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## Recovery in Colorado: The Latest on the 2013 Floods

### A note from the Colorado Resiliency and Recovery Office (CRRRO) Executive Director, Molly Urbina:

Colorado experienced the costliest disaster in state history in September of 2013. Record rainfall sent high-velocity floodwaters down mountain canyons and into the eastern plains. All told, the floods impacted 24 counties caused \$4 billion in damage to homes, businesses, roads, highways, and waterways. Ten lives were lost.

In the days following the floods, the Governor made the commitment that Colorado would build back better, stronger and more resilient. He created the Colorado Resiliency and Recovery Office and established a dedicated team to coordinate the state's recovery efforts in support of local recovery efforts. Across the state government stepped up to administer a complex portfolio of recovery programs with purpose and a sense of urgency. Federal and state agencies, local communities, non-profits and individual Coloradans all came together in a spirit of collaboration and coordination to begin the long-term work of recovery.

Since the 2013 floods, communities have made incredible progress. Numerous homes and businesses have been repaired, rebuilt or mitigated. Roads, bridges, and water treatment plants have been reconstructed. Watershed recovery efforts have reduced risk to communities and restored damaged ecosystems. While we have come a long way, much remains to be done. In fact, we are now just reaching the peak of reconstruction.

We have also worked together to build resiliency into the recovery process. The State developed, adopted, and is now implementing the [Colorado Resiliency Framework](#). Communities developed [Resilience Design Performance Standards](#) and regional [resiliency frameworks](#) that are guiding recovery and long-term community efforts. To find out about the latest in the states resiliency efforts please visit our [Resiliency Newsletter](#).

We have been guided by a few core values - to deliver results with an ongoing sense of urgency, to build for the future, and to be transparent and communicate often. Those values remain the same today as they did right after the floods. In that spirit, we are excited to bring you this quarterly recovery newsletter, where we will share the latest news and information about the long-term recovery process and the critical programs that continue to support flood recovery efforts. In this edition, you will also find a great new resource from the Colorado Recovery and Resiliency Collaborative called Local Guide to Recovery. Find out more about the group and the guide that will help communities in disaster response and in turn making them more resilient! As these programs - and all of the great work taking place locally - continue, we will keep you updated on progress and relevant information.

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residents of Colorado as we all strive to not only recover, but make Colorado the most resilient state in the nation.

All the best,

*[Molly](#)*

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## **2013 Flood Recovery Resources By the Numbers**

(as of March 1, 2017)

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SBA Loans (SBA)	\$109.8M	Homes \$66.4M Businesses \$26.8M
NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	\$69.9M	Streambank stabilization, debris removal and long-term watershed restoration
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Payments	\$66.7M	2,093 claims
CDBG-DR (DOLA)	\$320.3M	Housing, economic, infrastructure
Individual Assistance (FEMA)	\$61.7M	16,555 homes received funding
Federal Hwy. Administration Emergency Relief Program (CDOT)	\$702M	Repair and build state highways (27 closed, 485 miles impacted)
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	\$42.2M	Funding to reduce risk from hazards.
Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and Northern Water	\$40M	Emergency flood loans for irrigators and water providers
	\$225,000.00	Flood response grants to local governments
	\$1.93M	Watershed recovery grants
	\$2.55M	Individual grants to 107 irrigators and water providers
	\$2.5M	Grant for watershed restoration and debris removal (SB-179)
State Disaster Emergency Fund	\$111M	State cost share for federal program; other emergency response and recovery support
Mapping of Natural Hazard Areas (SB-245)	\$6.87M	Updating of floodplain maps in flood impacted watersheds; pilot debris flow and erosion zone mapping

### How do these resources work together?

While the rules and regulations of different funding sources can differ greatly, the majority of funding types are reimbursements granted to eligible applicants post-disaster. Funding dedicated to the floods continues to support housing, infrastructure, economic, watershed, and individual/household needs.

For more information on other recovery resources, please visit [www.coloradounited.com](http://www.coloradounited.com).

### Featured Story



#### Colorado Recovery and Resiliency Collaborative Develops Local Guide to Recovery

The Colorado Recovery and Resiliency Collaborative (CRRC) began after the recent floods and fires in an effort to learn lessons from the disaster and to find ways to improve disaster response and preparedness throughout the state. The group works with agencies and organizations active in disaster recovery to share their experiences

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*"Through experience, knowledge and mentorship, the mission of the Collaborative is to promote, educate and assist communities throughout Colorado to recover quickly and resiliently from disaster."*

With the vision to create, improve and promote resilient communities through mentorship and guidance in recovery, the group continues to meet regularly to affect change and develop useful tools such as the [Local Government Guide to Recovery](#) and the [Putting Lessons Learned into Action Summary Report](#). For more resources from the CRRRC visit their [webpage](#).

