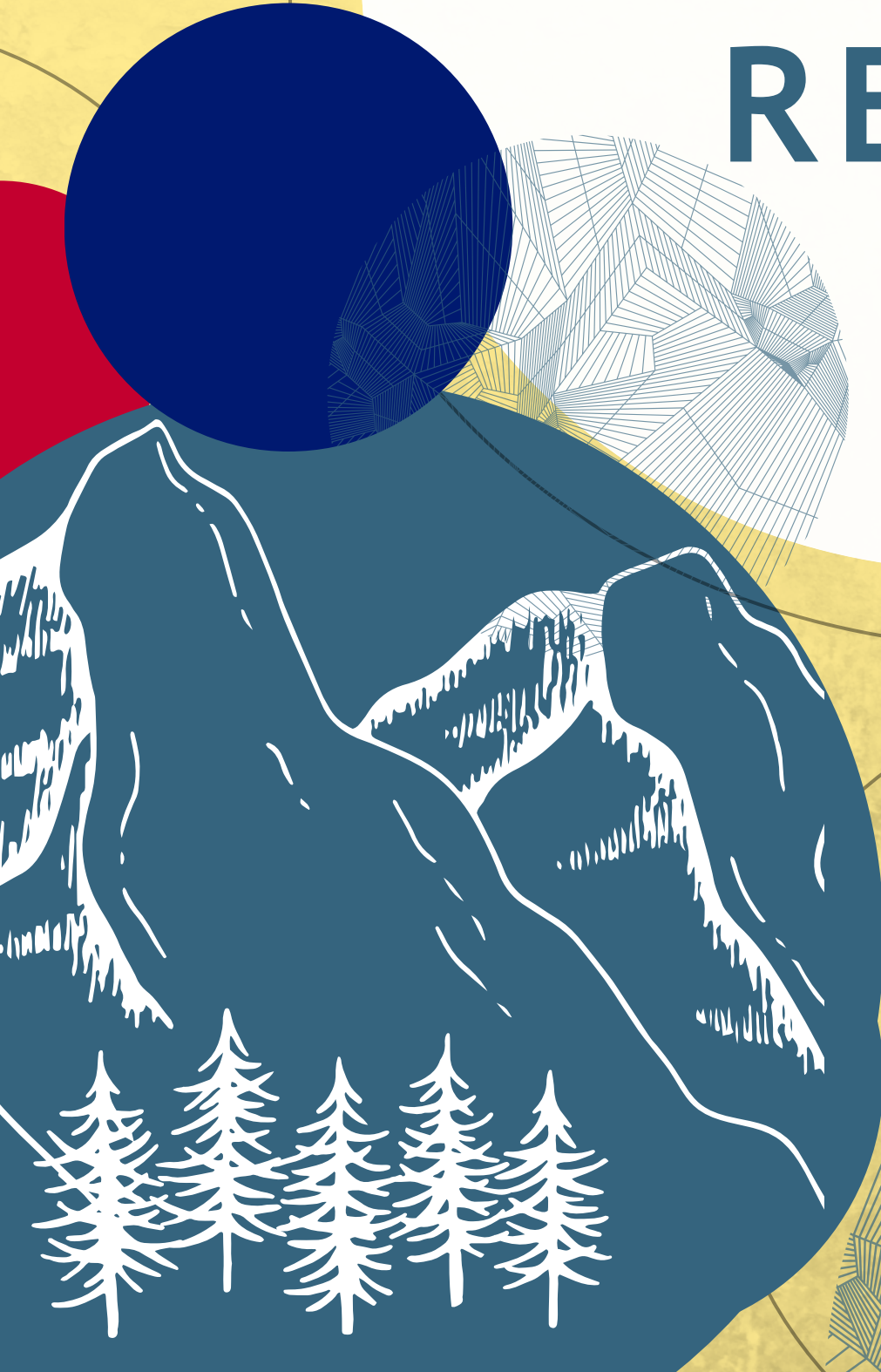




COLORADO

COLORADO RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK
ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT

2022



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A LOOK AT 2022

In 2022, while the state of the COVID-19 Pandemic has shifted, we continue to assess the impact of the previous two years, including how we might continue to learn and grow from multiple disruptions. The global pandemic was devastating but also provided a pivotal moment, sparking innovation, complex problem-solving, and an awareness of just how closely connected we are across the world.

Here in Colorado, the year also began in the aftermath of the most destructive wildfire in our state - the Marshall Wildfire. This fire, spurred by over 90 mile per hour winds, occurred on December 30, and caused massive destruction in Boulder County and the communities of Louisville and Superior. While wildfires are common in our state, as this event was preceded by three of the largest wildfires in state history in the year 2020 alone, a fire that burns down over 1,000 homes in an urban environment is not. This event not only illuminated how we perceive the traditional wildland-urban interface, but was a testament to the fact that our environment is actively seeing the impacts of climate change, and resulting in larger, more severe fires that now have the potential to occur year-round.

