

Community Connections

Conexiones con la Comunidad

2025-26

Guía de Recursos del
Condado de Boulder
Boulder County
Resource Guide

Versión en español incluida en el interior.



9/49



10/50




19/59





20/60




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On the Cover: Office of Sustainability Climate Action and Resilience staff hike the Pines to Peaks Loop at Bald Mountain Scenic Area. Photo by Claire Duncombe (Instagram: @clairesuzanne.duncombe).

En portada: El personal de la Oficina de Acción Climática y Resiliencia para la Sustentabilidad recorre a pie el Bucle de los Pinos a los Picos en el Área Escénica de Bald Mountain. Foto de Claire Duncombe (Instagram: @clairesuzanne.duncombe).

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A Message from the Boulder County Commissioners

Welcome to Boulder County's *Community Connections* magazine: a snapshot of the Boulder County government's services, staff, and volunteers, and a great way to find out about your county government.

The Boulder County government is committed to providing the best in public service for all Boulder County residents — regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, political affiliation, age, religion, body shape, size, or ability. This commitment is part of county policy.

We received a great response to last year's *Community Connections*, so we hope you enjoy this year's version. You can find out more by visiting our website, signing up for our emails, and following our social media.

We remain committed to our three-year strategic priorities: economic security and stability, climate action and environmental stewardship, and good governance. Underpinning all of this work is the belief that all of our work must be done in a way that advances racial equity. Visit boco.org/StrategicPriorities to read about our progress.

As we write this, the United States is experiencing a lot of uncertainty. While we remain committed to the work of local government, we are not immune to this uncertainty. Decisions about funding, laws, and policy at the federal and state levels impact us. Around 14% of the county's revenue comes from federal sources. The reality is that our current local funding sources cannot make up for significant cuts if they happen. We will continue to monitor changes being made by the federal and state governments and share updates online.

We are proud to serve the people of Boulder County. We continue to be inspired by your empathy, community spirit, and energy.


Commissioner **Claire Levy**


Commissioner **Marta Loachamin**


Commissioner **Ashley Stolzmann**

Contact Us: commissioners@bouldercounty.gov | 303-441-3500

Monthly events, meetings, and hearings: boco.org/BOCC

Boulder County Elected Officials

Boulder County Commissioners



Claire Levy
District 1



Marta Loachamin
District 2



Ashley Stolzmann
District 3



Email the Boulder County Commissioners: commissioners@bouldercounty.gov

Boulder County Elected Officials



Cynthia Braddock
Assessor



Molly Fitzpatrick
Clerk & Recorder



Jeff Martin
Coroner



Michael Dougherty
District Attorney



Curtis Johnson
Sheriff



Lee Stadele
Surveyor



Paul Weissmann
Treasurer

Scan the QR code or visit
boco.org/ElectedOfficials



Boulder County Event Highlights



April 4-October 31

Agricultural Heritage Center

Come to the farm, where you'll learn about the agricultural history of Boulder County. Visit the on-site critters, including chickens, pigs, sheep, horses, and more! Guided tours start at 11 a.m. during visiting hours.

📍 8348 Ute Highway 66, Longmont, CO 80503

📅 **Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays April-Oct. | 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

May 11-September 14

Altona School Open House

Explore this historic schoolhouse, where students studied and played from 1880 to the World War II era.

📍 Altona School, Heil Valley Ranch
834 Lefthand Canyon Dr., Boulder, CO 80302

📅 **2nd Sunday, May-Sept. | 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

June 6-October 31

Nederland Mining Museum

Visit the Nederland Mining Museum and get a glimpse into the world of hard rock mining days in Boulder County during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Learn about the lives of the miners of yesteryear.

📍 200 N. Bridge Street, Nederland, CO 80466

📅 **Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays June-Oct. | 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**

June 21-October 18

James F. Bailey Assay Office Museum

Come learn about assaying, hard rock mining, and the families in the area from long ago.

📍 6352 Fourmile Canyon Dr., Boulder, CO 80302

📅 **3rd Saturday, June-Oct. | 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**



August 29

Hammering on the Farm

Drop by and watch the blacksmith work his craft. Listen to the clang-clang-clang of the hammer and the hum of the coal forge blower. Learn about blacksmithing tools, such as hammers, tongs, anvils, swage blocks, and more.

📍 Agricultural Heritage Center
8348 Ute Highway 66, Longmont, CO 80503

📅 **Friday, August 29 | 10 a.m.-Noon**



For a complete list of Boulder County events, visit boco.org/Calendar.

October 5

Vintage Baseball & Autumn Heritage Day

Enjoy an old-fashioned vintage baseball game and cheer on the Walker Ranchers as they take on their rivals!

📍 Walker Ranch Homestead
7701 Flagstaff Rd., Boulder, CO 80302

📅 Sunday, Oct. 5 | Noon-3 p.m.

October 18

Junior and Senior Fishing Derby

Enjoy a beautiful fall morning fishing together for prizes and fun. Teams include one senior and one kid under 15.

📍 Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat
3893 N. 75th St., Boulder, CO 80302

📅 Saturday, Oct. 18 | 9 a.m.-Noon

October 14

Trunk or Treat

Join the Boulder County Sheriff's Office and the Coroner's Office for this annual event. Check the Coroner Community Engagement site for details.

📍 Boulder County Sheriff's Office
5600 Flatiron Parkway, Boulder, CO 80301

📅 Tuesday, Oct. 14 | 4-7 p.m.



2025 Coordinated Election

October 10

Ballots Begin Mailing

All active, eligible voters are mailed a ballot.

October 27

Vote Centers Open

Vote Centers offer various voting services, including in-person voting, same-day registration, language assistance, and ADA-accessible voting equipment.

October 27

Last Day to Mail Ballots

This is the last day to register and be mailed a ballot (after this date, you may still register but must vote in person).

It is also the last recommended day to return a ballot by mail. Otherwise, use a drop box.

October 28

National Vote Early Day

Look for special Boulder County events!

November 4

Election Day

Last day to vote or return a ballot. Remember, eligible Colorado voters can register and vote up to and including Election Day.



**BOULDER COUNTY
ELECTIONS**
CONNECT • ENGAGE • VOTE

A Mother's Sacrifice

How the Fruit and Veg program helped Ana prioritize her health while supporting her son's Harvard dream.

When Ana Y. visited her doctor five years ago, she received scary news — she was prediabetic. She hadn't expected it, but looking back, she realized that her health had taken a backseat between working and raising her children as a single mom.

Determined to make a change, she joined a healthy challenge through El Centro Amistad. The program helped her understand how to improve her diet and make healthier choices. But while she now knew what she needed to do, another challenge quickly became clear: She couldn't afford the groceries to follow her new, healthier lifestyle.

Every extra dollar Ana had has gone to support her children — especially her eldest son, who was achieving something extraordinary. He wasn't just attending college.

“This program changed everything for me. I can now care for my and my family's health while still supporting my son's education. — Ana Y.

He was making history for their family. He was the first person on either side of the family to go to college, not just any school — Harvard University. As a first-generation minority student navigating the Ivy League, his success meant everything. Ana was determined to give him what he needed, even if it meant sacrificing her well-being.