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### [Local Government Guide to Recovery](#)

The CRRRC developed the Local Government Guide to Recovery to support communities trying to develop or bolster an disaster recovery program. It is intended to be a tool to assist local pre-disaster recovery planning efforts, as well as a reference for communities to use when an incident occurs to ensure that local governments are not missing any essential steps in supporting their community through recovery. The Guide is organized chronologically, starting with the pre-event planning that is the most critical to success once an event occurs, followed by the immediate recovery needs that occur during the response phase.

The guide also provides a framework for capturing lessons learned and maintaining this guide as a living document so that we continue to strengthen recovery in Colorado for years to come.

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## Local News and Events

### [Update: CDOT Unveils Plan to Cut Nearly Two Years off Construction](#)

CDOT is looking to cut nearly two years off the expected permanent reconstruction on US 34 in the Big Thompson Canyon and, in the process, have little impact to travelers during the busy summer season. The tradeoff for this time savings is closing the canyon again next October through May—the same timing as the current closure.

[Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley](#) was selected for another “Build-a-Thon” this summer that will bring in 100

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## Upcoming Deadlines and Announcements

### CDBG-DR

Applications for the second round of Tourism Marketing grants were due April 15, 2017.

Applications for the first round of Workforce Development are due June 30, 2017. Additional rounds are pending funding availability.

HUD requires all funding be obligated no later than September 30, 2017. All funds

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[Big Thompson fishing pier will be rebuilt- Loveland Reporter Herald](#)

The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition and partners received a grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife to rebuild a pier near Waltonia on the Big Thompson River.

[Leasing for Louisville's Kestrel affordable housing to begin this spring - Boulder Daily Camera](#)

Louisville's 200-unit Kestrel complex will begin leasing from spring 2017 and continue through most of the year. Residents who experienced displacement after the 2013 flood will be given preference in the leasing process.

[Colorado to receive \\$124 million in federal aid for emergency road repairs - Denver Post](#)

Colorado will receive \$124 million in federal aid for emergency repairs to roads and bridges damaged by storms or catastrophic events, making it the top recipient in the nation of such funds released on Thursday.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced the release of \$768.2 million emergency repair funds in 40 states.

**NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program**

All financial agreements for EWP phase 2 implementation must be executed between the State and the NRCS no later than May 26, 2017.

**Colorado Hazard Mapping Program**

All draft floodplain maps to be completed by the state by the end of 2017.

**Transportation**

The Big Thompson Canyon opens to regular traffic on May 25, 2017.

**FEMA Public Assistance**

PA Quarterly Reports were due April 10, 2017 for PA-4145 and April 14, 2017 for PA-4229.

**Hazard Mitigation Assistance**

2017 Pre Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance: If approved in the Federal budget, these programs may be announced sometime in June, July, or August 2017.

**Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Programs (CDBG-DR)**

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[\(CDBG-DR\)](#) is a federal program administered through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

### CDBG-DR in Colorado

Colorado has been awarded approximately \$320M of funding. [Colorado's Action Plan for Disaster Recovery](#) was approved by HUD on April 28, 2014 and subsequent amendments were approved by HUD [November 3, 2014](#), [July 24, 2015](#), [December 2, 2015](#) and [March 10, 2016](#).

CDBG-DR funds long term recovery investments, including many multi-year projects that require extensive planning and preconstruction activities. We project that the peak of construction and spending will occur from now through 2018, which represents approximately 65% of the overall grant program. The remaining long term projects closing out through 2019 and possibly into 2020.

For more information on the Colorado Action Plan for Disaster Recovery, visit [the state's CDBG-DR program website](#).

### Milestones

- In the last quarter, the State invested an additional \$13.4M in Colorado's recovery through our State agency partners and the Boulder County Collaborative. To date, Colorado communities have invested \$114M in CDBG-DR projects.

