action. The process, led by Climate Finance Advisors, included exchanges with three EU and two U.S. resiliency programs that included the stakeholders and the Colorado Resiliency Working Group. The engagement resulted in a final summary report with recommendations for Colorado.
- The CRO developed a [Community Resilience Assessments and Actions Guide](#) to help local governments and communities learn how to prioritize different resilience actions and how to measure and track progress towards a resilient future at the local level. This Guide breaks the assessments and actions up based on the six priorities laid out in the 2020 CRF. It provides practical assessment tools and actions that will help local governments measure and manage their community's resilience.



FUTURE-READY ECONOMY & WORKFORCE (EW)

Fortify Colorado's workforce to support a future-ready, regenerative, circular economy.

Progress & Accomplishments

- In the summer of 2021, the CRO launched the Regional Resiliency & Recovery Roadmaps program. The program includes 16 regional teams with representation from 150 communities. The intent of the program is to reimagine rural economies and accelerate opportunities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each community will produce a roadmap that will give them strategic direction for the future and help them buffer against future disruptions. Economic diversification is a key piece of many of these roadmaps as communities seek to strengthen their economies. To date community teams have identified their key resilience challenges and will develop actions to address those challenges in 2022.
- To expand digital equity access, the [Office of Future of Work and Colorado Broadband Office](#) launched a committee on Digital Inclusion as part of the Colorado Broadband Advisory Board to promote and create awareness around digital skill development and workforce skills. The committee began building the state's plan for digital equity in preparation for funding from the Digital Equity Act as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- To advance equitable hiring and modern benefits, the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) published the [Colorado Job Quality Framework](#) to outline features of quality jobs and lay out practical steps that local communities, employers, and leaders can take to improve job quality.
- As a result of [HB21-1290](#), the [Office of Just Transition](#) received \$8M from the fund to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) for use by the office to implement the [Colorado Just Transition Action Plan](#) for targeted investment in coal transition communities. The bill also appropriated \$7M for assistance programs that directly assist coal transition

Community Spotlight

CDLE was awarded a \$10M [State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation](#) grant from the US Department of Labor to increase access to registered apprenticeships for COVID-19-impacted workers, justice-involved workers, people with disabilities, women and people of color as well as increase development of new registered apprenticeship programs. This is the latest testament to the efforts and commitment of statewide workforce and education partners to create more pathways to opportunity. The program will also expand or establish new apprenticeships in the following in-demand sectors: 1) Healthcare & Behavioral Health, 2) IT & Cybersecurity, 3) Education & Public Sector, 4) Advanced Manufacturing, 5) Transportation & Logistics, and 6) Energy & Infrastructure. This federal award alongside the creation of Colorado's SAA present a unique opportunity to elevate, align, and accelerate CDLE's efforts to expand apprenticeships across the state and create a resilient talent pipeline.



workers and then, if money remains, to support family and other household members of coal transition workers and create and implement a pilot program to test innovative coal transition work support programs as specified in the act.

- The state made significant headway to improve access to registered apprenticeship programs and to grow programs in new industries. In June, Governor Polis signed [HB21-1007 State Apprenticeship Agency](#) (SAA) into law, codifying the state’s commitment to increase access to earn-and-learn programs that lead to high quality jobs and to build the talent pipeline that industry needs.



CLIMATE & NATURAL HAZARD RESILIENCY (CN)

Reduce Colorado’s risk from climate change and natural hazards through integrated land use, ecosystem, and natural resource planning, management, and investment.