That's when she was referred to Boulder County Public Health's Fruit and Veg Longmont Program, which provides families who are experiencing food insecurity but unable to qualify for federal food assistance with



vouchers to buy fresh produce. Through the program, Ana received \$150 a month to purchase fruits and vegetables, allowing her to finally apply what she had learned.

“This program changed everything for me,” Ana said. “Before, I knew what I needed to eat but couldn't afford it. With these vouchers, I can now care for my and my family's health while still supporting my son's education.”

At her last doctor's visit, Ana received the news she had been working toward — her blood sugar levels were back to normal. After years of struggling, she had reversed her prediabetes.

For Amelia Hulbert, Boulder County Public Health's Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) / Built Environment Program Coordinator, Ana's story underscores the power of community support. “Many in our community face impossible choices — between their health and providing for their family's future,” Hulbert said. “This program removes that burden. Even with nutrition education, fresh, healthy food is often unaffordable. We're proud to bridge that gap, change lives, and improve community health outcomes.”

For Ana, the Fruit and Veg Program didn't just improve her health — it gave her a chance to care for her whole family while ensuring her son could achieve what once seemed impossible. One family, one generation, breaking barriers.

Visit boco.org/FruitAndVeg for more information on the program.

Teaming up Against Hate

How the Bias and Hate Crimes Multidisciplinary Team works together to support victims and increase community connectedness.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Christian Gardner-Wood knows that bias and hate-motivated incidents do not happen in a vacuum — and the DA's response to them shouldn't, either.

That's why he created the Bias and Hate Crimes Multidisciplinary Team, now an integral piece of District Attorney Michael Dougherty's Bias and Hate Crimes Initiative.

The MDT brings together representatives from the DA's office, law enforcement, and key community groups to improve the county's response to crimes related to bias or hate and better support victims and the community impacted by these incidents.

"The unique context each member is able to provide helps us tackle the larger problem of bias and hate incidents by looking at trends, discussing data, and considering training opportunities for the community and law enforcement," said Gardner-Wood.

Last year a young person was arrested in Boulder County for criminal behavior that was later found out to be a reaction to ongoing, severe bullying related to the teen's sexual orientation — critical information the DA's office only had because of their work alongside Mardi Moore, CEO of Rocky Mountain Equality. With this context, the DA's office decided not to prosecute and instead helped facilitate a conversation around bullying with the school district to address the larger, root problem.

"If we hadn't stepped in, this kid could have ended up in jail," said Moore. "Without the connections and trust that I have with this community, it could have all gone all the wrong ways."

Gardner-Wood encourages residents to call the DA's Bias and Hate hotline to



report any related crimes. While he's noted an increase in calls related to anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-immigrant behavior since the new administration took office in January, he's confident that whatever the national rhetoric may be currently, Boulder County's policies aren't changing.

"There may be unknowns at the federal level, but we're going to continue to support the immigrant community and the LGBTQ community, to work closely with them and make sure we're bringing people together and not insulating ourselves from the larger community," said Gardner-Wood. "We are Boulder County, and we're accepting here."

Christian Gardner-Wood and Mardi Moore at the Boulder County DA's Office

To report a bias or hate crime or ask a related question (non-emergencies only), call the hotline at **303-441-1595**.



Life with Wildfire

After putting it off for years, they went ahead with mitigation. Just in time to save their home.

Last July, CU astronomy professor Nick Schneider was tied up in a meeting when he got an urgent text from his wife, Erica Ellingson. “This is it,” she said.

She’d tried calling earlier to tell him about the rapidly growing wildfire near their home in Lyons but couldn’t reach him. Now, she could see the flames and was evacuating with nothing but the cat. Their home was right in the middle of the fire’s path, and the couple feared the worst.

Less than six months before the fire, Schneider and Ellingson’s home insurance company had threatened to cancel their coverage unless they completed some general fire mitigation projects.

Working together with Boulder County Wildfire Partners contractor and retired firefighter Rob Bozeman, the couple was able to identify a personalized list of projects that needed completion in

order to get the Wildfire Partners certification that would allow them to keep their home insurance.

Schneider and Ellingson did most of the labor themselves: more than a hundred hours of pulling bushes, hardscaping, weeding, and various other small projects. They received their certification — and the continued insurance coverage along with it — in March of 2024. The timing couldn’t have been better.

Fast forward to July, and the evacuated couple anxiously watched reports on the Stone Canyon Fire sweeping through their neighborhood, destroying many properties in its path. But their home’s Wi-Fi signal never went out, and they could still hear the grandfather clock from their Ring doorbell. Their home had survived.



Homeowners Erica Ellingson and Nick Schneider with Wildfire Partners’ contractor Rob Bozeman

Thirty-five homes were located in the fire’s burn area. Twelve of the homes had received a Wildfire Partners assessment and seven were certified. All seven certified homes survived the fire. Six additional homes that were not certified but had passed their mitigation inspection also survived.

All three of the closest homes to Schneider’s burned down.

“We’ve got to shift our thinking from putting out every fire to living with fire,” said Jim Webster, WP Program manager. “We’re creating a new culture with fire-adapted communities. It’s really a partnership with homeowners to increase our community’s wildfire resilience, to keep homes from igniting.”

Learn more about Boulder County’s Wildfire Partners program at [WildfirePartners.org](https://www.wildfirepartners.org).

Wildfire Resilience Takes a Village

Wildfire Partners is connecting youth with Boulder County's most vulnerable to improve wildfire outcomes for all.

Sans Souci, a resident-owned mobile home park, is one of many Boulder County communities vulnerable to wildfire. But fire mitigation can be a costly, time- and labor-intensive process, and despite the high level of risk, many of the residents — particularly those who are older and living on fixed incomes — can't do the work on their own.

Last year, Wildfire Partners launched its Youth Helping Vulnerable People and Communities Program, connecting youth work crews with vulnerable residents of Boulder County to improve the wildfire resiliency of entire communities.

Partnering with TEENS, Inc., a nonprofit based in Nederland that connects youth with nature and community, and Mile High Youth Corps, a Denver-based organization that offers service opportunities to young people, the program was able to provide free mitigation services to 17 homes, four mobile home parks, and advance Community Wildfire Protection Plan initiatives in four mountain communities.

In Sans Souci, working under the guidance of Wildfire Partners professionals and Youth Program Specialist Ellie Stanton, the young volunteers accomplished many critical projects including juniper removal, raking, weed whacking, limbing and pruning small trees, debris disposal, and



constructing noncombustible gravel barriers, helping to protect homes from embers.

"Without this program, we would not be able to perform these wildfire mitigation services," said Peggy Kuhn, a Sans Souci resident. "Our park has 85-plus residents, half of these seniors, and some homes still have roofs made with tarp and held down with straps" (following the 2021 straight-line wind event on the day of the Marshall Fire). "We love our natural views, but it also makes us nervous because the grassland next to the community puts us at higher risk of a wildfire."

In 2024 alone, the youth program directly benefited 315 low-income individuals, 140 Span-

ish-speaking residents, 109 older adults, and 16 individuals with disabilities across Boulder County, significantly improving community resilience to wildfire risks.