### Highlights

- The Weld County Household Assistance Program is almost complete having served 23 households with temporary rental and relocation assistance, provided down payment assistance for 5 households to purchase new homes, and provided mobile home replacement to 6 households. This program will conclude in the summer as the last rental assistance recipient is transferred to Weld's Housing Choice Voucher program.
- Mission Village in Greeley has fully leased up 50 units, and The Edge in Loveland has fully leased up 70 units in two new housing construction projects.

completion. Had this project been in place at the time of the 2013 flood the amount of damage to the area and the number of evacuations necessary would have been significantly reduced.

- 14 farmers and ranchers received over \$500,000 in business recovery grants, this quarter, to maintain employment and agricultural production in disaster impacted areas. An additional 25 applications were received for \$2.4 million in round 2 funding.
- Resilience Planning closed an additional 10 projects including a master plan for the Monument Creek Watershed in El Paso County, a watershed resilience plan for the Upper Cache la Poudre River, and stormwater and flood mitigation plans in the Town of Lyons and City of Loveland.
- The Boulder County Collaborative Program has invested over \$3.5M in infrastructure projects and completed a revised Unmet Needs Assessment. The update can be found online at [www.bccollaborative.org](http://www.bccollaborative.org).
- The application deadline for the final round of watershed infrastructure, which included the ditch program was March 24th. There were 30 applications for over \$44M (approximately \$13M in Ditch and \$30M in watershed implementation).

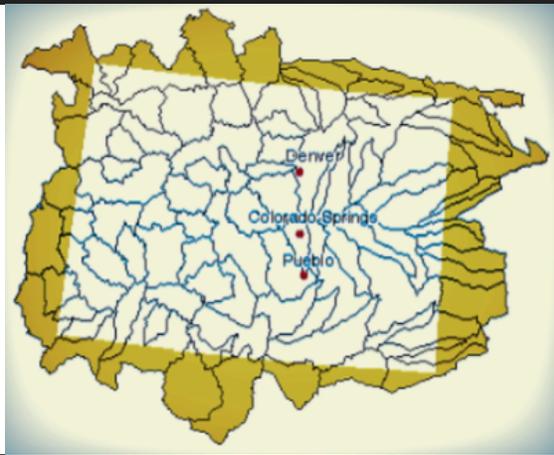
The Recover Colorado Workforce Training Program launched in Weld County and will be rolling out in Larimer and Boulder counties in the next two weeks. The workforce program will expand to other disaster impacted counties soon. For further information go to: [Recover Colorado Workforce Training Program](#).

### Deadlines

- The State requested an additional \$59.9M in March. These funds must be expended by March of 2019.
- HUD requires all funding be obligated no later than September 30, 2017. All funds need to be expended by September 2019.
- Applications for the next round of Tourism Marketing grants were due April 15, 2017.
- Applications for the Workforce Development Program are due June 30, 2017. Additional rounds are pending funding availability.

The Department of Local Affairs administers the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds from HUD. For more information relating to the CDBG-DR program, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/dola>.

Watershed recovery for the 2013 flood requires extensive coordination involving numerous funding sources, with their own timelines and regulations, which makes the combination of funding sources a complex but coordinated effort in order to maximize the resources available.



The [Colorado Water Conservation Board](#) administers 2 programs to support watershed recovery efforts. The [NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#) provides funding to implement emergency recovery measures to address hazards to life and property in watersheds impaired by the 2013 Colorado flood event, and to enhance the health and resilience of those watersheds. [The Colorado Hazard Mapping Program](#), funded through Senate Bill 15-245, provides funding to update floodplain mapping for flood-impacted watersheds, as well as for the development of debris flow maps and erosion zone studies. CWCB, in partnership with CDOT, DOLA the CRRO and watershed coalition stakeholders continues working to coordinate these programs to produce resilient outcomes.

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## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

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### Milestones

- CWCB and NRCS executed \$21M in funding agreements in January 2017.

### Highlights

- 10 projects are at or near completion.
- Design of most EWP projects are substantially complete as of January 2017.
- Numerous guidance documents available on the EWP project website ([www.colorado.ewp.com](http://www.colorado.ewp.com)).
- 70 projects planned to be constructed in 2013 flood-affected areas through this program.

### Deadlines

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- All construction completed by January 2018.

A status of the projects within the program and technical documents can be found on the program website, [www.coloradoewp.com](http://www.coloradoewp.com).

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## The Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP)

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### Milestones

- All new hydrologic studies for this program are complete and have been adopted by the State.
- All new topographic base mapping collected for use in hydraulic modeling.