Progress & Accomplishments

- In January 2021, Governor Polis released Colorado’s [Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap](#) that outlines near-term actions by sector to meet the Climate Action Plan ([HB 19-1261](#)) goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution by 90% by 2050. Implementation of these actions has begun happening across all sectors.
- To help Colorado stay on track to meet the GHG reduction goals, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) built a [GHG Dashboard](#) to understand how GHG emissions are changing and to ensure Colorado is making progress on climate equity.
- [HB 21-1208](#) created a Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise to provide grants to local governments to implement resilience and natural disaster mitigation measures, to be used as matching funds for federal pre-disaster natural disaster mitigation measures, and to provide local governments with technical assistance on natural disaster mitigation. The Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety will appoint a 13-member board to govern the Enterprise. A fee on select property and casualty insurance products will be collected annually beginning July 1, 2023 to fund the Enterprise.
- [SB 21-258](#) transferred \$3M from the Wildfire Preparedness Fund to the Hazard Mitigation Fund. [SB 21-054](#) directs DHSEM to use those funds as a state match for federal grants that local governments receive to mitigate wildland fire hazards and to provide strategic planning assistance for wildland fire hazard mitigation.
- \$6M from [SB 21-054](#) and \$8M from [SB 21-205](#) was allocated for the Colorado State Forest Service’s (CSFS) [Forest Restoration Risk Mitigation](#) (FRWRM) grant program. In May 2021, CSFS received over 80 eligible proposals totaling over \$13M in funding requisitions on more than 11K acres.
- [SB21-258](#) allocated \$25M to the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to support wildfire risk reduction through technical support for Community Wildfire Protection Plans, increasing the CSFS Forest Business Loan Fund, funding fuels treatments for wildfire risk reduction at landscape scales, and expanding Department of Corrections (DOC) crews and Colorado youth and veterans corps.
- [SB 21-240](#) allocated \$500K to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to conduct a statewide watershed analysis to investigate the susceptibility of life, safety, infrastructure, and water supplies to post-wildfire impacts and advance a framework for communities to plan

and implement mitigation strategies to minimize these impacts before wildfires occur. The *Wildfire Ready Watersheds* study will be completed by late 2022.

- CWCB worked with forest and watershed experts to complete a white paper, “[Forest Health Study: 10 Takeaways to Inform the Colorado Water Plan](#)”, linking forest management to watershed resiliency.
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working on a [shared stewardship](#) process with the U.S. Forest Service to identify shared opportunity areas throughout the state for forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation. The goal of this mapping project, and others like the [Colorado Forest Atlas](#), is to understand where the greatest mitigation is needed and where the biggest benefits can be achieved from investing on mitigation. Completion is expected by the end of 2022.
- The CRO held 10 webinars as part of a [Climate Change Series](#) that attracted over 500 attendees from 80 local communities. Topics included: Climate Smart Land Use Planning, Energy Efficiency and Building Code, Climate Equity, Natural Climate Solutions, and Climate Action Planning.
- The CRO initiated a [Wildfire Peer Exchange](#) that engaged local and State participants to share information and collaborate on strategies for wildfire recovery and mitigation. Topics included: watershed protection, debris management, alert and warning systems, and pre- and post- wildfire planning.
- In September 2021, Colorado Serve announced the creation of the [Colorado Climate Corps](#), a collaboration with the Colorado Interagency Climate Team. The Corps will have a multi-pronged strategy to address climate change. Beginning in 2022, it will place 240 AmeriCorps members in 55 counties across Colorado to help mitigate the threat of future wildfires and floods; improve the health and resiliency of public lands; and provide resources and education to marginalized communities. Efforts are underway to expand the program in 2022 to increase local government climate action capacity.

Community Spotlight

At 208,913 acres, the Cameron Peak Fire in 2020 was the largest wildfire in Colorado’s recorded history. The USFS Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) report highlighted that water quality would be impacted by post fire debris flows, run-off, ash flows, sedimentation and nutrient loading within 1-3 years following the fire. The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed’s (CPRW) [Post-Fire Restoration Aerial Mulching Program](#) worked to mitigate the negative impacts of the fire on this high priority watershed. With grants from CWCB and other funders, more than 10K high priority acres were identified for aerial mulching in the Poudre watershed and 1.5K acres in the Big Thompson watershed on both public and private lands. This aerial mulching operation is the largest wood mulch operation in the United States. In 2021, CPRW was able to mulch just over 5000 priority acres in the Poudre and 750 acres in the Big Thompson. In 2022, additional mulching will continue and CPRW will also be working on other non-aerial mulching priority post-fire restoration projects.