"Many homeowners aren't able to do this kind of work themselves," said Jim Webster, Wildfire Partners program manager. "They just aren't physically able. And we've got this group of young people that can really help, while at the same time making connections with older adults, gaining valuable experience, and helping the community. It's really win-win."

This year, Wildfire Partners already has more than three months of youth crew work scheduled, and projects planned for five new communities.

To learn more or apply for the Youth Services Program, visit boco.org/WPYouthServices.



Reduce, Reuse, Re-Create

| How some residents are turning waste into works of art.

Local artist Bongo Love's favorite place to procure materials for his renowned wooden carvings isn't an artist supply store — it's Boulder County's Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF).

The HMMF is where residents of Boulder County go to dispose of household hazardous waste — items like antifreeze, batteries, paints, aerosols, fluorescent light bulbs, or any products that can't just be thrown away. The team at the HMMF ensures proper handling of this potentially dangerous waste, protecting both the environment and human health.

However, one resident's waste could be another resident's work of art. The facility's



“It cuts down on costs big time. Why not get this stuff that’s available for free when otherwise it would just be thrown away?” — **Bongo Love**

For more about the artist, visit BongoLove.com

Free Reuse Area offers a place to “shop” for discarded items that can be reused for their intended purpose. This not only saves the county from paying a disposal fee but allows these resources to be recycled rather than discarded. In 2024 alone, 7,421 Boulder County residents reused 169,103 pounds of material from the facility.

Bongo visits the HMMF at least once a week, sometimes with other artists, looking for sealants, paints, and other supplies he can use in his work.

“It cuts down on costs big time,” he said. “Why not get this stuff that’s available for free when otherwise it would just be thrown away?”

HMMF manager Shelly Fuller is not only an expert at managing hazardous materials, she also happens to be a big fan of the arts. That’s why she started the Reuse in Action contest, a quarterly event that awards gift cards to artists who utilize the recycled materials to create something beautiful. According to Fuller, materials from the Free Reuse Area have been used to build sets for local productions, paint a city mural, and create hundreds of other unique works of art around Boulder County.

“Boulder has a lot of great artists,” she said. “It’s wonderful when they can use recycled, reused, and reclaimed materials to not only keep their costs down, but also tell a beautiful story.”

For more information on the HMMF and its Free Reuse Area, visit boco.org/HazardousWaste.

Student Democracy Program



Boulder County Elections, a division of the Boulder County Clerk & Recorder, runs a Student Democracy Program for every election. A record 46 students participated from 12 different high schools during the November 2024 General Election.

The program hires juniors and seniors, ages 16 and 17, from local high schools to work as election judges at vote centers and ballot drop-off locations on the days leading up to and including Election Day. Student election judges assist experienced election judges and workers and gain valuable firsthand experience in the elections process.

Students are trained in answering basic registration and election-related questions as well as line management. Students are frequently assigned to greet voters as they enter or are stationed at ballot boxes to help voters properly return their voted ballot in the secrecy sleeve. Student judges also hand out “I Voted” stickers as voters leave.

These paid positions not only strengthen resumes but also help instill in young people the importance of voting. If you have or know a high school student, encourage them to apply to the Student Democracy Program this fall. Applications will be available online starting in August at BoulderCountyVotes.gov under High School Resources.

Program Enrichment Awards Recognize Boulder County Volunteers During National Volunteer Week



In celebration of National Volunteer Week, April 20-26, 2025, two individuals and five volunteer teams were recognized as part of Boulder County's Volunteer Program Enrichment Awards. Volunteer managers countywide were invited to nominate volunteers who made noteworthy contributions to their programs in 2024. A selection committee chose the following volunteers to be recognized and awarded funding for their programs.

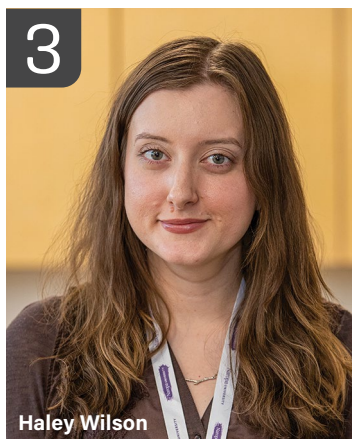
1 **Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Volunteers:** *Boulder Office of the County Commissioners / Office of Disaster Management*

Trained by EOC staff, these volunteers are activated during emergency events such as fires, floods, freezing temperatures, and power outages to provide situational awareness and logistical support for command center staff and field personnel. They are cross-trained and work in shifts, often for days in a row, coordinating things like food, water, supplies, and equipment. They had four activations in 2024!



2 **Ellen Minick: Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) Program:** *Community Services / Area Agency on Aging*

As a volunteer long-term care ombudsman, Ellen advocates for resident rights and quality of life at two assisted living residences in Lafayette. She is a consistent presence, providing input and guidance on care and programming, and empowering and educating residents about their rights. Ellen has worked in complex and intense situations in which residents may have no other support, and she models this work for other volunteers across the state.



3 **Jail Education and Transition (JET) & Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) Volunteers:** *Community Services / Justice System Volunteer Program*

Housed in the jail, JET and COAP volunteers engage jail clients through various evidence-based practices to better prepare them to rejoin the community. Volunteers spend months building relationships with these clients, providing education and training, therapy, job readiness, parenting, and other pro-social skills aimed at changing behaviors and lowering recidivism.

4 Laurie Bedford: Cultural History Programs: *Parks and Open Space (POS)*

Laurie brings enthusiasm and experience to the volunteer roles she fills for POS. She helps care for livestock and lead tours at the Agricultural Heritage Center, sews costumes for volunteers, and does demonstrations at Walker Ranch Homestead. She is friendly, caring, and dedicated, and her contributions enrich the experiences of visitors, staff, and fellow volunteers.

5 Weed Warriors Program Volunteers: *Parks and Open Space (POS)*

This five-year pilot study started in 2024 in response to public concern about herbicides being used in the Integrated Weed Management Program. It aims to determine the feasibility of controlling invasive species at Walker Ranch without using herbicides. Weed Warrior volunteers mechanically remove and monitor weeds in one-mile sections along the Walker Ranch Loop trail and receive training from POS staff throughout the season. If successful, the program will expand to other locations.

6 4-H Shooting Sports Council Volunteers: *Parks and Open Space (POS) / CSU Extension*

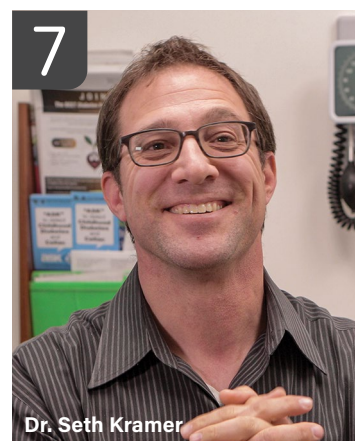
Approximately 40 certified volunteer leaders teach essential elements of shooting to nearly 100 youth, ages 8 to 18, annually. They facilitate hands-on instruction, safety training, skill development, and practice sessions. They coordinate county shoot-offs throughout the year and foster connections with community partners like the Longmont Police Department and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Collectively, Shooting Sports leaders contribute 450 volunteer hours annually. They exemplify the core values of leadership, safety, and youth development.