And while the last few years have been incredibly difficult across our state, 2022 was another year in which we showcased our inherent resilience here in Colorado. It was another year in which we banded together, sought and provided support to one another, and continued moving our state forward to a more resilient future.

In 2022, we also saw continued unprecedented funding including rolling out programs associated with the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, a historic piece of bi-partisan legislation that provides an opportunity for resilient investments to transform our future. Whether this be in providing financial solutions for infrastructure needs that have spanned decades, or new innovations that launch us forward into a climate adaptive future, this will have a huge impact here in Colorado.

In 2022 we faced many challenges, and while we have more that lie ahead, it is with great pride that we issue the next iteration of the Colorado Resiliency Framework Annual Progress Report, to showcase the incredible work that is happening across our state toward a resilient future. We continue to make great strides forward with an all-hands on deck, inter-agency effort that you will see reflected in this report.



COLORADO
Resiliency Office
Department of Local Affairs

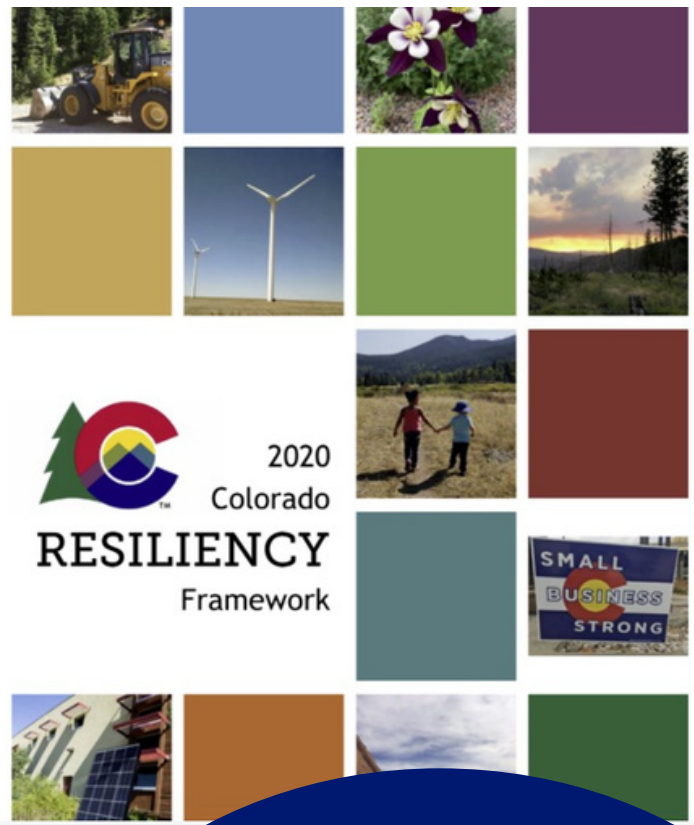
Questions about this report? Contact Shayle Sabo,
Resiliency Program Manager at shayle.sabo@state.co.us

BACKGROUND ON THE COLORADO RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK



A first-of-its kind document, the original draft of the Colorado Resiliency Framework was released in 2015 and showcased Colorado’s ability and determination to build back with a resiliency strategy after the 2012 wildfires and 2013 flooding events. Despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic, in 2020 the Colorado Resiliency Office (CRO) kept true to its 5-year planning cycle and successfully updated the Colorado Resiliency Framework (CRF) to provide a roadmap for the state to a more resilient future.

The Colorado Resiliency Framework is grounded in a holistic approach, identifying and addressing emerging challenges and new opportunities for Colorado across six key sectors. The sectors include Community, Economic, Health and Social, Housing, Infrastructure, and Watersheds and Natural Resources.



 2020
Colorado
RESILIENCY
Framework

LOOKING ACROSS 4 PRIMARY THEMES



ADAPTING TO OUR CHANGING CLIMATE



UNDERSTANDING RISKS FROM NATURAL & OTHER HAZARDS



ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUITIES & UNIQUE COMMUNITY NEEDS



PURSUING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY & VIBRANCY

COLORADO RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK VISION

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.

COLORADO RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION



The CRF provides 29 strategies across six priority areas 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.

