



Hope & help

Boulder County's
Temporary
Human Services
SAFETY NET

Our community's
visionary response
to the economic crisis



www.BoulderCountyTSN.org
www.BoulderCountyHHS.org

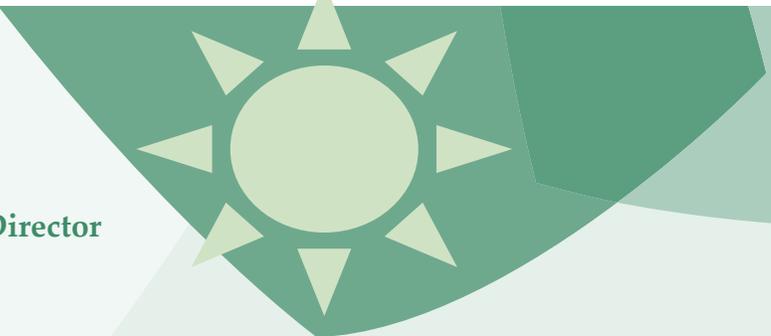


**HUMAN
HOUSING & SERVICES**

Hope for the future, help when you need it.



From the DHHS Director



Hope & help

Dear friends,

Four years ago we formed a vision of a new safety net for our community. We knew we'd be seeing a rapid increase in need for assistance due to the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. So we set out to be proactive, to **prevent people from falling** into that coming crisis, in part because we knew that not doing so would assist the erosion of our community and create much more difficult –and expensive– problems down the road.

We wanted to shift our community toward a more effective and sustainable safety net. We knew that focusing on **early intervention and prevention** would help people stay on their feet and would help keep families together. We also knew this focus would generate savings that could be reinvested right back into these very services that are working.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the voters and taxpayers in Boulder County for approving the Temporary Human Services Safety Net (TSN) in November 2010. Because of your willingness to respond to economic crisis with vision and compassion, our community is in a much better place in 2013. **This is revolutionary.**

As you'll see in this report, substantial TSN investments have been made in critical areas of assistance all over Boulder County, and the results are clear.

- We've gotten ahead of the curve to meet people earlier in their need.
- Significant savings have been generated by avoiding deeper crisis.
- These savings are being reinvested into early intervention and prevention.
- We've strengthened Boulder County's safety net of community partners, agencies, and services.

While there are signs of an economic recovery, the impacts of this downturn are likely to be with us for some time. The TSN's temporary property tax increase will continue to boost Boulder County's safety net through the end of 2015. We can all be proud of the fact that in the years ahead, we'll be able to reflect on how, together, we met this economic crisis proactively and strengthened our human services safety net for the next generation.

Sincerely,

Frank Alexander
DHHS Director



HUMAN
HOUSING & SERVICES

Hope for the future, help when you need it.



Hope & help

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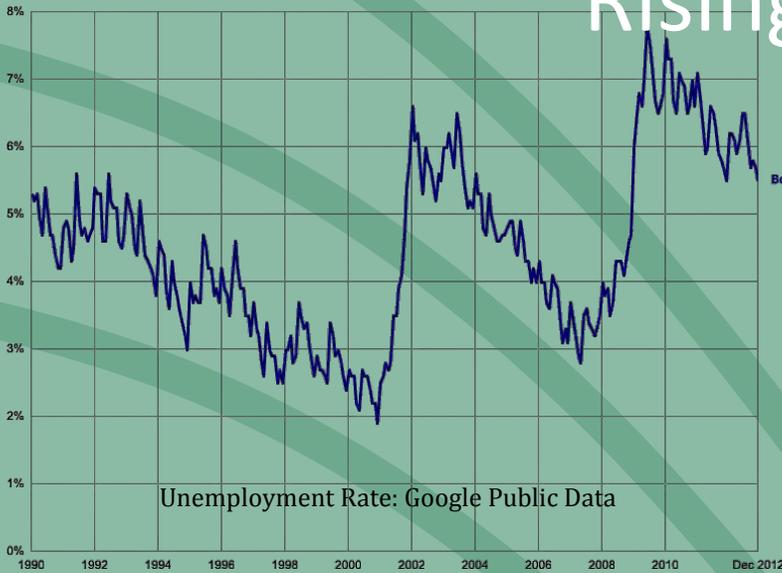
Boulder County's
Temporary
Human Services
SAFETY NET