7 Healthy Louisville Kids Coalition Volunteers: *Public Health / Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Program*

Coalition volunteers include health care professionals, business owners, non-profit leaders, students, and community members who have come together to improve the health of Louisville kids and community members by lowering the consumption of sugary drinks, a key driver of chronic disease. They partnered with local restaurant owners and the chambers of commerce to pass Ordinance No. 1883, "Healthy Drinks in Kids' Meals" in Louisville in September of 2024.

For more information about Boulder County's Volunteer program, please visit BoulderCountyVolunteers.org. Boulder County government has a range of one-time and ongoing volunteer opportunities.

Boulder County's Volunteer Initiatives and the annual Program Enrichment Awards are managed by the Boulder County Community Services Department.



A New Home for Alternative Sentencing

The brand-new facility houses programs for low-risk offenders with a focus on rehabilitation.

Boulder County completed the Joe Pelle Center in May, and will open the doors in the fall of 2025.

The primary goal of the facility is to ensure public safety with effective community supervision. But the programs it offers — including substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, job training, and more — are all designed to reduce recidivism, which in turn lowers crime rates, saves taxpayers money, and equips more people to become productive members of the community.

"If someone sits in a cell, untreated, they come out with the same habits and thinking that contributed to



them being there in the first place," said Michele Hudson, alternative sentencing planning and implementation manager. "Utilizing that time instead to gain skills that allow them to become productive citizens again ultimately reduces the burden on the community."

Bridging the Gap

By connecting at-risk families with local resources, prevention programming keeps kids safe and families together.



Martin Martinez, a prevention services supervisor, views his role as a bridge in the community — connecting agencies and resources to the families who need them most.

Last year, he helped a single mother of four without stable housing find a place to live and mental health services, ultimately keeping the family together and the kids in school.

"Once she had a home, a safe haven, we were really able to focus on other things to improve their well-being," Martinez said. "They had a lot of roadblocks, but we decided we weren't going to give up on this family."

Boulder County's Prevention Services program focuses on providing personalized, prevention-focused support to families who may not require a child welfare case but still need resources to thrive. By addressing challenges early — whether it's connecting families with housing, childcare, resource centers, or parenting support — the Prevention Program helps keep kids safe and families together.

"I'm proudest when we help families find community," Martinez said.

Investing in a Better Tomorrow

Nurturing Futures provides direct cash assistance to local parents, so they can focus on what matters most.

As a single working mother of three young children, Rachael Dodson has had to make a lot of difficult decisions — like whether to replace her growing son's too-small shoes or pay the utility bill on time.

"Raising young children and facing financial challenges is tough," she said. "I was working 40 or more hours a week and could still barely afford to pay the bills and buy food. Not knowing if rent was going to be late or the lights would get shut off or telling my sons we can't get that thing you really need — it was stressful."

Through Boulder County's Nurturing Futures program, Dodson, along with more than 500 other families with young children, got a significant boost to her monthly income last year without having to pick up another shift.

This direct cash assistance program provides qualifying families with children under the age of 4 and earning less than 30% of the area median income with \$300 a month for two years — no strings attached.

That's money that can be used to cover diapers and formula, help provide stable housing or childcare, purchase groceries, or potentially eliminate the need for a second job, allowing parents to spend more time with their children at a critical age.

"This assistance gives families some financial breathing room and allows them to spend based on their own priorities and individual needs," said Program Manager Emily Darrell. "By providing immediate financial relief, this program not only helps individual families but supports the overall economic growth of the community as a whole."

The program opened for applications in August 2024, and the 540 participants



began receiving the \$300, either via direct deposit or on a debit card, in October of that same year. The name of the program was partly inspired by the population it serves: young children, in the critical early development years, whose future stands to greatly benefit from the reduced financial burden of their caregivers.

Recipients live all over the county and have an average of two kids. Many, like Dodson, are in single-parent households, where additional work hours come at the cost of time spent with their kids. Nurturing Futures is helping relieve that burden.

"I love my children so much — they are my whole world, and I work so hard to provide a great life for them," Dodson said. "This program takes a little stress off, so that I am able to focus on spending time with them, which is really the most important part of being a parent!"

Challenging How We Think About Homelessness

An update from Heidi Grove, Division Manager for Boulder County's Homeless Systems and Coordinated Response.

In the United States, only 22% of what you see on the streets reflects the full scope and scale of homelessness today. The other 78% being those on the fringes of homelessness, living in their cars, on someone's couch, in storage units, etc. 59% of Americans are one paycheck away from falling into homelessness. 50% of Americans would fall into homelessness with a \$100 rent increase. These are sobering facts.

At a recent Boulder County Commissioners' Town Hall event, many residents were surprised to learn how much of the county's work on homelessness actually focuses on this less visible homelessness — particularly families living without a permanent address.

Housing Supportive Services

As important as it is to move people from homelessness into permanent housing, it's just as important — if not more important — to keep people from entering homelessness. This is where the county's Housing Supportive Services comes in. Funded in part by the voter-approved Attainable and Affordable Housing Tax, supportive services help residents to navigate personal finance and

avoid financial pitfalls that may lead to homelessness.

We've addressed this crisis before, and we can do it again. However, we can't make it happen overnight. It will require all systems collaborating together to invest in housing, behavioral health services, and wraparound services, and to provide behavioral health employees with fair wages and benefits. Not one municipality, county, state, individual, foundation, nor any single funding source can address this national crisis of failed systems. Boulder County is committed to continuing to work in partnership to make this happen.

Systemic Failure

Homelessness is not the result of personal failure. It's the result of systemic barriers, racism, income inequality, housing market pressures, and lack of mental health and substance use resources. Solving this dilemma requires us to address those root causes together and to work across systems.

That's why we must remain committed to equity — not just as a word we say — but as an outcome toward which we build programs, allocate resources, and design systems. Data must continue to inform our decisions, and



Heidi Grove, Commissioner Marta Loachamin, and Trevor Baringer from the county's Division of Homeless Systems and Coordinated Response at the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Convening in April.

we must continue to ask whose voices are missing from the conversation and how we bring them in to get collective results that bring us closer to housing stability.

Partnership Working Is More Important Than Ever Before

As we look at changing federal priorities and access to funding, we must acknowledge that the United States is facing a crisis of empathy. Our social safety net is being threatened and each day in the news, we read about another program, another service, or another department that may be closed down — or reduced to such a limited staff or budget that it

cannot reach those who need the services the most. We in Colorado are not immune to these changes. In 2024, 14% of Boulder County revenue came from federal funding sources — and while we continue to monitor the situation and speak to our congressional representatives, it's still unclear how that will look for future budgets.

At the same time, everyone here today knows that as the cost of living continues to rise due to increasingly chaotic economic policies and decisions at the federal level, we will see an increase in homelessness. The federal government's own research in 2020 estimated that a \$100 increase in median rent was associated with a 9% increase in the estimated homelessness rate.

Partnership working is now more important than ever. It is imperative that we build a wider network, collaborate, align, and avoid duplication. Every dollar, every hour, every effort must be strategic and shared. We are stronger together.