SIX PRIORITY AREAS



**AGRICULTURE &
FOOD SECURITY**



**BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE
SUSTAINABILITY**



**CLIMATE & NATURAL
HAZARD RESILIENCY**



**COMMUNITY
CAPACITY**



**FUTURE-READY ECONOMY &
WORKFORCE**



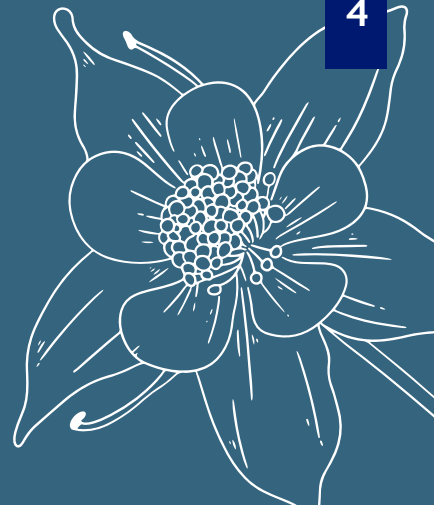
**HOUSING
ATTAINABILITY**

To be successful in achieving the vision and commitment to a more resilient future in Colorado, this work cannot be done in isolation. To achieve the future we desire requires a commitment to action and engagement as well as intentional collaboration across all State agencies. The Colorado Resiliency Framework serves both as a guiding and visionary document for our state, but also can be thought of as the strategic thread that is interwoven through all State resiliency efforts and strategic plans.

The Colorado Resiliency Office convenes and facilitates the Colorado Resiliency Working Group (CRWG) as the cross-collaborative and strategic leadership team that oversees and coordinates resiliency activities across State agencies.

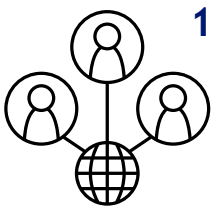
To drive this work forward, the Framework includes strategies outlined in six priority areas, as well as two overarching strategies, in order to enhance resiliency and ensure a vibrant and livable future for all.

RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK PROGRESS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022

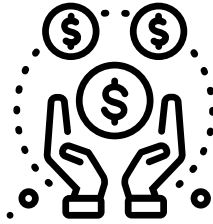


OVERARCHING STRATEGIES

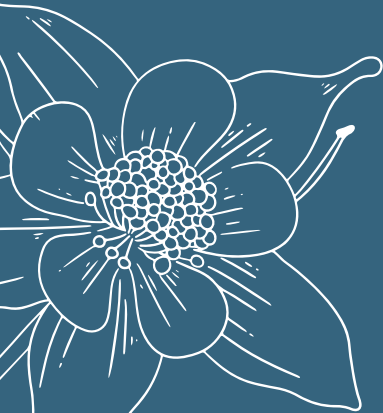
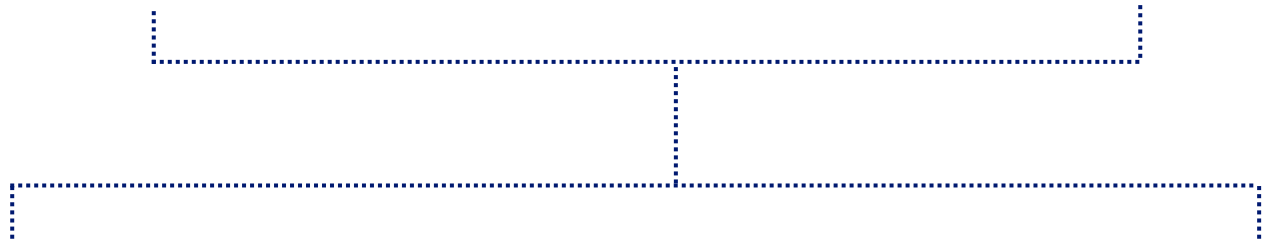
While most of the strategies closely align with one of the six priorities, two strategies are broad and include foundational activities that will connect and strengthen all the resiliency priorities:



1. ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY/REGIONAL PROGRAM



2. ATTRACT AND LEVERAGE RESILIENCY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



In the following pages of this report is a summary of the key accomplishments and areas of progress made in 2022 as they relate to the 2020 Colorado Resiliency Framework and its associated four primary theme areas.



AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY (AF)

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

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

AF1. PROMOTE & PROTECT WORKING LANDS

AF2. ADVANCE REGENERATIVE FARMING PRACTICES

AF3. SUPPORT INNOVATIONS & NEW MARKETS

AF4. BOLSTER NEXT GENERATION FARM & AGRICULTURE WORKERS

AF5. INTEGRATE FOOD & AGRICULTURE IN LOCAL PLANNING



A COLORADO WIN!



Colorado's Department of Agriculture was one of only two state agencies in the nation to receive \$25m from the US Department of Agriculture's Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Grant. This funding will be used to support more than 400 producers to implement healthy soil practices through technical and financial assistance. This will lead to better soil health, increased carbon sequestration, and increased water retention, among many other benefits. Additionally, this funding will support Colorado State University and other land grant universities to conduct research in Colorado and six other western states to understand the carbon and water benefits of healthy soil practices, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) to promote market development for "climate-smart" agricultural products.



AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY (AF)

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

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS



ADAPTING TO OUR CLIMATE

In 2022, much progress was made to address climate change as it relates to sustainable agriculture and food systems.