Unemployment

Crisis

+ Rising Need

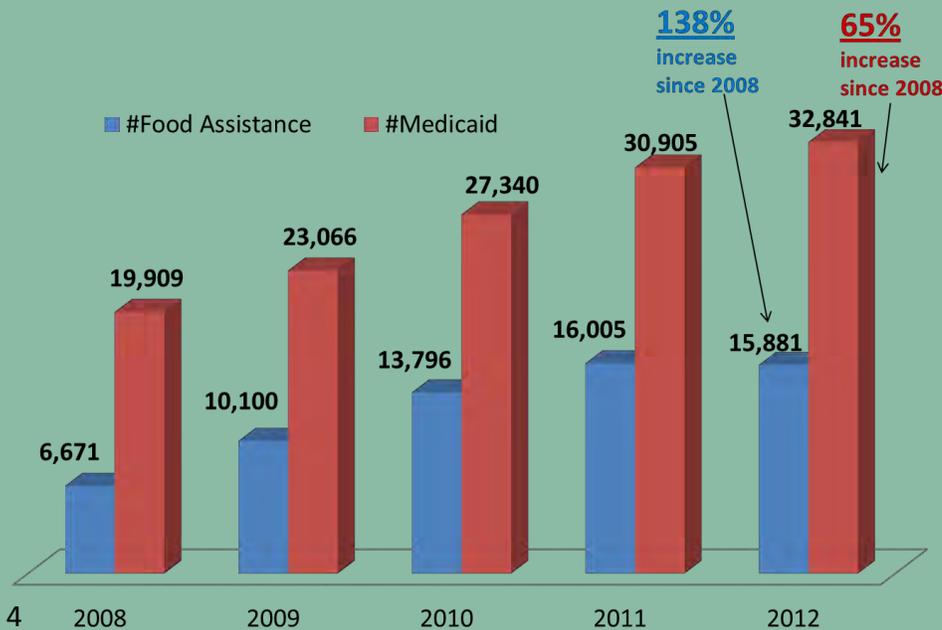
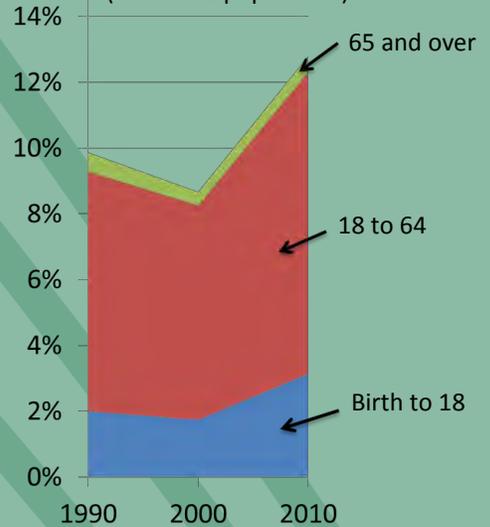
+ Budget Cuts



2008 to December 2012:

- **135 percent increase** in applications for **food assistance**
- **64 percent increase** in applications for **Medicaid**
- Significant cuts to health and human services programs across the county
- Resulting cuts to programs that combat child abuse and neglect, offer assistance to job-seekers, and provide early intervention and prevention supports, and child care assistance
- **10,000 people remain unemployed** in Boulder County

Poverty in Boulder County
(% of total population)



Response

work with the community to
strengthen the safety net

Boulder County Commissioners worked with the community to ask the residents of Boulder County to help backfill the budget cuts so services could be restored.

Through the collaboration between the commissioners and community partners, a ballot initiative was crafted to address the budget cuts and increased caseloads.

Ballot Initiative 1A, the Temporary Human Services Safety Net (TSN):

- was passed by voters in November 2010
- is a 5-year 0.9 mill property tax increase
- raises about \$5 million per year
- costs about \$21 per year for a person with a \$300,000 home in Boulder County



& get help to people earlier



The TSN was coupled with a philosophy of **investing in families early**, before they hit a crisis.

By stabilizing families, not only do we help them get back on their feet, but we also keep them out of high-cost interventions later.

TSN FOCUS

*early intervention and prevention
strengthening the community safety net
& family stabilization*



TSN funding was prioritized by our community for several key areas:

- Strengthening early intervention and prevention services
- Investing in community-based safety net services
- Promoting individual and family stabilization

Specifically, the TSN funding was used to:

- Expand our ability to provide stabilizing services like food and financial assistance for families, children, and individuals
- Extend our ability to help with housing and rent
- Increase access to health care
- Provide more help for families to access quality childcare
- Boost job training and employment supports
- Create and support community-based Family Resource Centers
- Increase access to mental health and substance abuse services

TSN Investment



Since January 2011, the TSN has invested **over \$9 million** into our human services safety net in Boulder County, including:

- \$1.3 million into Housing Stabilization services
- \$2.16 million into quality childcare, health services, mental health, and Family Resource Centers
- \$1.2 million into boosting access to food, financial, and healthcare assistance
- \$415 thousand into emergency services, Parent Education, and Transition-Aged Youth supports
- \$377 thousand into Parents As Teachers family supports
- \$400 thousand into additional health care supports



TSN Investment

2011 TSN Investments by Category



Almost immediately after its passage by voters, the TSN led to significant investments in many critical supports for those in Boulder County most in need of help.

2011 TSN Community partners included:

- Boulder County AIDS Project
- Boulder Shelter for the Homeless
- Bridge House
- City of Boulder Family Resource Schools
- Clinica Family Health Services
- Community Food Share
- Dental Aid
- Early Childhood Council of Boulder County
- Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA)
- The Inn Between of Longmont
- Mental Health Partners
- Outreach United Resource Center (OUR Center)
- Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN)
- Sister Carmen Community Center