We have a real opportunity in this moment, not only to respond to homelessness, but to transform how we work on housing as a region.



HSBC Is on the Right Track

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC) is an innovative approach to homelessness that includes multiple government entities including Boulder County and the cities of Boulder and Longmont, the nonprofits working to impact homelessness, and other external partners.

Last year, the HSBC Executive Board commissioned a report to assess how HSBC is doing and how it compares to similar programs in other locations.

The report shows that HSBC is on the right track. It supports their focus on helping people get housing with supports, working together as a team, using data to make decisions, and making sure everyone has a fair chance. These ideas were also supported by the people who gave feedback and by research on what works best, including those residents currently experiencing homelessness in Boulder County.

Visit boco.org/HSBC to read the full report.

Working Together, Learning Together

In December, Boulder County welcomed members of a federal delegation from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and Housing and Urban Development to share the county's approach to managing homelessness and getting people into permanent housing.

The **WellMind Connection** and **Community Assistance and Treatment (CAT)** teams have come together to provide compassionate, community-centered support for Boulder County residents during hard times. They offer crisis response, mental health navigation, and support, always meeting people where they are. With a deep commitment to cultural care, their bilingual staff has been a lifeline for the Hispanic/Latino community. In 2024 alone, they reached nearly 1,000 individuals, supported hundreds of families, and responded to over 130 urgent crises. They also hosted 53 events to build resilience, with 40 more planned for 2025. Their mission is simple: to bring hope, solutions, and connection to those who need it most.



The Best Business Idea Ever

Best Day Ever, a new coffee shop, is committed to offering opportunity to adults with disabilities — and making your day brighter.



ABOVE: Joe and Marla Truitt, owners of Best Day Ever coffee shop.

RIGHT: Joe Truitt works with staff at the new coffee shop, Best Day Ever, in Longmont.

For years, Joe and Marla Truitt, along with their adult son, Seth, have been looking for an affordable commercial space to start a coffee shop.

After opening Estes Park's Joy House — a gift shop supplied entirely with goods made by adults with disabilities — they knew they were on to something great, but they really wanted to offer more employment opportunities for people like Seth (who has Down syndrome) than the small storefront could offer.

So when Joe heard that The Spoke, a Boulder County Housing Authority (BCHA) mixed-use development building in Longmont, was looking for a cafe, submitting a proposal was a no-brainer.

"We didn't want just any vendor, but a business with a workforce component, with a mission and a community idea behind it," said Tanya Jimenez, a housing developer with BCHA. "Best Day Ever really stood out."

Best Day Ever opened in March and employs 15-20 adults with disabilities, along

with employee mentors who offer support and guidance in operations. They serve coffee drinks, a selection of homemade crepes, and ice cream from a specialty shop that also employs adults with disabilities.

Alejandro Garcia, a special projects coordinator for BCHA, said, "We love the idea of a cafe that supports special populations, not only to normalize their existence, but to show that they are capable, that they want to work and that they can work."

The name for the shop came easily. When asked about any given day, whether it's a shift at Chick-fil-A or making crafts for Joy House with his girlfriend, Seth's go-to response is predictable: "Best day ever."

"We really want people to experience the same joy and love we get to experience every day," said Joe. "We want customers to walk out feeling better than they felt when they came in."





Bottoms Up, Carbon Down

| The “table-to-farm” restaurants helping restore soil with every sale.

In 2020, Boulder County received a USDA grant to launch a revolutionary public/private partnership with Mad Agriculture and Zero Foodprint that connects consumers, restaurants, and food businesses to local farms and ranches.

The model is simple: A small portion (usually 1%) of each food or beverage purchase at Zero Foodprint member restaurants and food businesses is set aside to fund “Restore Grants.” These grants are awarded to local farmers to implement regenerative agriculture practices.

The project is a resounding and continuous success: Zero Foodprint has grown to include members in seven states across the country, and the program is still growing.

“Zero Foodprint is a simple and smart way to integrate climate action and regenerative agriculture without having to do a lot of the work,” said Chef Daniel Asher, owner of River and Woods restaurant in Boulder.

“Our teams love it, our staff is engaged, our guests want to know more. Creating an opportunity for folks to know you’re doing

really important work behind the scenes is a wonderful way to add value and be sustainable in a very simple format.”

Zero Foodprint has helped fund local projects like Wild Nectar Farm’s solar-powered fencing, Light Root Community Farm’s horse-powered haymaking, and Artemis Flower Farm’s cover crops.

“We’re grateful to live in a place that values farmers’ work — not just what we produce, but the services we provide to the land,” said Helen Skiba, owner of Artemis Flower Farm.

This year, Restore Grants are focused on soil — a hugely important factor in combating climate change. By grabbing a bite from a Zero Foodprint member restaurant, you’ll be helping farmers within a 100-mile radius implement restorative soil practices that sequester carbon, improve soil diversity, and make life better for plants, animals, and people.

ABOVE: Daniel Asher, cofounder of River and Woods restaurant in Boulder. River and Woods participates in the Zero Foodprint program.

| For a complete list of Boulder County Zero Foodprint restaurants, visit: [ZeroFoodprint.org/member-directory](https://zerofoodprint.org/member-directory).



Enjoy Your Parks & Open Space with the Whole Family!



Picnic Shelters/Gatherings

Gather the family at 15 picnic shelters and many picnic tables throughout our parks. All shelters are available on a first-come, first-served basis, unless they've been reserved. For more information about all shelters, go to [**boco.org/Shelters**](https://boco.org/Shelters).

Hikes & Events

Enjoy group-led hikes, indoor programs, special events, senior hikes, kids' programs, and other Parks & Open Space events. From gold panning to wildlife watching to night hikes — find them all at [**boco.org/Hikes**](https://boco.org/Hikes).

Fishing

Enjoy fishing at seven parks throughout the county! Explore dedicated fishing spots at Stearns Lake at Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm and Bass and Wally Toevs ponds at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat. For more information about fishing on county open space, go to [**boco.org/Fishing**](https://boco.org/Fishing).

Volunteer

There are many ways to volunteer! Find out more at [**boco.org/BCPOSvolunteer**](https://boco.org/BCPOSvolunteer).



Just for Kids

Nature Detectives Kids Club

This self-guided program is geared toward children 4 to 11 years old. Kids are invited to join the Nature Detectives by participating in self-guided tours and activities. Each Mystery Guide takes you on an exploration of a specific open space property. Mystery Guides are available at trailheads in English and Spanish during summer months or anytime at boco.org/NatureDetectives.

Left Hand Outdoor Challenge

The Left Hand Outdoor Challenge is an outdoor youth program scheduled during the school year for ages 14 to 18. LHOC is designed to inspire teens to appreciate natural resources at a deeper level and to encourage them to challenge themselves, contribute to their community, pursue environmental stewardship, and explore outdoor careers. For more information, visit boco.org/LHOC.

Youth Corps

The Youth Corps provides summer employment opportunities for Boulder County teens ages 14 to 17. Corp members develop a sense of community involvement through personal accomplishment, teamwork, and service to the county. For more information, visit boco.org/YC.