- A collaborative effort between the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA), the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (CDNR), and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program resulted in the first of its kind Strategic Plan for Climate Smart Natural and Working Lands. This plan, which is set for full release in 2023, outlines strategies for our natural and working lands to flourish.



UNDERSTANDING RISKS FROM NATURAL & OTHER HAZARDS

- As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, a total of \$5m in federal funding has been allocated for technical assistance grants that will enable eligible entities to work with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) contractors or hire contractors to expand their capacity and expertise, in pursuit of federal funding opportunities that directly support the Colorado Water Plan objectives. The new 2023 Water Plan provides a framework to meet water challenges around water development and conservation and includes 4 action areas:
 1. Vibrant Communities
 2. Robust Agriculture
 3. Thriving Watersheds
 4. Resilient Planning



PURSUING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY & VIBRANCY

- With the passage of HB22-1380, CDA will administer small grants to make fresh, healthy food more accessible to low-income and underserved communities. CDA hired a program manager to begin this work and this program will also create a consortium of small food retailers and Colorado farmers to discuss access issues.
- Additionally, as both an economic benefit as well as a way to improve food access, CDA will roll out a new Community Food Access Grant Program, also created under HB22-1380, establishing "micro-groceries," in which small grocery retailers shops and retailers provide fresh fruits and vegetables for their customers.



AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY (AF)

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

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS



ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUITIES & UNIQUE COMMUNITY NEEDS

A resilient food system is one where vulnerability in communities is reduced and all members of the community have access to resources.

- \$200k in funding was allocated to CDA under [HB22-1329](#) in last year's legislative cycle to provide [mental health grants to rural communities](#), expanding services to rural communities including farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers and their families.

Additionally, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) made significant progress in addressing food security issues through several initiatives:

- This includes the development of the [Colorado Code Project](#), a guidebook compiling best practices, a land use code checklist, and a toolkit for equitable food access made in partnership with the American Planning Association and the Healthy Communities Committee.
- CDPHE also implemented the following initiatives from the [2021 Farm to Child Roadmap](#): capacity building, increasing purchasing power, and racial, linguistic, & economic justice through workgroups, action, and work plans.
- CDPHE administered grants addressing public health including funds through the [Cancer, Cardiovascular, and Chronic Pulmonary Disease Grants Program](#), and the [Health Disparities and Community Grant Program](#) in which several grantees are leading activities to address food access and food security with CDPHE providing technical assistance on how environmental policy and environmental change can influence local nutritional security goals.
- Lastly, in 2022 CDPHE also helped to fund an initiative from Boulder County Parks and Open Space and Boulder County Public Health to facilitate institutional purchasing for locally grown beans from farmers on lands transitioning away from genetically engineered crops. This initiative focuses on growing and sourcing local beans to help increase the nutritional profile of meals for priority populations.

ADVANCING COLORADO'S RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY (ACRE3) PROGRAM | UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE'S HYDRO PROJECT

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Since the beginning of FY 2022, the [ACRE3 Program](#) has awarded grants to 44 on-farm energy projects in 15 Colorado counties. Using this funding, three hydroelectric turbines (48 kW) were installed (10 to be installed in total) this year on irrigation

pipelines at the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Farm & Ranch Enterprise in Towaoc, CO, which will have energy and cost savings, as well as water efficiency improvements while also yielding production.



BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY (BI)

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

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

BI1. INTEGRATE RESILIENCY IN STATE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

BI3. ESTABLISH MODEL CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE STANDARDS

BI5. PROMOTE ADAPTIVE REUSE & RETROFITTING

BI2. IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE & LAND USE COORDINATION

BI4. ENSURE CLIMATE-RESILIENT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

BI6. GROW A NETWORK OF RESILIENCY HUBS



IIJA PROVIDES A PATHWAY TO MOVE COLORADO FORWARD

The passing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investments & Jobs Act (IIJA) has paved the way for major improvement to our state's infrastructure. This historic legislation has now created an opportunity to make sweeping investments into existing infrastructure, as well as long-lasting, climate adaptive, and resilient infrastructure, such as electrification of transportation, or utilizing more sustainable forms of energy while increasing efficiency. Through 2022, the State has been implementing plans and programs to support local communities in securing funding for projects. Take a look at some of the grants that will soon be available through the Colorado Energy Office (CEO):



- Public Building Electrification Grant
- High Efficiency Electric Heating & Appliances Grant
- Geothermal Energy Grant Program



BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY (BI)