BUILDING & INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY (BI)

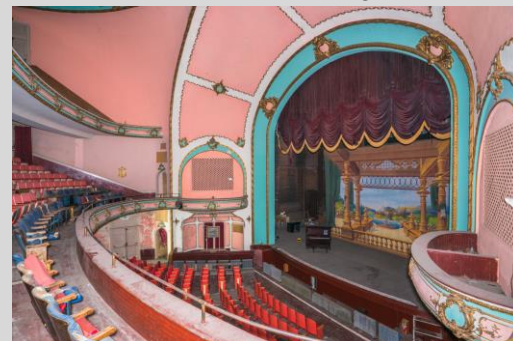
Reimagine and modernize Colorado's built environment to be both climate and hazard resilient and environmentally sustainable.

Progress & Accomplishments

- Funded by [SB 21-252](#), Colorado Creative Industries' launched [Community Revitalization Grants](#) for organizations looking to revitalize buildings or start new construction. To be eligible, projects must meet energy efficiency criteria including renewable energy sources, electric vehicle charging stations, all-electric building upgrades, water efficiency, HVAC improvements, and more. [Ten projects](#) received funding in 2021: Fox West Theater Rehabilitation (\$3.4M), Full Plate Management Company Fuel & Iron (\$1M), Chaffee Housing Authority Jane's Place (\$1.3M), Chaffee County Creativity Center (\$450K), RiNo Art Park Project (\$1.25M), The Commons at Space to Create Trinidad (\$1.55M), Wonderbound in Northeast Park Hill, FreshLo in Montbello, the St. Cloud Hotel in Cañon City and Space to Create Ridgway.
- In August 2021, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) added a publicly available [appendix on Resilience](#) to its Statewide Transportation Plan (2020). It includes a resiliency overview, recommendations on how to incorporate resiliency into transportation and infrastructure planning, resiliency evaluation tools, an interactive asset resiliency mapping application, and a project development resiliency toolkit.
- The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) Energy Code Program launched additional assistance including: 1) A free [Code Helpline](#) service where anyone can submit a question on a wide range of building code topics. 2) Customized free [technical assistance and training](#) for jurisdictions adopting either the 2018 or 2021 International Codes (I-codes), 3) An expanded and updated [Code Adoption Toolkit](#) with

Community Spotlight

The historic [Fox West Theater](#) on Main Street in Trinidad is in the middle of a multi-year, multi-million dollar restoration to make it a cultural and performing arts hub that meets modern energy standards. The restoration project is a partnership between the City of Trinidad, Dana Crawford and Urban Neighbors, Inc. of Denver, the Theatre Historical Society of America, DOLA, CDPHE, History Colorado, and the Environmental Protection Agency. It is being revitalized with funding from several state grant programs and other sources. Early work focused on restoring and stabilizing the exterior, and later phases of the project will require the construction of an annex building to house the equipment needed for modern heating, cooling, and fire suppression systems. In January 2021, the Fox was awarded pilot project status through the Heritage Energy Pilot Program, a joint effort of DOLA, History Colorado, and the Colorado Energy Office. It later received \$250K from the Main Street Open for Business grant program and, in October 2021, was awarded a \$3.45 million Colorado Creative Industries grant.



helpful checklists, code comparisons, compliance resources, and sample code amendment language to assist Colorado jurisdictions through the process of energy code adoption.