Rooted & Reaching

Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation
& Community in Boulder County



As we enjoy our local open space lands today, we might forget that they weren't always protected. When Boulder County Parks & Open Space became an official department on Jan. 1, 1975, we were a small program with a small budget, and it took years of effort and three tries before voters passed the first successful sales tax in 1993. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary throughout this year, we want to take this opportunity to recognize the vision and hard work that got us to where we are today.

The reason Boulder County Parks & Open Space is so special is that it has these major goals: preserving the unique biodiversity in our county, defining urban boundaries around towns, protecting agriculture, and providing quality recreation and places for the community to connect with nature and each other.

Although we have accomplished protecting 108,000 acres in our 50 years as an agency, there is still so much more to do. Please join us in this 50th celebration year by



coming out and volunteering with us on a restoration project; seed collection, or trail maintenance project, visit a local farm and support our Boulder County farmers; or join us on a Discover Boulder County hike led by enthusiastic volunteers. Together we can improve and enjoy our open spaces and make them welcoming to all.

You can find more about the history and timeline of the evolution of the program, as well as information about special events and programs, at boco.org/OpenSpace50. Check back throughout the year, as information will be updated as details become available.

Boulder County's Budget

Every year, Boulder County works to figure out how much money it will have to spend in the following year – and how to spend that money on services, programs, and projects for the people of Boulder County.

Over the course of eight months, the Boulder County Commissioners speak to county staff, other elected officials, and county residents before agreeing on a budget that starts January 1.



Where does money for programs, services, and projects come from?

The services, programs, and projects you'll read about in the *Community Connections* magazine are paid for with money from different sources, including local taxes (property tax, sales tax, and use tax), fees, and the state and federal governments.

In 2024, around 14% of Boulder County's revenue came from the federal government. It's currently unclear what future funding from the federal government will look like.



Does Boulder County get all of the property tax collected?

Nope. The Boulder County Treasurer collects property tax and then distributes that money to the 135 different taxing authorities. These include school districts, towns and cities, water districts, fire districts, and more.

Around a quarter of your property taxes go to the services, programs, and projects that the county delivers.



Why does the county keep a reserve of money?

The short answer is that keeping some money for emergencies, disasters, and unknowns just makes sense. That's why it's the good governance guidance from the Colorado Government Finance Officers Association. Sadly, Boulder County is no stranger to disasters. In the past, the county has been able to pay for costs from floods and wildfires because money was put aside in previous years.

Get Involved in the Budget Process

Community members are always welcome to reach out to the commissioners at any point in the year to share thoughts on county programs and funding. Go to page 3 of this magazine for the different ways to get in touch.

In August, the schedule of public meetings and hearings is announced, and members of the

public are invited to share their feedback with the commissioners. The public meetings and public hearings are held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (3rd Floor, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder) and can be attended in person, online, and by phone.

Starting in October, the executive team will begin

making public presentations on their budget requests. The county's executive team is made up of department directors and elected officials. In December, the commissioners agree on the budget for the next year.

Visit **boco.org/Budget** to receive email alerts.



Learn More About Boulder County's Budget

Visit the county's website for the 2025 Budget Book to see full details on the budget. You can find out which funds have how much money and where the money is being spent. The budget website, **boco.org/Budget**, also includes key dates, previous years' budgets, and recordings of public meetings and hearings.

To request a printed budget summary, please call the Office of Financial Management: **303-441-3525**.



Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of the 2025 budget process were the commissioners' current strategic priorities:

- Economic security and social stability
- Climate action and environmental stewardship
- Good governance

Underpinning all of these priorities is the belief that good governance is impossible without racial equity.



Voter-Approved Taxes

The county collects a number of sales and use taxes that voters have generously approved over the years. These include:

- Wildfire mitigation
- Sustainability
- Open space
- Emergency services
- Worthy cause
- Affordable and attainable housing
- Transportation improvement

These funding sources can only be used for the uses approved by voters in the ballot measures. The money collected cannot legally be moved to other parts of the budget.

Boulder County Resource Guide

This resource guide outlines services offered by Boulder County, including services for families and children, housing and homelessness, financial assistance, services for older adults, health coverage, education and skill building, and more. Each service area highlights the range of services available, an explanation of the program, and how to learn more. If you have any comments, please scan the QR code above and leave your feedback or visit boco.org/ConnectionsFeedback.



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Additionally, **Findhelp** is a resource website from Boulder County and local partners that helps people find important services all in one place. Enter your ZIP code to search for free or low-cost services like doctor visits, food, job training, housing, childcare, parenting support, and more. Information is available in over 130 languages. boco.findhelp.com



Services for Family and Children

Boulder County Head Start (BCHS)

BCHS promotes school readiness for children, ages 3 to 5, in families with low income by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services. Head Start programs enhance the social and cognitive development of children and actively engage families in their children's learning, setting children up for success in kindergarten.

🌟 boco.org/HeadStart 📞 720-564-2206 ✉️ hsenrollment@bouldercounty.org

Healthy Youth Alliance (HYA)

HYA ensures that all youth, parents, caregivers, and community members have the knowledge and skills to support youth in healthy, positive choices and behaviors. This is accomplished through supporting programs to reduce youth substance use, including Parents Involved in Education, agencies funded through the Substance Education and Awareness Fund, and partnering with community-based organizations to support parenting classes.

🌟 boco.org/HYA

Child Welfare

Boulder County offers comprehensive support focusing on child welfare, including protection services, foster care, kinship support, and mental health referrals, all aimed at ensuring safe and supportive environments for children and families. Concerns about child safety can be reported to the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (844-CO-4-Kids) or the Boulder County Child Welfare screening line (303-441-1309), with emergency situations directed to 911.

🌟 boco.org/ChildWelfare

Adult Protection Services (APS)

Services provided include case coordination, short-term management, and assistance with guardianship, along with offering necessary information and referrals to reduce risk and support the vulnerable. Concerns about adult safety can be reported by calling the number below.

🌟 boco.org/AdultProtection 📞 303-441-1309

Inspire Youth Connections

Inspire Youth Connections empowers young people to support one another and take the lead on mental health and wellness. The program offers peer-led trainings, community events, and youth-driven campaigns that build connection, reduce stigma, and promote resilience. It creates safe spaces for youth to speak up, share experiences, and drive positive change in their schools and communities.

🌟 boco.org/IYC

🌟 website
📞 phone
✉️ email



A la Raíz/To the Root

The A la Raíz/To the Root program addresses the root causes of substance use and mental health challenges among Latine and LGBTQ+ youth. It uses community-driven research and storytelling to center youth voices and promote culturally responsive solutions. The goal is to build more inclusive systems that reflect the strengths and needs of the community.

🌟 boco.org/ToTheRoot

Healthy Futures Youth Coalition

The Healthy Futures Youth Coalition brings together young people from across Boulder County to take action on substance use and mental health. Youth meet regularly to lead projects, share ideas, and work toward positive change in their schools and communities. Adult coalition members join in every other month to collaborate and support youth-led solutions.

🌟 boco.org/HealthyFutures

Child Support Services

We work with both custodial and non-custodial parents and guardians to ensure children receive financial and medical support from both parents. Services include applying for child support, modifying support orders, and facilitating making and receiving payments.