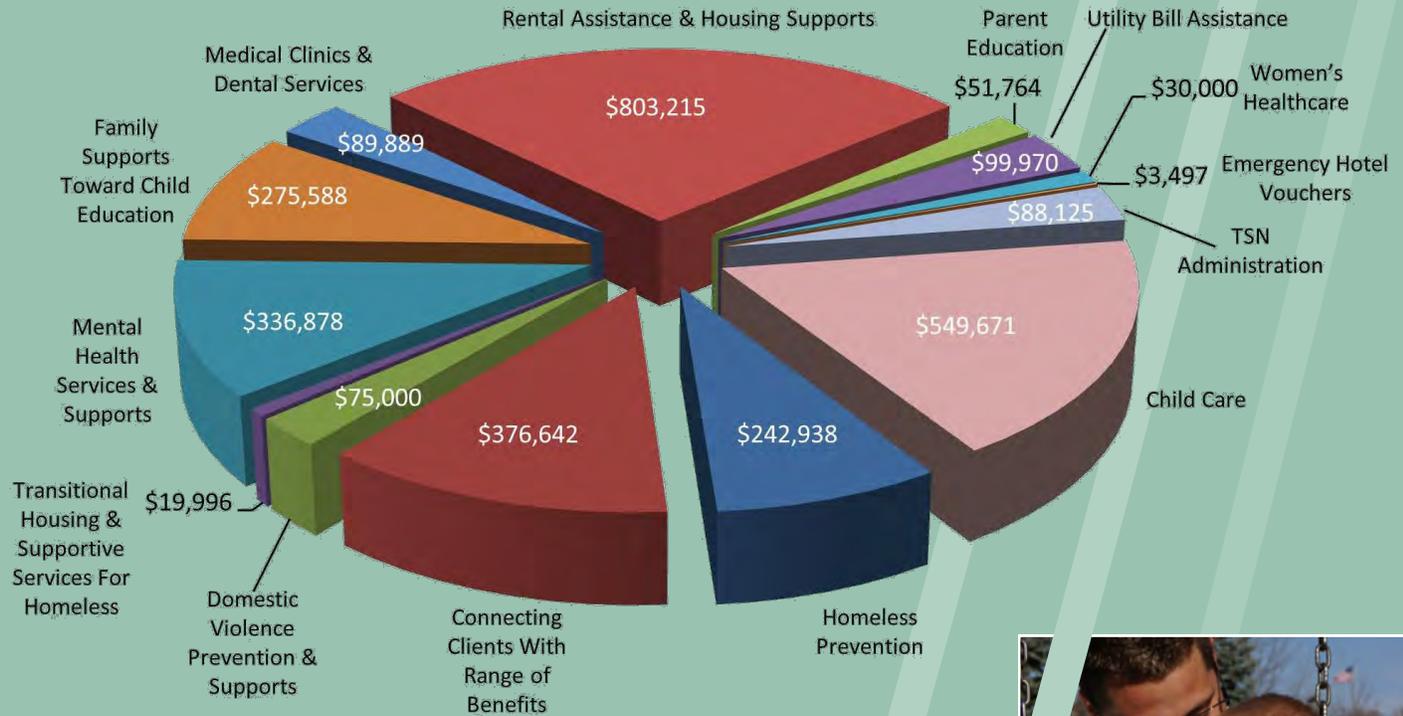


OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

Early intervention and prevention helps stabilize families and individuals and avoid deeper, more expensive crisis down the road. By investing up-front, we are reducing costs and crises.

TSN Investment

2012 TSN Investments By Category



Primarily through contract awards with community partners, significant investments were made in many of the same critical services in 2012, with the addition of Parent Education, women's healthcare, and child care.

2012 TSN Community partners:

- Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow
- Boulder Shelter for the Homeless
- Boulder Valley Women's Health Center
- Bridge House
- City of Boulder Family Resource School
- Clinica Family Health Services
- Dental Aid
- Early Childhood Council
- Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA)
- Mental Health Partners
- Outreach United Resource Center (OUR Center)
- Parenting Place
- Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN)
- Sister Carmen Community Center



OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

"Band-Aid solutions" are not enough. With the TSN, we are supporting a new sustainable community vision of prevention, hope, and dignity.