- The Department of Local Affairs launched the [Heritage Energy Pilot](#) that offers interagency collaboration to combine quality historic preservation in Colorado Main Street districts with statewide energy goals. Three projects were selected: the Fox Theatre in Trinidad, the Bank Building in Ridgway, and the Herald-Democrat Building in Leadville.
- Discussions began between DOLA and CDPHE's Health Equity Office and Health Equity Branch to investigate the potential for a resilience hub model to be applied and built out in Colorado. This inter-agency collaboration will move forward in 2022 by forming a Colorado Resilience Hub workgroup to continue the investigation.
- Funded with \$30M from [SB 21-110](#), CDOT's [Revitalizing Main Streets](#) program helped communities implement transportation-related projects to improve safety and yield long-term benefits to community main streets. In August 2021, 16 projects totaling \$22M were selected from across the state. With the \$85M additional funding from [SB 21-260](#), there is now ongoing funding to be spent over the next 10 years.
- As part of GHG Roadmap implementation efforts, CDOT formed a Land Use Stakeholder Group to align with the goals of the [CRF](#), several DNR climate directives, [CDOT's GHG rules](#), and the [CDPHE Improvement Plan](#). This interagency group began investigating tools to help local governments reach their sustainable development and downtown revitalization goals. A final report to the state legislature will be distributed in early 2022.



AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY (AF)

Cultivate a robust state and local food system, from agriculture to distribution and consumption.

Progress & Accomplishments

- [HB21-1242](#) created the Agriculture Drought and Climate Resilience Office within the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) to provide voluntary technical assistance, programs, and incentives that increase the ability to anticipate, prepare for, mitigate, adapt to, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to drought or the climate.
- The passage of [HB 21-1181](#) in summer 2021 authorized CDA to run the [Soil Health](#) program. As part of the bill, the CDA set up a Soil Health Advisory Committee in 2021. The program received \$2M from [SB 21-235](#) stimulus funding which must be disbursed by December 2022.
- With \$3M from [SB 21-234](#)'s drought resiliency stimulus funding, CDA distributed \$15K in 2021 to each of 75 conservation districts to support their current efforts. CDA reviewed 90 applications totaling \$8 million in requests for the \$1.57M [Competitive Grant Program](#) to provide funding for direct agriculture drought/wildfire response and mitigation or planning/technical assistance that directly benefits producers. Funding must be spent by September 2022.
- [SB 21-235](#) allocated \$3M to the [Acre 3](#) program to provide financial and technical assistance and education to help agricultural producers and processors cut energy costs, develop their own energy resources, and create markets for agriculturally derived energy and fuels. In 2021, Acre 3 had 49 projects at various stages of qualification and approval, including 12 awards for 23 energy efficiency projects, 6 energy-recovery hydropower projects, 13 conventional solar PV projects, 4 agrivoltaics projects, and 3 solar hot water feasibility studies. All \$3M was under

contract by the end of December 2021, and the projects will be under construction through Spring 2022.

- The Colorado GHG Roadmap identified natural climate solutions as a key strategy for Colorado in achieving its climate change mitigation objectives and called for the development of a statewide strategic plan to inform actions on natural and working lands (NWL). In developing this statewide plan, CWCB held five workshops to engage with the agricultural community, forest owners and managers, conservation organizations, and the broader public on wetland and riparian areas, grasslands and rangeland, urban greening, croplands, and forests. The plan will be completed by 2022.

Community Spotlight

[Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project](#)

(MORP) works to preserve Colorado's fruit growing heritage and restore an orchard culture and economy to the southwestern region. MORP helps farmers and students of all ages care for and benefit from historic fruit trees in a region that suffers from drought, agriculture water shortages, and one of the highest poverty rates in Colorado. MORP is strengthening the local food system with value-added market opportunities. MORP has stacked various sources of funding (including DOLA's Rural Economic Development Initiative, CWCB, Nature Conservancy) from across the state, nonprofits, and private foundations to complete different phases of their project. In doing so, they have leveraged smaller grant opportunities to realize larger projects and a bigger vision for opportunities in the orchard industry. In leveraging these resources, they have been able to purchase an orchard hub and mobile press, create irrigation efficiencies for preservation orchards, and soon will be building a shared community storage and processing facility. In the next phases of the project, they will build out classroom facilities and a commercial kitchen to support education and entrepreneurship in the orchard industry.