🌟 boco.org/ChildSupport

Immunizations for Children

The Boulder County Public Health Immunization program offers routinely recommended immunizations for children from birth to 18. See program requirements on our website.

🌟 boco.org/Shots

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)

NFP provides free home visits from registered nurses to first-time parents, starting during pregnancy and continuing until the child turns 2. Nurses offer guidance on prenatal care, parenting skills, and child development, helping families build a strong foundation.

🌟 boco.org/NFP

Pregnant & Parenting Teens (GENESIS)

GENESIS promotes healthy parenting practices within teen parent families in Boulder County. Services are provided to teen parents from pregnancy through the child's third birthday.

🌟 boco.org/GENESIS

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC promotes and maintains the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children by providing supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition and breastfeeding information, and referrals to other health and nutrition services.

🌟 boco.org/WIC



LGBTIQ Youth Support

OASOS (Open & Affirming gender identity & Sexual Orientation Supports) aims to increase healthy behaviors and decrease risky behaviors among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning (LGBTIQ) youth through support, advocacy, and education.

🌟 boco.org/OASOS

Tobacco Education & Prevention Partnership (TEPP)

TEPP works through community coalitions to reduce tobacco use by youth and adults in an effort to create a healthy, smoke-free environment for all residents of Boulder County.

🌟 boco.org/Tobacco

Youth Pregnancy Prevention (GENERATIONS)

GENERATIONS is a partner program to the award-winning GENESIS Program for pregnant and parenting teens. GENERATIONS was developed in response to the high number of GENESIS siblings who become teen parents themselves.

🌟 boco.org/GENERATIONS

Children with Special Needs Program (CSNP)

CSNP provides care coordination services for families of infants and children who have special health care needs by supporting and linking families to the appropriate community resources.

🌟 boco.org/CSNP

Community Action Programs (CAP)

CAP advocates for and helps organize programs that foster self-sufficiency for individuals, families, and people of color with low income. Boulder County Community Action Programs focuses on community organizing and advocacy on low-income issues.

🌟 boco.org/CAP ☎️ 303-441-3975 ✉️ cap@bouldercounty.org

Family Connects

Family Connects offers free nurse home visits to families with newborns, providing health checks, postpartum support, and connections to community resources. The program helps parents navigate the early stages of parenthood with confidence and care.

🌟 boco.org/FamilyConnects



Housing and Homelessness

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program

Also known as “Section 8,” this program provides rent subsidies for individuals and families on very low incomes — including the elderly and those with disabilities — in Boulder and Broomfield counties. Participants contribute about 30% of their income toward rent and can choose their own housing. Eligibility applies, and vouchers are distributed through a lottery when available.

🌟 boco.org/HCV

Housing Helpline

The Boulder County Housing Helpline provides information that can help residents find housing and stay in their homes. This support includes rental assistance, mediation services, financial coaching, and free legal assistance.

🌟 boco.org/HousingHelpline

Affordable Rentals

The Boulder County Housing Authority (BCHA) offers a variety of rental homes ranging in size from studios to four-bedroom units in Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, Lyons, and Nederland. BCHA is a not-for-profit organization committed to providing quality homes at affordable prices. Eligibility requirements apply.

🌟 boco.org/NowLeasing

Project-Based Voucher (PBV) Program

Under the PBV program, housing assistance is tied to the unit rather than the individual. BCHA owns and manages several properties throughout Boulder County and offers these units to eligible residents at a cost that is affordable to them. Eligibility requirements apply.

🌟 boco.org/PBV

Mobile Home Communities Program

This program is devoted to the repair and rehabilitation of manufactured and mobile homes throughout the county, focusing on health and safety measures, energy efficiency, code compliance, and accessibility.

🌟 boco.org/MobileHomesProgram



Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

Over the course of five years, the FSS program empowers participants with low incomes to achieve educational, career, and financial goals. Support includes guidance on public assistance, savings opportunities, academic achievement, and methods for increasing financial stability. Eligibility requirements apply.

🌟 boco.org/FSS

Willoughby Corner

Willoughby Corner is Boulder County Housing Authority's newest development, located in East Lafayette. The property is being completed in phases and will eventually offer 400 below-market rental and affordable homes that emphasize sustainability, livability, and community. Visit the website to learn more about making it your home.

🌟 WilloughbyCorner.org

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC) Coordinated Entry

If you are a single homeless adult (18 and older), with no children in your household, looking to receive services from Boulder County or the cities of Boulder or Longmont, individuals must go through a Coordinated Entry site. This is a required step for anyone seeking homeless-related services.

- **Longmont:** Call 720-453-6096 on Mondays-Fridays between noon and 7 p.m. If you do not have access to a phone, you can access one at HOPE in Longmont at 804 S. Lincoln from noon to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- **Boulder:** Call 303-579-4404, Mondays-Fridays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., except Tuesdays, which is from noon-4 p.m.

Food Assistance



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP offers food assistance to households that meet certain eligibility criteria. By covering a portion of a household's grocery costs, SNAP reduces food insecurity, lifts people out of poverty, helps families achieve self-sufficiency, and lessens health disparities.

🌟 boco.org/FoodAssistance

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC promotes and maintains the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children by providing supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition and breastfeeding information, and referrals to other health and nutrition services.

🌟 boco.org/WIC



Boulder and Broomfield Counties Food Resource Calendar

This shared calendar, created by the Boulder and Broomfield Food Security Network, helps residents find food pantries and free meals by sorting by community, days of the week, and times of day. Calendars are continuously updated.

🌟 boco.org/FoodResources

Healthy Eating Active Living

Boulder County Public Health's Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) program supports families and childcare providers in creating healthy environments for young children. The program offers free trainings that focus on nutrition, physical activity, and wellness practices in early childhood settings. Participants learn about improving mealtime routines, encouraging movement, supporting breastfeeding, and reducing screen time. HEAL also provides resources like menu-planning tools, activity guides, and policy templates to help childcare programs build lasting healthy habits.

🌟 boco.org/HEAL

Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE)

Boulder County Public Health's nutrition education program provides children ages 6 months to 5 years the opportunity to learn about healthy food through gardening, taste tests, field trips, meals, snacks, and more. The goals of Farm to ECE is to increase access to nutritious, locally grown food, and experiential opportunities to grow healthy children and positively influence young children's eating habits while their food preferences are forming.

🌟 boco.org/Farm2ECE



Financial Assistance

Colorado Works/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Colorado Works is Colorado's TANF program. TANF offers support to low-income families aiming for self-sufficiency by providing cash, coaching, and referral into services like counseling and job training. Eligibility requirements apply.

🌟 boco.org/TANF

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

CCAP helps low-income families by paying part of their childcare costs for children up to age 12. Eligible families contribute to the costs based on their income and family size.

🌟 boco.org/childcare



Personal Finance Program

The Personal Finance Program offers private counseling on topics like credit, debt strategies, mortgages, student loans, and more. It is completely free and open to all income levels.

🌟 boco.org/PersonalFinance

Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND) and Aid to the Blind (AB)

The AND and AB programs offer financial help (up to \$200 per month) to low-income Colorado residents ages 18 to 59 who cannot work due to a disability lasting at least six months. These programs aim to provide temporary financial support while waiting for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) approval, without covering medical costs. The amount may be adjusted based on other income.