Hope
& *help*

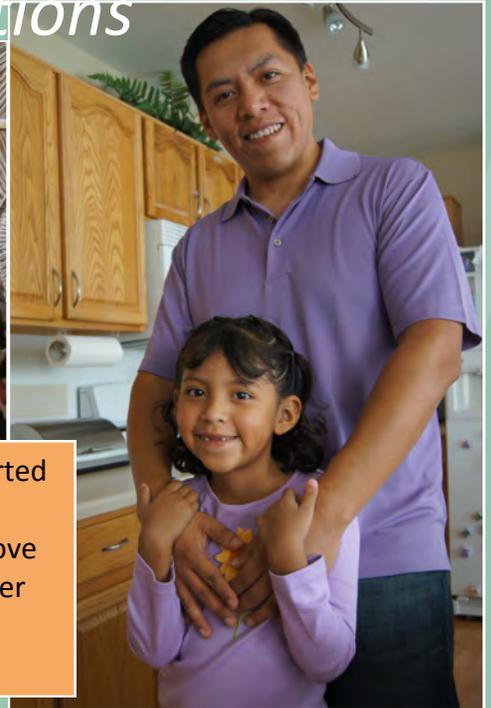


food and healthcare
ASSISTANCE

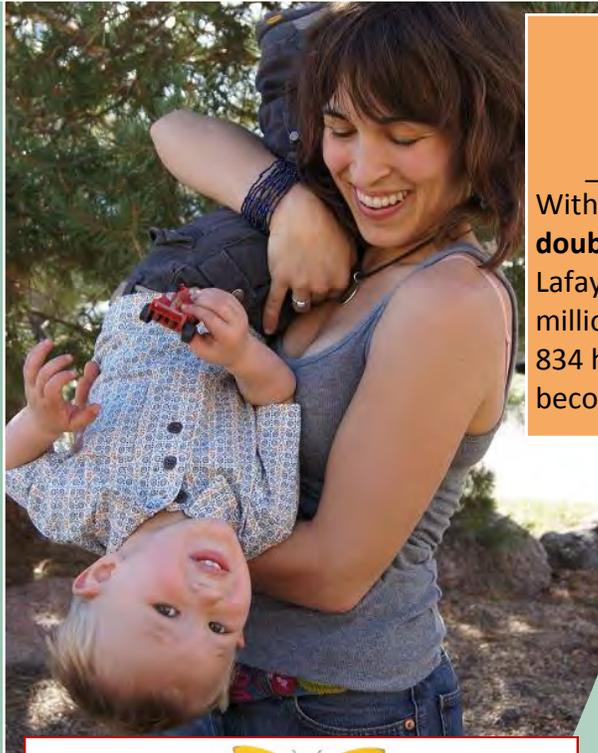
Your TSN at work

Return on Investment

community-based organizations




\$300,000 in TSN investments have supported a **doubling of clients** at OUR Center in Longmont, which helps at-risk families move toward self-sufficiency by bringing together resources like housing, food, healthcare, clothing and transportation.




With a \$300,000 investment, the TSN also helped support a **doubling of clients** at Sister Carmen Community Center in Lafayette. During 2011, Sister Carmen distributed nearly 1.3 million pounds of food to 1,545 households and provided 834 households with one-on-one support to help them become economically stable.




OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

By strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations, the TSN will boost access to the safety net where and when people most need it.

"We went to Sister Carmen for food; they asked us some questions and got us signed up for Medicaid too!"

- Deborah, Sister Carmen client, now Medicaid recipient

Return on Investment

access to benefits

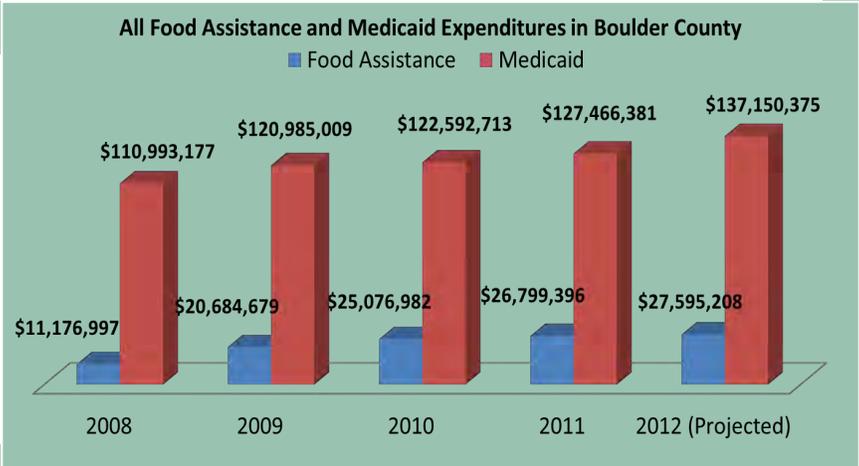
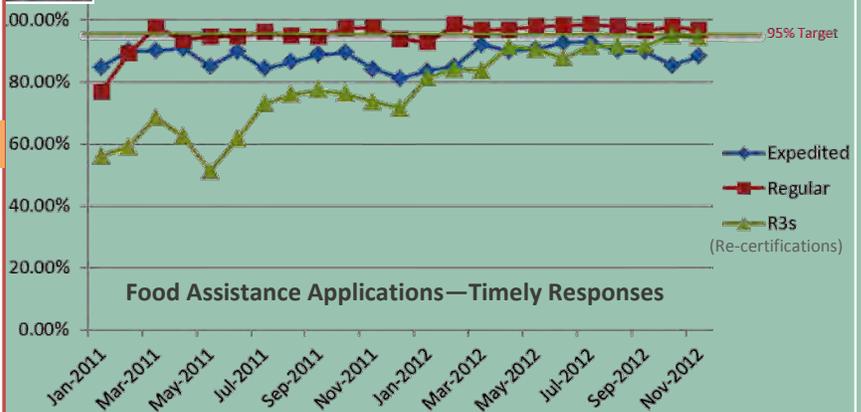


- Since early 2011, \$1.5 million in TSN funding has been invested into boosting our ability to connect those in need with services they're seeking.
- These investments have helped improve turnaround times on application processing.
- Our capacity to process new applications has increased as need has skyrocketed.
- In two years, total Medicaid and food assistance spending has increased 12 percent and 10 percent, respectively, an influx of an additional \$17 million into Boulder County.



OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

All families and individuals have the right to easy access to health care, food and economic security that lead to self-sufficiency and financial stability.