HOUSING ATTAINABILITY (HA)

Increase supply of attainable housing throughout Colorado, including affordable housing options for workforce populations and those who most experience marginalizing.

Progress & Accomplishments

- [HB21-1271](#) appropriated \$48M for the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to create three new programs to offer state assistance to local governments to promote innovative affordable housing solutions: 1) [Incentives Grant Program](#) provided grants to develop affordable housing developments, 2) [Planning Grant Program](#) provided grants to fund local housing needs assessments to inform land use code refinements to incentivize the development of affordable housing, and 3) [Toolkit Program](#) offered technical assistance to local governments who understand their housing needs and are committed to changing their land use code to incentivize affordable housing development. Funding began in 2021 and must be spent by June 30, 2024.
- In July 2021, the DOLA Division of Housing (DOH) and the Strategic Housing Working Group released a final report for [Affordable Housing Recommendations](#) to advance and meet Colorado's affordable housing needs. This included recommendations to the State Housing Board on long-term strategies to achieve the state's housing policy.
- As of October 2021, DOH's Colorado's [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) (ERAP) expended \$93.7M of the \$223M Consolidated Appropriations Act (ERA1) allocation dedicated to direct household assistance and anticipates to fully expend the original allocation to Colorado by the ERA1 September 2022 deadline. DOH also worked to roll out the ERA2 funds made available under the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds expanded the eligibility criteria and extended the maximum length of assistance available to households. Funds will be available through September 2025.
- DOH's Office of Housing Recovery (OHR) administered the new [Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program](#) (EMAP) as a pilot program to

Community Spotlight

Momentum to address the housing crisis continued to build in 2021 as communities across Colorado turned to ballot initiatives in November to address local needs. Roughly a dozen ballot initiatives across the state sought to deal with the lack of affordable housing. For example, voters overwhelmingly supported levying additional taxes on short-term rentals. Short-term rental property owners in Avon (70% voted yes), Crested Butte (75% voted yes), Leadville (70% voted yes), Ouray (57% voted yes) and Telluride (55% voted yes) will now be paying more to support the local community, with much of the extra money going toward funding housing initiatives. In Vail, 54% voted to increase sales tax to fund housing initiatives, developments, and programs. In Denver, 65% voted to approve a housing bond of \$38.6M for repairs and improvement to the city's housing and sheltering system, and 68% voted to not repeal the new group living amendments passed by City Council earlier in the year to increase the number of unrelated adults who could live together. The Colorado housing ballot measures underscore the urgency to address the housing crisis and the public's support of initiatives to address it.



disburse the initial 10% of the state’s allocation of federal Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF). EMAP provided financial assistance on behalf of income-eligible households experiencing financial hardship associated with the COVID-19 crisis. \$17.5M was available and applications opened in November 2021 with plans to disburse all HAF funds by September 2025.

- DOH developed a public tracking [dashboard](#) to communicate the expenditure trend of the pandemic relief housing funds. Funding and payments can be filtered by county and type.
- Through [Operation Turn-Key](#), DOH requested applications for funding for the acquisition of land and/or existing properties suitable for the purpose of providing or developing non-congregate shelter, supportive housing, or affordable housing for extremely low-income individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness. Additional funds were also requested for the renting of and providing tenant support services within the same properties to provide shelter or housing for households at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Up to \$50M is available and applications will be accepted through April 2022. This funding was available from [SB21-242](#) and [HB21-1329](#).
- DOH partnered with the Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) and Thistle Communities to fund mobile home park projects to form entities for residents to acquire and maintain ownership of their parks in lieu of commercial purchase and loss of park residences. This innovative cooperative model eliminates the homeowners' risk of displacement, gives them more control over lot rent fluctuations, and preserves affordable homeownership.



COMMUNITY CAPACITY (CC)

Empower Colorado communities to improve local resilience, equity, and capacity.