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

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

ADAPTING TO OUR CLIMATE

- A directive of the [Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap](#) released in 2021, the [Land Use in Colorado Research Report](#) was developed in 2022. The study "explores options for how best to incentivize smart land use decisions" while recognizing the complexity of stakeholders involved in land use issues in Colorado.
- Additionally, State funding was leveraged in grant programs through the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and CEO that supported retrofitting and preserving existing buildings and infrastructure while also increasing energy efficiency. This was done through the [Heritage Energy Pilot Program](#) which provided funding and resources for historic preservation of buildings while incorporating renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUITIES & UNIQUE COMMUNITY NEEDS

- The CEO released the [Colorado Electric Vehicles \(EV\) Equity Study](#) this year that incorporates ways to prioritize disproportionately impacted communities by such actions as establishing larger EV charging incentives for affordable housing complexes and siting hosts in disproportionately impacted communities, a mapping tool that provides information on equity, health, and transportation electrification indicators and a prioritization tool which assists in targeting outreach efforts and evaluating transportation electrification projects and policies was also released in conjunction with this study.
- The Environmental Justice Task Force, which was established last year as a result of [HB21-1266](#) compiled and submitted their [final recommendations](#) (including those that relate to the built environment) to the legislature, Governor's Office, and CDPHE in 2022. These recommendations were drafted over the span of almost a year, consisting of 33 subcommittee meetings over 77 hours, and receiving over 300 written public comments.

PURSUING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY & VIBRANCY

- Through the DOLA [Main Street Open for Business Grant](#), which was enabled by [SB21-252](#), eligible entities were able to provide incentive programs for local business owners to improve both energy efficiency and/or aesthetics of commercial buildings in traditional downtowns. In 2022, of the requests received, \$6.7m in projects were funded in 16 communities for 102 businesses, 65 of these being disadvantaged business enterprises.

UNDERSTANDING RISKS FROM NATURAL & OTHER HAZARDS

- The CRO developed the groundwork for the [Microgrids for Community Resilience Program](#), which will launch at the beginning of 2023. The program was established by [HB 22-1013](#), which set aside \$3.5m for grants to rural utilities bolster their grid resiliency and reduce impacts from extreme weather events. See more detail on this program on the next page!



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.

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

CN1. ALIGN CLIMATE CHANGE DATA, METRICS, & STANDARDS

CN3. INTEGRATE FOREST HEALTH & WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION INTO LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK & EXPOSURE



CN2. RESILIENT WATERSHED-BASED MANAGEMENT & BEST PRACTICES PLANNING & PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

CN4. BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY, RESOURCES, & INCENTIVES TO IMPLEMENT RESILIENCY PROJECTS

LEVERAGING IIJA CREATES OPPORTUNITY



The passing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investments & Jobs Act (IIJA) provides an opportunity for Colorado to launch forward in bolstering our infrastructure to be climate adaptive. Resiliency is at the core of much of this federal funding (as a matter of fact, the term "resilience" is mentioned in the IIJA legislation over 100 times!), as well as the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act. It is estimated that Colorado is eligible for over 200 programs related to IIJA.

The Colorado Resiliency Office, in partnership with the Colorado Energy Office (CEO), is soon launching the [Microgrids for Community Resilience Program](#). This new grant opportunity was made available through [HB22-1013](#), and is being bolstered with IIJA funding through the CEO. This partnership is an example of efforts working toward the Resiliency Framework Overarching Goal 2, which seeks to attract and leverage resiliency funding opportunities!



SUMMARY OF PROGRESS



ADAPTING TO OUR CLIMATE

- Passage of [SB22-206](#) resulted in the establishment of the new Office of Climate Preparedness and Recovery, which will coordinate disaster recovery efforts for the Governor's Office and develop, publish, and implement the statewide climate preparedness roadmap.
- 2022 saw progress in climate-conscious resiliency planning, including 1) completion of Phase 1 of the Climate Change in Colorado Report (Phase 2 anticipated to be completed by the end of the fiscal year), which refreshes data and future climate projections, and 2) the [Colorado Water Plan Update](#), which determines necessary actions for water resiliency in Colorado, set for final release in early 2023.
- Additional planning efforts include those around extreme heat, which includes an interagency State working group and statewide educational and collaborative efforts, including the launch of the [Colorado Heat and Health webpage](#) and an extreme heat online forum for local governments and public health agencies.



UNDERSTANDING RISKS FROM NATURAL & OTHER HAZARDS

- The Marshall Wildfire at the end of 2021 was a humbling reminder of the ways in which natural hazards are likely to be exacerbated by climate change, resulting in more frequent and severe disasters. In 2022, progress was made particularly in the area of wildfire mitigation, helping reduce our vulnerability to this primary hazard in our state. Efforts include the granting of \$14.5m of [Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program](#) funding to local communities for fuels reduction projects, as well as initiating the process this year to implement the [Wildfire Ready Watersheds Program](#) passed by the Colorado legislature in 2021. This program directed \$30m to the Colorado Water Conservation Board to address post-wildfire impacts to Colorado communities prior to wildfires occurring.
- Additionally, the Colorado Fire Commission held committees in 2022 to advance solutions to reduce wildfire risk, including recommendations for a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code Board, and are in the process of preparing for the 2023 Legislative Session.



ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUITIES & UNIQUE COMMUNITY NEEDS

- This year the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) launched the [Colorado EnviroScreen](#) tool, which seeks to identify disproportionate impacts of climate change to communities across our state and to better support communities in incorporating data-driven outcomes related to environmental justice.



PURSUING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY & VIBRANCY

- The State of Colorado was a participant in the development and standing up of the [Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network](#), a community-based collaborative which seeks to share stories, lessons learned, information, and additionally compile, share, and assist with funding and other capacity-building opportunities.



COMMUNITY CAPACITY (CC)

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

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

CC1. INTEGRATE EQUITY INTO RESILIENCE PLANNING & ACTIONS



CC2. DEVELOP & DEPLOY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CIVIC CAPACITY TOOLS

CC3. STRENGTHEN LOCAL RESILIENCY PLANNING & PEER NETWORKS

THE SAN LUIS VALLEY | A STORYMAP OF THE CO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STORY TELLING PROJECT

Located in the south-central region of Colorado and northern New Mexico, the San Luis Valley is home to a thriving community with a rich and unique history and culture. With less than seven inches of rainfall a year, the San Luis Valley holds together a vast agricultural economy, while having been stricken with devastating drought conditions for the past two decades. Climate change is exacerbating this challenge by making drought more likely over time. Despite the sparse water supplies and over-allocation of water rights in the Rio Grande, there have been proposed projects to

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

divert water from San Luis Valley's rural communities elsewhere. Community members living in many parts of the San Luis Valley also face greater environmental health risks than other Coloradoans as indicated by each county's [Colorado EnviroScreen Score](#). However, impacted members of the community are using their voices to build awareness and take action. Learn more about how San Luis Valley community members, farmers, ranchers, and conservationists are collaborating to maintain the robust agricultural economy despite the challenges presented by the drought [here](#).



COMMUNITY CAPACITY (CC)

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

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS



ADAPTING TO OUR CLIMATE

- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), in partnership with other State agencies including the Colorado Energy Office (CEO), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), and the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) developed and released the Climate Equity Framework this year, which serves as a guidance document that outlines ways the State can build equity considerations into the Greenhouse Gas reduction rulemaking process for disproportionately impacted communities in Colorado. This Framework was developed in conjunction with the aforementioned EnviroScreen Tool.



UNDERSTANDING RISKS FROM NATURAL & OTHER HAZARDS

- The "Infrastructure & Strong Communities Program" created in 2022 will be collaboratively led by DOLA, CEO, and CDOT. The program will invest in local governments to drive more sustainable development patterns, lead to more affordable housing development, reduce risk, and improve community health by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled and by increasing walkability and multimodal connectivity.



PURSUING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY & VIBRANCY

- In order to better support local communities in leveraging available funding efforts, the CRO took the lead on relaunching the Local Community Funding Guide to include resources beyond recovery funding, and with improved navigation features. This was also done in tandem with the launching of the "Pathways to Recovery & Resiliency Funding" webinar series, which walks local communities through existing and upcoming funding opportunities.



ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUITIES & UNIQUE COMMUNITY NEEDS

- The challenge of capacity often results in many communities experiencing inequities, particularly when it comes to accessing and securing funding. In 2022, a lot of focus was put on implementing solutions for improving community capacity including development of the Colorado Community Engagement Toolkit, a resource created in partnership with CDPHE, CDOT, and the Safe Routes Partnership to improve equitable community relationships with organizations.
- Additionally, DOLA's Planning 101 Guidance was updated to include more information and guidance on community engagement, and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the Office of the State Controller (OSC) started hosting office hours to support local communities seeking IJA and ARPA State & Local Fiscal Recovery funds. In 2023, OEDIT is providing funds for Regional Navigation Specialists to support communities in seeking funds for local needs.
- 2022 also saw the continuation of collaborative working groups and calls including the CRO Peer Exchanges and the Local Government Coordination Call to provide support for navigating local issues, which also supports the Overarching Goal 1 of statewide network and regional program development.



FUTURE-READY ECONOMY & WORKFORCE (EW)

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

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

EW1. EXPAND DIGITAL EQUITY, ACCESS, & PREPAREDNESS

EW2. ADVANCE EQUITABLE HIRING & MODERN BENEFITS

EW3. DEVELOP RURAL ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION ROADMAPS & STRATEGIES

EW4. SUPPORT COMMUNITIES & INDUSTRIES IN ECONOMIC TRANSITION



EW5. PROMOTE RESILIENCY JOBS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

LAMAR, COLORADO | A HISTORIC INDUSTRY RETURNS

Lamar was historically home to sewn goods manufacturers. New opportunities have arisen to help cultivate and reinforce this industry. The Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) is working with local higher education institutions including Lamar Community College to bolster a 5-year industrial sewing certification program that has an innovative approach to teaching skills in the sewing industry. This partnership will ensure this industry will sustain into the future for our state. A DOLA Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant, managed by the CRO, will also be supporting this program.