Hope

& help
Child Care
& Parenting
SUPPORTS

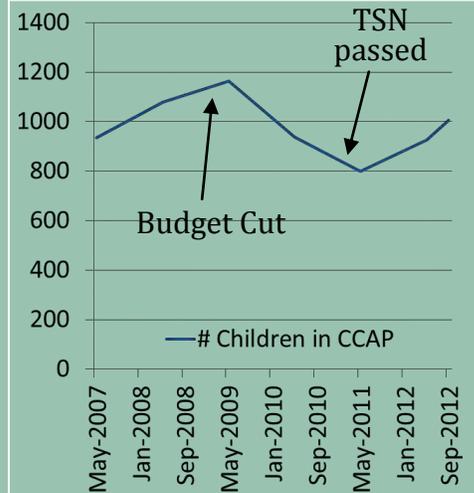


Your TSN at work

TSN Investment

Child Care Assistance Program

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps qualifying families pay for quality childcare while parents work, look for a job, or get an education. In 2009, the program's waitlist was closed and income limits were lowered due to budget cuts. The TSN not only led to the **reopening of the waitlist and a return to higher income limits**, but it has also (in just a year and a half) boosted the number of children receiving care to **Jan. 2008 levels**. The increased availability of childcare assistance means more parents are able to find jobs and keep them.



PARENTING PLACE

In 2012, Boulder County awarded \$377,000 in TSN funding to Parenting Place in Boulder to help **at-risk parents** provide a stable, supportive environment for the development of their children and to prevent involvement in the child welfare system. The "Parents As Teachers" program will give parents **training and resources** to continue to grow and support their children in the years beyond the program. TSN funding means Parenting Place will **provide in-home support twice a month for two years to 83 families**, most of them in east Boulder County.



OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

All of Boulder County's human services programs work to strengthen families and support their efforts to care for their children.



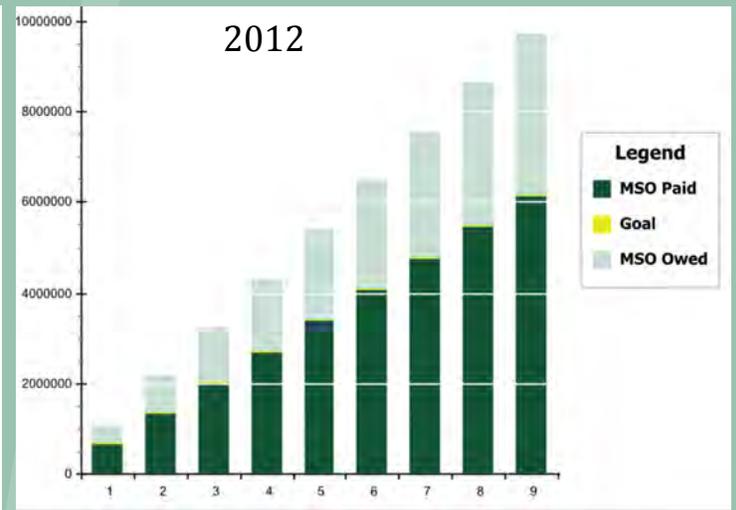
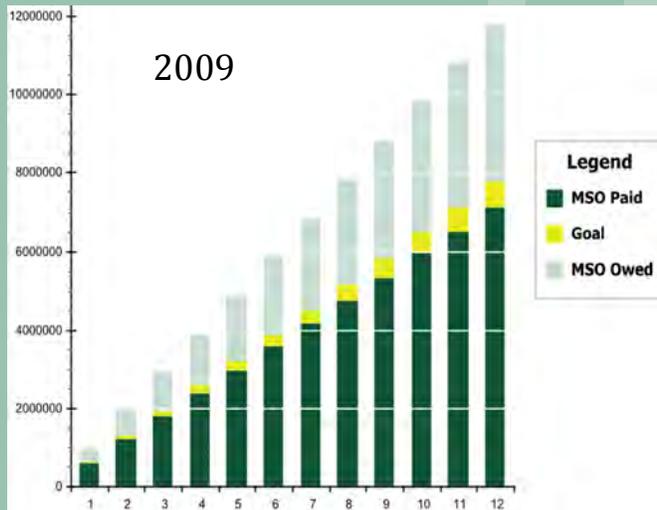
"I was struggling to find time to even look for a job, and I was so worried that once I found one, I wouldn't be able to afford care for my girls. CCAP made it possible for me to go to job interviews. Now I'm working again, and our lives are so much better."

- Christine, Boulder County CCAP client

TSN Investment

Child Support: Responsible Payers

Boulder County's Child Support Services teams have been working to make it easier for parents to help support their children. Through a new initiative known as the Responsible Payers Program, parents who are struggling to make child support payments are given the tools they need to stabilize their lives, find long-term employment, and manage their finances to become more self-sufficient. This is enhancing not only the quality of the children's lives but also of the parents.