### Highlights

- Numerous draft floodplain maps completed and presented in public meetings.
- [CWCB completed and published a fluvial \(erosion\) hazard zone delineation framework.](#)
- The Colorado Geologic Survey developed debris flow maps developed for Jefferson, Douglas, and El Paso Counties.
- The CHAMP program is currently seeking communities interested in having erosion zones identified using new framework. To learn more, please contact [Corey Elliot with the CWCB.](#)

### Deadlines

- All draft floodplain maps to be completed by the state by the end of 2017.
- CWCB to complete all program tasks by June 30, 2018.

For more information go to [www.coloradohazardmapping.com](http://www.coloradohazardmapping.com). You can sign up to receive quarterly newsletters on the website.

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## Transportation Programs

The [Colorado Department of Transportation](#) administers the [FHWA Emergency Relief Program](#), which

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highways and roads on Federal lands which have suffered serious damage as a result of natural disasters.

To date, FHWA has made \$563 million available for transportation recovery and resiliency projects.

### Milestones

- All permanent repairs for state and local facilities funded through the FHWA ER program are on schedule to be completed by the end of 2019.

### Highlights

- To date CDOT and Local Agency partners has obligated \$446M of the original \$450M appropriated to CO.
- An additional \$113m is currently available to support ongoing projects through the FHWA.
- Over \$250M has been expended on design and construction of the permanent repairs.
- CDOT held open houses from April 4-6, 2017 to provide the public with project updates and to share information about an accelerated project schedule for the U.S. 34 corridor.
- CDOT will evaluate comments received and look at opportunities to reduce the impact on residents, businesses and travelers of the Big Thompson Canyon with the accelerated schedule.

### Deadlines

- From October 2017 - May 2018 Highway 34 closures will extend from the Narrows past Drake.
- The Big Thompson Canyon opens to regular traffic on May 25.

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## Federal Emergency Management Agency Programs

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The [Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#) administers FEMA's disaster recovery and hazard mitigation programs for the State of Colorado.



Through the [Public Assistance Program](#), a reimbursement program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance following a presidential disaster declaration for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities, and the facilities of certain private non-profit organizations. [The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#) helps communities implement hazard mitigation measures after a presidential disaster declaration. FEMA also helps communities implement hazard mitigation measures before a disaster occurs through the [Pre-Disaster Mitigation](#) and [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) programs.

### Milestones

- Public Assistance
  - Payments now total \$194M on 2,362 Requests for Reimbursement (RFRs)
  - DHSEM is currently processing 55 RFRs totaling \$48.4M

### Highlights

- Public Assistance
  - 217 large projects closed out.
  - Transmitted 94 additional closeouts to FEMA, of which 50 have been approved.
  - 162 small projects submitted for closeout 141 approved by FEMA.
  - RFR processing period was 34.6 days during the last quarter.
- HMGP Acquisitions of Colorado Springs Landslide Impacted Properties:
  - Weekly update [posted here](#).
  - DHSEM has received approval from FEMA of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Administrative Plan for DR-4229 (2015 Floods).
  - On March 15, 2017, DHSEM submitted the Funding Plan to FEMA for review for this project, which will use monies available from both HMGP DR-4229-CO and HMGP-4145-CO.

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- Next Steps
  - Upon approval of the Funding Plan, DHSEM expects a formal letter from FEMA identifying project award and will proceed with contracting.
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs:
  - DHSEM is currently soliciting mitigation project scopes of work for eligible sub-applicants for Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
- DHSEM's all-grants monthly update [can be found here](#). The monthly call is held on the second Thursday of each month and information [posted here](#).

### Deadlines

- New Public Assistance Model Training schedule for April 13-14, 2017 and April 17-18, 2017.
- PA Quarterly Reports due April 10, 2017 for PA-4145 and April 14, 2017 for PA-4229.
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)
  - Quarterly Reports were due to DHSEM by April 11, 2017.
  - 2017 PDM/FMA update: If approved in the Federal budget, these programs may be announced sometime in June, July, or August 2017.

### Website Resources

- DHSEM Mitigation and Recovery Section website: [www.colorado.gov/MARS](http://www.colorado.gov/MARS)
- EMGrants: [CO.EMGrants.com](http://CO.EMGrants.com)
- Applicant Call Presentation  
Information: <https://co.emgrants.com/site/BiMonthlyPA.cfm>
- Public Assistance Resources: <https://co.emgrants.com/site/ResourcesPA.cfm>
- HMGP Resources: <https://co.emgrants.com/site/ResourcesHMGP.cfm>



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