FUTURE-READY ECONOMY & WORKFORCE (EW)

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

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS



PURSUING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY & VIBRANCY

- Colorado's Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) received \$5m of State stimulus funding, which expanded the reach and impact of this economic resiliency grant program, managed by the DOLA Colorado Resiliency Office. See some examples of projects on the next page!
- The Office of Just Transition (OJT) approved nearly \$5m in grant funding for coal transition communities' economic transition that leveraged an additional \$9.5 million in state and federal funding.
- The Rural Opportunity Office within OEDIT also redesigned the Rural Technical Assistance Program in 2022 to better meet the needs of rural Colorado communities. Now a two-part process, the first phase is a series of baseline and topic-specific economic development education modules hosted on an online learning platform and available to all rural communities. The second phase is a competitive program for additional technical assistance and implementation funding around key topics presented in the educational modules. Additionally in 2022, the Rural Opportunity Office launched a Rural Data Dashboard and the Colorado Film Office Education and Film Festival Grant. Between those modules, 87 communities accessed core education content and a Film Festival Grant Program was awarded to Pueblo, CO.



ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUITIES & UNIQUE COMMUNITY NEEDS

The COVID-19 pandemic illuminated the criticality of internet access. Increased funding, including that associated with the Infrastructure Improvements and Jobs Act (IIJA), is providing opportunities for Colorado to move its goal of digital equity forward.

- The Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) is taking the lead on building State plans for broadband deployment and infrastructure, and on implementing action in alignment with the Digital Equity Act. Additionally, in 2022 the Broadband Deployment Board (BDB) awarded more than \$22.8m (the most funding awarded during a BDB grant cycle in the board's 8-year history!) to 15 broadband projects that will connect 4,267 households in 11 counties to high speed internet.
- The CBO also announced its Colorado Broadband Roadmap in October this year, which is the State's 5-year strategic plan to connect 99% of Colorado households to high-speed internet by 2027, per Executive Order 2022 023.
- The Colorado Workforce Development Center has also released the Job Quality Framework, which is a pilot program that supports employers in assessing and improving their job quality for employees. Additionally, OEDIT continues to receive funding to support minority and small business with a small business loan coming online soon.
- Colorado also continues to make progress in equitable hiring and modern benefits efforts, including the implementation of skills-based hiring practices per Executive Order 2022 015 and initial progress in the standing up of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, with modern protections and benefits.



FUTURE-READY ECONOMY & WORKFORCE (EW)

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

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS



ADAPTING TO OUR CLIMATE

- Additional progress was made in 2022 to support communities who are moving toward a climate-adaptive workforce. An example includes Colorado's participation in the State Clean Energy Workforce Collaborative, a five-state pilot program of Markle.org in partnership with the National Association of State Energy Offices (NASEO). The project seeks to achieve equitable workforce development in clean energy through deep collaboration between state workforce and energy offices. A comprehensive report that details the processes and outcomes of this effort is anticipated for release early in 2023.



UNDERSTANDING RISKS FROM NATURAL & OTHER HAZARDS

- Following the social and economic disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Colorado Resiliency Office launched the Regional Resiliency and Recovery Roadmaps Program in 2021 with the goal of working with communities to identify collaborative solutions and strategies to address not only long-term recovery, but to build resilience against future shocks and stresses, while also seeking rural economic diversification. At the time of this report, the 16 regional teams are completing their draft roadmaps and moving forward toward implementation.

"REDI" FOR INNOVATION



La Plata County | Workforce Housing Roadmap

Workforce housing and the health of the economy are intimately interconnected. La Plata County identified that 453 housing units were needed to meet employment demand, and REDI funded the drafting of a 3-year roadmap to identify solutions for workforce housing providing better stability for employees.

Chaffee County | Innovative Small Business Accelerator

Central Mountain Entrepreneurs is helping to connect resilience-focused local businesses to training mentorship, and capital investments to spur growth in Salida and Buena Vista. Funded businesses include Terra Firma Forestry, which used wood from fire mitigation efforts to help build community housing.

Town of Center | Youth Enterprise Zone Pilot

This initiative is connecting local high schoolers to opportunities to gain education and experience in entrepreneurship in their community. This program hopes to retain youth in the community through establishing micro-businesses, skill development, and business operations and management.