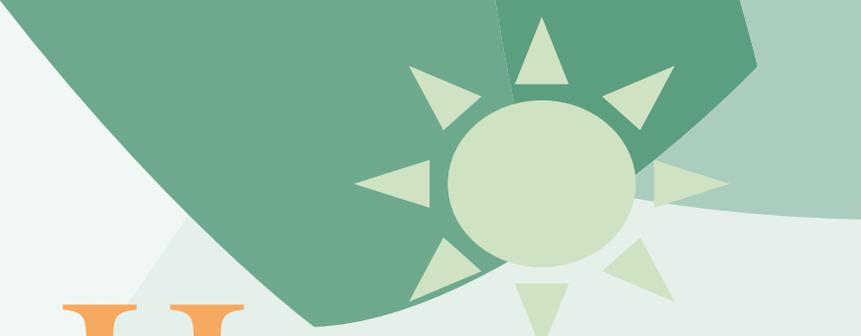


The charts above indicate child support payments **owed**, and payments **collected** in Boulder County. Note the **closing of the gap** between payments collected and the collection **goals** for each month. Much of this is due to our collaborative approach to working with parents to help stabilize them and assist them in their efforts to support their children. Investment in Boulder County's Child Support Services initiatives is another way that the TSN has helped improve the lives of children and families in Boulder County.

"I'd been furloughed at work and couldn't meet my child support obligations for my son. It was horrible and humiliating. But your team worked with me, without judgment, and helped me create a plan to turn this around. I don't know how to thank you enough."

- Michael, Boulder County Child Support Services client





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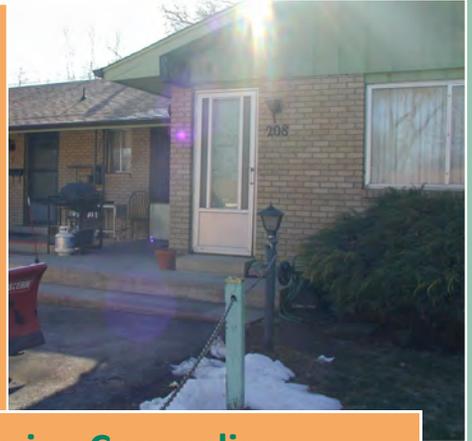
Safe and Stable
HOUSING

Your TSN at work

Return on Investment

Housing Stabilization Program

In its first two years, the TSN has invested \$2.2 million into the Housing Stabilization Program (HSP), a community-wide partnership that provides rental assistance and other supports to qualifying families. To date, through referrals from community partners like Sister Carmen, OUR Center, Bridge House, and DHHS' Family and Children Services Division, the HSP has helped 1,335 households with an average of \$2,813 toward their rent. A significant percentage of these families were at risk of being homeless without this support.



OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

Every family, child, and individual has the right to live in a safe, affordable, and stable home.

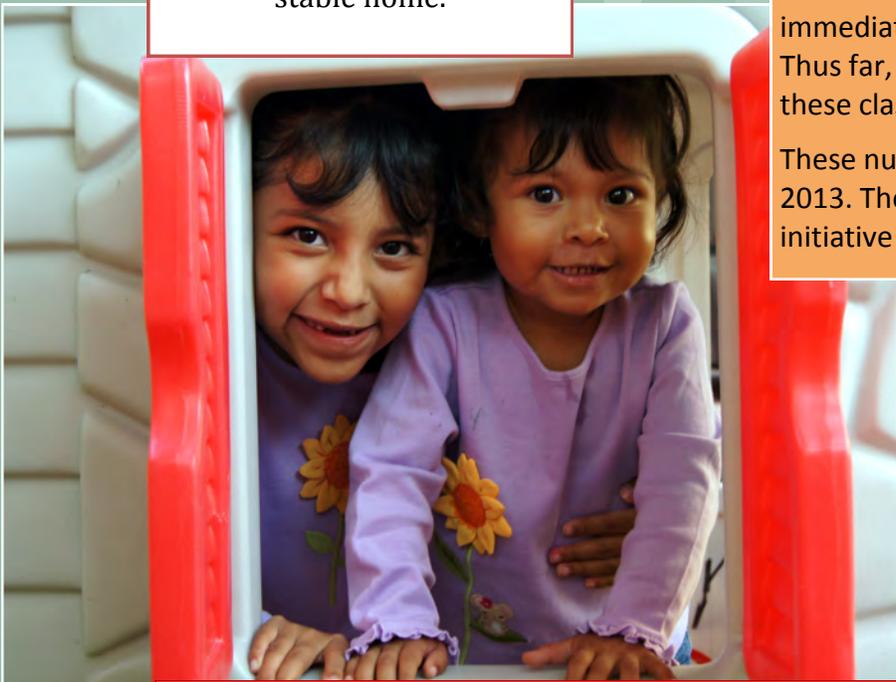
Housing Counseling and Financial Stability

Over the past year, \$150,000 in TSN funding has been invested in providing Financial Stability classes for clients who are in our Housing Stabilization Program.

These classes are crucial supports for people who are in financial crisis and need immediate help getting back on their feet. Thus far, over 350 people have benefited from these classes.

These numbers will increase dramatically in 2013. The TSN will continue to support this initiative in the coming year.

The Housing Stabilization Program and its supports have helped **reduce shelter need by 67 percent** at Longmont's OUR Center since 2009.



"You made it possible for us to stay in our home. It's that simple. My family is together and at home today because you helped us with rental assistance and financial stability in a critical time."

- Floyd, Boulder County Housing Stabilization and Financial Stability Counseling client



Hope

& *help*

Child
PROTECTION



Your TSN at work

Return on Investment

Child Welfare and Protection

In recent years, there have been significant reductions in Boulder County's federal Child Welfare Allocation, which helps fund many of our child protection programs. The TSN has replaced much of this lost funding, and has in fact allowed us to **expand our increasingly successful family-collaborative approach** to child protection.



OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

No child will be removed from a family due to a lack of financial resources and housing.

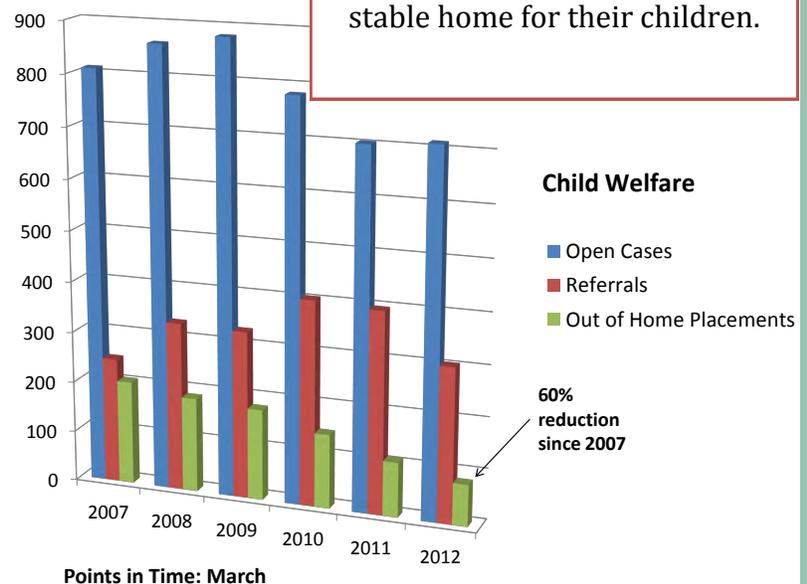
Every family deserves the chance to provide a safe and stable home for their children.

Our child welfare teams work closely with families to identify their needs and develop safety plans for them in partnership with the people in their own communities.

This approach has led to a **60 percent reduction** in out-of-home placements since 2007, even as caseloads remained fairly constant.

Foster care placement costs, on average, \$5,500 per month per child. Intensive family preservation services run about \$1,400 per month. With the out-of-home placement reduction of 110 children, we can estimate the savings at **about \$450,000 per month** in Boulder County.

But it's the children and families who benefit most: stabilized, together, and safe.



"Thank you for working with me and my family to help us create a plan for safety and stability. We feel like we have our own little safety net of family and friends, and we're together, which is what's most important."

- Serena, Boulder County family-collaborative child protection client



Hope
& help



What's
AHEAD

Your TSN at work

What's Ahead

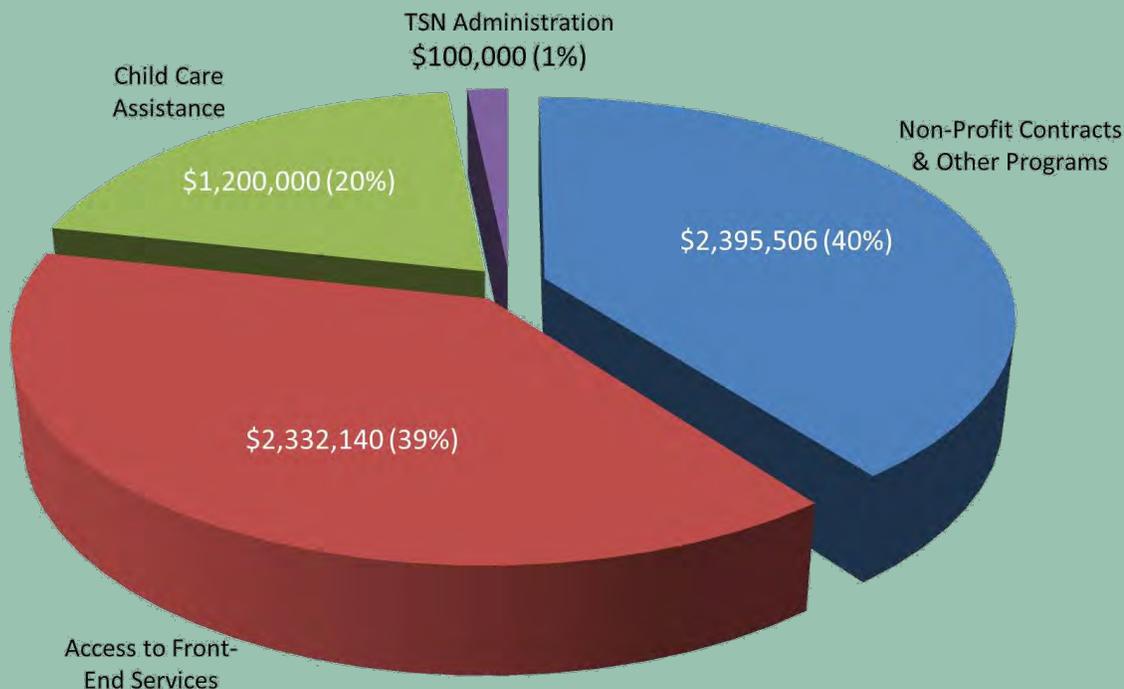


Over the next three years, the Temporary Human Services Safety Net will continue to fund critical services like childcare, parent education, programs for transition-age youth, housing supports, and food, healthcare, and financial assistance.