Progress & Accomplishments

- Following Governor Polis’ 2020 [executive order](#), equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) were incorporated into many state programs in 2021, including, but not limited to, DOLA’s [Regional Resiliency and Recovery Roadmaps](#) and [Innovative Affordable Housing Strategies Planning Grant](#) programs, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s [Outdoor Equity Program](#) (H21-1318).
- The Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration developed numerous [tools and resources](#) to help all levels of state government bring an equity mindset to their systems, policies, and everyday work as public servants. Resources include equitable hiring and retention guides and tools to advance EDI. Several state agencies have hired EDI staff, including CDPHE’s new [Equity Office](#), Colorado Department of Higher Education’s (CDHE) first-ever [Chief Educational Equity Officer](#), and CDOT’s hiring of a Chief Equity Officer for Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships.
- The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) released its [Equity Action Plan 2021-2025](#) which outlines the overarching activities the CDHS hopes to accomplish over the next 3-5 years through deliberate actions to improve processes, culture and engagement of its employees and with the communities it serves. The plan aims to tackle the long-standing barriers to achieving

a more equitable delivery of human services and chart a roadmap forward for this ongoing work.

- As part of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap, CDPHE developed the [Climate Equity Framework](#) to help ensure that Colorado's response to climate change is guided by principles of racial equity and economic justice. The Framework provides key principles to help ensure the state's response to climate change considers equity every step of the way, shares best practices in outreach and engagement with marginalized communities, outlines a plan for stakeholder engagement for greenhouse gas reduction rulemakings, and provides a set of questions to help consider potential equity impacts of implementing rules.
- To be completed in June 2022, CDPHE and a team at CSU started developing an enhanced environmental health screening tool. The new [Colorado EnviroScreen mapping tool](#) will enable users to identify disproportionately impacted (DI) communities. The final version will replace the [Climate Equity Data Viewer](#) and the [Data Viewer for DI Communities](#).
- The CRO launched its [Resiliency and Recovery Roadmaps](#) program to support 16 regional community teams to improve their local community and economic resiliency and capacity after COVID-19. This program will continue until 2023.
- The CRO added a robust peer exchange platform to its [website](#) for local governments to collaborate and explore topics of resiliency, Covid recovery, wildfire recovery, and the Roadmaps program. The CRO also facilitates regular Covid recovery and wildfire recovery virtual peer exchanges that attract participants from local governments across the state.
- With the update of its website [coresiliency.com](#), the CRO launched new tools for communities to improve local resiliency and capacity, including a [resiliency toolkit](#), [post-disaster recovery toolkit](#), and [pre-disaster recovery planning guide](#).

Community Spotlight

During the first six-month period of the Resiliency and Recovery Roadmaps program, the CRO hired four regional recovery managers and selected 16 regional community teams from a pool of 18 applications. With the regional teams in place, the Phase 1 Groundwork Phase was completed in November. The CRO competitively procured and paired roadmap consultants with each regional team and the Planning Phase work will continue through 2022. Regional teams expressed success in strengthened partnership within their teams, as well as engaging with state partnership team members (DOLA, OEDIT, and CDLE). Some regional teams made up of existing partnerships expressed that they have been able to dive deeper into long-discussed ideas.



NEXT STEPS

In 2021, as we continued to respond to the pandemic, we came together with a shared responsibility to move the CRF resiliency priorities forward. The progress outlined here is a testament to cross-sector collaboration. The tremendous progress made in 2021 to advance the priorities was catalyzed by an infusion of funding through Federal and State stimulus packages in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. State agencies acted quickly and effectively to stand up new programs and disburse the funds to local

governments to use for important recovery projects. Many of the programs and projects outlined here will continue into next year and beyond.

As we look toward 2022, the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed on November 5, 2021 will inject billions of dollars into Colorado over the next five years, including wildfire management. While the full details and the implications for Colorado are still being determined, we can expect unprecedented funding to support transit, broadband infrastructure, utility networks, energy systems, and resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of climate change. This historic funding opportunity aligns with the resiliency priorities and we expect it to be an additional catalyst for the 5-year strategic plan.