HOUSING ATTAINABILITY (HA)

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

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

HA1. BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPING RESILIENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HA3. INCREASE HOUSING STABILITY



HA2. SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING SITING & DEVELOPMENT

HA4. EXPAND RESIDENTIAL EFFICIENCY & WEATHERIZATION

DISASTER RESILIENCE & REBUILDING PROGRAM



In the 2022 legislative session, Colorado passed [SB22-206](#), creating the [Disaster Resilience Rebuilding Program](#) (DRR) to assist communities in recovering from natural disasters declared by the State with the Division of Local Government as the fiscal agent. The first year of the program utilizes the bulk of the funds to assist communities to recover from natural disasters that have damaged or destroyed housing. The Housing Recovery Program will begin accepting applications to assist impacted households (from State-declared disasters since 2018) to rebuild or rehabilitate homes.



HOUSING ATTAINABILITY (HA)

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

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS



ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUITIES & UNIQUE COMMUNITY NEEDS

Last year's passing of [HB 21-1271](#) created an immense opportunity for funding affordable housing projects. In 2022, a lot of progress was made by DOLA to administer these grants. Here is a look at the numbers:

Round 1: \$19m awarded with 572 units projected

Planning Program: \$5.4m awarded with 218 qualifying strategies pursued

Round 2: While Letters of Interests are currently under review, over \$90m in requests were received

Pilot Program: \$299k awarded supporting 6 communities to engage in preliminary planning and analysis work to get projects ready for future grant applications

- Additionally, in 2022 the DOLA Division of Housing (DOH) was engaged in the designing of a mobile home park resident empowerment program, with program rollout anticipated in early 2023.



UNDERSTANDING RISKS FROM NATURAL & OTHER HAZARDS

- DOH provided funding to 11 different agencies across Colorado that run a Single Family Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program. This program provides an opportunity to address deficiencies, health and safety hazards, and improve accessibility and energy efficiency. So far 63 homes have benefited from this program in 2022, with 27 of these homes being owner occupied by someone who identified as senior/elderly.



ADAPTING TO OUR CLIMATE

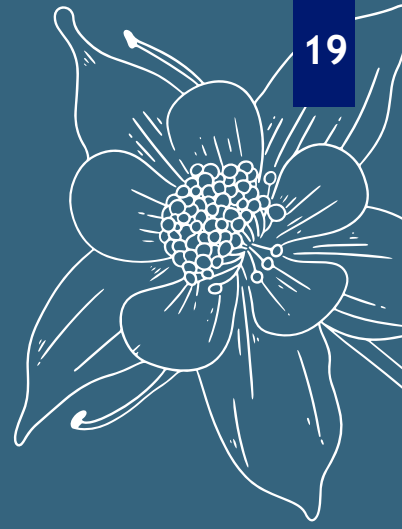
- Another component of the [Strong Communities Program](#), which is set to launch in January 2023, will reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and drive more sustainable development patterns through investments in infill infrastructure projects and transit-oriented development, with co-benefits for affordable housing projects and the community.



PURSUING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY & VIBRANCY

- Progress was made to create a toolbox of resources related to long-term housing affordability and resilient design. Throughout the second half of 2022, DOH worked with consultants Enterprise Community Partners and Community Builders with input from officials and housing groups across the state to design the toolkit. It is anticipated that the associated web resource will go live December 2022, along with competitive, tailored technical assistance applications to open in early 2023.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



2022 was a year of setting groundwork. As a state, we continued to adapt and respond to the unknown, building programs to better support communities across our state. While we anticipate the additional results of these programs in 2023, we are proud of the progress that was made in 2022.

NEXT STEPS

CONTINUED FUNDING MANAGEMENT

2022 saw the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act, another historic piece of legislation resulting in an influx of federal funding programs, many of which are related to climate. Colorado will continue to pursue solutions and funding that have a positive impact for our state.

REFINING RESILIENCY METRICS

In 2023, we will continue to identify ways in which to best measure resilience in Colorado, including the most effective ways in which to determine data-driven outcomes, so we can ensure that the work we are doing is truly moving us toward resiliency goals as a state.

BOLSTERING THE RESILIENCY CRITERIA

2023 will consist of initiatives to incorporate the 9 resiliency criteria as identified in the Colorado Resiliency Framework into community-facing grant programs, as well as pilot programs to support State agencies in integrating resiliency and creating a state-wide culture of resilience.

CONTINUE TO PURSUE SOLUTIONS FOR A RESILIENCY FUND

Funding is most often the barrier to implementing programs and projects for improving resiliency. A priority goal for the Colorado Resiliency Office, we will continue to research solutions for establishing a resiliency fund in Colorado.

THANK YOU

The Colorado Resiliency Office extends much gratitude to all of the state agency representatives and members of the Colorado Resiliency Working Group for their contributions to this 2022 Annual Progress Report on the Colorado Resiliency Framework Implementation.

Questions about this Report?

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COLORADO
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