We are committed to continuing to move the system upstream by investing in prevention-based services and re-investing the savings generated by this early intervention approach back into the system. The TSN is truly helping us create a safety net that sustains –and strengthens– itself.

TSN 2013 Budgeted Expenditures

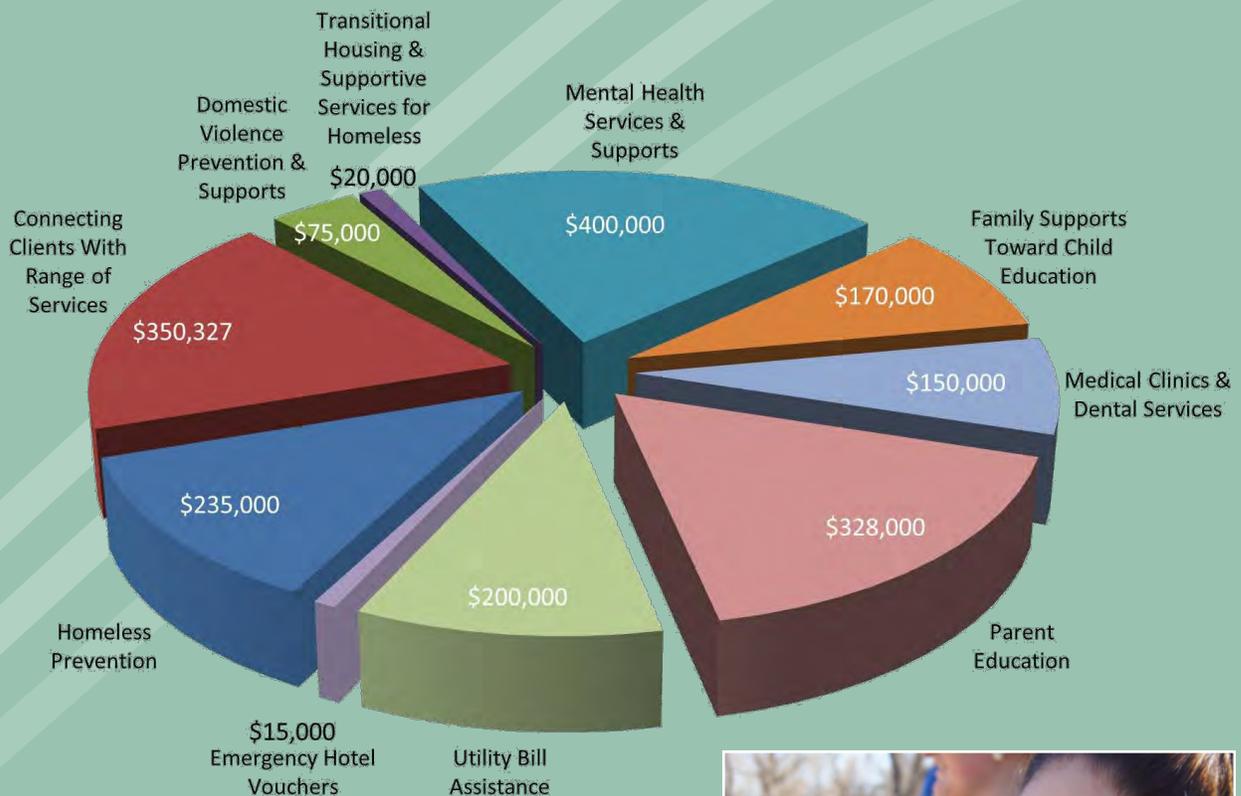
Total = \$6,027,646



What's Ahead

Some specifics on some of the planned TSN spending in 2013:

2013 Emergency & Front-End Services, Community Partner Contracts (partial)



2013 TSN Community partners include:

- Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow
- Boulder Shelter for the Homeless
- Bridge House
- City of Boulder—Family Resource Center
- Boulder Valley Women’s Health Center
- Clinica Family Health Services
- Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA)
- Mental Health Partners
- Outreach United Resource Center (OUR Center)
- Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN)
- Sister Carmen Community Center
- Parenting Place
- Parent Education Services of Longmont





Hope & help

TSN: The Light in the Tunnel

Only three years ago, the tunnel was very dark, indeed. We were facing extreme uncertainty as a community. Job losses were mounting, foreclosure rates rising, grocery and healthcare bills were a bigger and bigger piece of each family's financial pie.

The tunnel had formed quickly around us, and there was little light to give us hope that we might soon emerge from it.

We set out as a community not just to get through the tunnel, but to also generate more fuel for the journey that we know will continue on the other side. We began to create our own vision for who we want to be as a community, so that the tunnel itself would not define us. We have, through the vision of our community, crafted a more sustainable way to move forward. We lit up the tunnel from the inside.

There is still plenty of uncertainty ahead, and our community will continue to face challenges unlike any we've seen in recent memory.

But the lesson of the TSN is that there is strength in working together.

In the TSN, we have demonstrated how a community can embrace the notion that we are all diminished when one among us is suffering. It's vital that we continue to look ahead and support our neighbors in challenging times and otherwise, to help people *before* they are knocked down by the instability that seems to now be the norm.

Thanks for your engagement during this difficult time in this economic downturn. Please stay involved, set out into your community, and continue to make a difference.

Together, we are the light in the tunnel.

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