🌟 boco.org/AND

Services for Older Adults



Old Age Pension (OAP)

OAP provides financial assistance and, in some cases, medical benefits for older persons with limited income and resources. Eligibility and the benefit amount are based upon each individual's financial situation.

🌟 boco.org/OAP

Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

Boulder County Area Agency on Aging delivers, funds, and advocates for services that promote well-being, independence, and dignity for older adults, people living with disabilities, caregivers, and veterans in Boulder County.

🌟 BoulderCountyAging.org ☎ 303-441-1617 ✉ infoADRC@bouldercounty.gov

Adult Protection Services (APS)

APS investigates abuse, neglect, or financial harm to vulnerable adults over 18, offering protective services like case management and referrals. If you're worried about an adult's safety, call the number below.

🌟 boco.org/AdultProtection ☎ 303-441-1309

Burial Assistance

This program provides financial assistance to help pay for reasonable and necessary funeral and burial expenses for low-income Boulder County decedents.

🌟 boco.org/BurialAssistance



Long Term Care Medicaid

This program offers eligible individuals comprehensive services, including in-home and community-based assistance, the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and extended nursing home or hospital care. It aims to support those with various mental and physical health needs, helping people remain in their community.

🌟 boco.org/LongTermCare

Medicare Savings Program (MSP)

MSP helps people with limited income and resources pay for some or all of their Medicare premiums; in some cases, it may also pay their insurance, deductibles, and co-insurance. Eligibility requirements apply.

🌟 boco.org/MedicareSavings



Health Coverage and Services

WellMind Connection

WellMind Connection serves as a central point for connecting residents to appropriate resources and accessing the right behavioral health care. This referral and community-based service connects residents to resource navigators and the Community Assistance and Treatment (CAT) team in English and Spanish.

🌟 WellMindConnection.org ☎️ 303-441-1300 ✉️ hubreferrals@bouldercounty.org

Health Coverage Enrollment Center

During Open Enrollment (Nov. 1-Jan. 15), certified Health Coverage Guides assist clients in choosing and enrolling in the right healthcare plan for them. If you experience a major life event, like job loss, marriage, or a new baby, this team can help you switch plans anytime. Advice is free, impartial, and available in multiple languages.

🌟 boco.org/HealthCoverage

Health First Colorado (HFC)

HFC, Colorado's Medicaid program, is free or low-cost health care for Colorado children and adults who qualify. Applications are accepted anytime during the year through Colorado PEAK.

🌟 colorado.gov/PEAK



Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)

CHP+ is low-cost health insurance for certain children and pregnant women in households that earn too much to qualify for Health First Colorado, but don't earn enough to pay for private insurance. Applications are accepted anytime during the year through Colorado PEAK.

🌟 colorado.gov/PEAK

OmniSalud

OmniSalud offers free or low-cost health insurance for undocumented Coloradans. Open enrollment begins Nov. 1 and ends when capacity is reached.

🌟 boco.org/HealthCoverage

Medicare

Boulder County provides information and education about Medicare benefits so beneficiaries can make informed health care decisions.

🌟 boco.org/Medicare

Vaccination Clinics

Boulder County Public Health offers regular vaccination clinics to help keep people in Boulder County healthy. Vaccines are available for children, teens, and adults who are uninsured or underinsured. Many childhood and adult vaccines are offered through special programs that help cover the cost. Clinics are held each week in Boulder and Longmont, and you can make an appointment or just walk in.

🌟 boco.org/Shots

Veteran Services Officers

The Boulder County Veteran Services Office provides U.S. military veterans and their dependents with access to benefits through local, state, federal, and nonprofit programs.

🌟 boco.org/VeteranServices ☎️ 303-441-3890 ✉️ vso@bouldercounty.gov

The Works Harm Reduction Program

The Works Program at Boulder County Public Health provides life-saving harm reduction services for people who use drugs. The program offers access to sterile syringes, safer use supplies, overdose prevention education, naloxone, and HIV and hepatitis C testing. The Works also connects participants to health care, treatment options, and other community resources in a safe, nonjudgmental space.

🌟 boco.org/Works



Education and Skill Building

Education and Skill Building

Workforce Boulder County (WfBC) Workshops

WfBC, a Colorado Workforce Center, offers a wide variety of services to job seekers and businesses. WfBC serves individuals, families, and businesses in Boulder County looking for career skills, growing your financial stability, or searching for the right person to fill a position.

🌟 [WfBC.org](https://www.wfbc.org) 📞 720-776-0822

Personal Finance Program

In partnership with WfBC, the Personal Finance Program offers group financial education workshops, as well as a homeownership training course. It is completely free and open to all income levels.

🌟 [boco.org/PersonalFinance](https://www.boco.org/PersonalFinance)



Land Use Planning and Permitting

Land Use Planning and Permitting

Boulder County Community Planning & Permitting (CPP)

The CPP Department actively promotes the preservation of the integrity of our landscape, conservation of natural resources for a sustainable future, and provision of safety and wellbeing of the citizens of Boulder County through the best in service, public policy, and process. The department provides development review, comprehensive planning, transportation planning, licensing, building permits, building inspections, mapping services, zoning enforcement, and wildfire mitigation services, and implements planning that balances conservation, development, and sustainability. The department has jurisdiction over planning, permitting, and zoning in the unincorporated parts of the county, not in cities or towns.

🌟 [boco.org/AskAPlanner](https://www.boco.org/AskAPlanner) 📞 303-441-3930 ✉️ planner@bouldercounty.gov

Wildfire Partners

Boulder County's wildfire mitigation program supports collective and personal action to create wildfire-resilient communities for all county residents.

🌟 [WildfirePartners.org](https://www.wildfirepartners.org) 📞 303-441-1420 ✉️ info@wildfirepartners.org

Public Safety



Public Safety

Coroner's Office

The Boulder County Coroner and team are dedicated to serving the community with compassion and professionalism. They determine the cause and manner of death through investigation and examination, while providing support and guidance to those living with loss.

🌐 boco.org/Coroner

District Attorney's Office

Community Protection Division

The District Attorney's Office prioritizes the prosecution of domestic violence cases. The DA's office has created an innovative, victim-centered approach with its Domestic Violence Acute Response Team. Working closely with law enforcement, this team possesses specialized skills.

🌐 boco.org/CPD ☎️ 303-441-3700

Bias- & Hate-Motivated Crimes

The DA's office helps coordinate with other local agencies to help people report crimes that are motivated, in whole or in part, by bias against race, color, ancestry, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.

🌐 boco.org/BiasHate ☎️ 303-441-1595

Community Education

Community education about public safety issues, both as an educator and a listener, is critical to the vision for the DA's office. Presentations and educational materials addressing relevant issues affecting our community are available upon request and presented by District Attorney staff, including but not limited to bullying, elder abuse, identity theft and fraud, mandatory reporting, human trafficking, and sexual misconduct in the workplace.

🌐 boco.org/CPD ☎️ 303-441-3700

Sheriff's Office



Sheriff's Office

Blue Envelope Program

Individuals with conditions that may impact communication, such as autism, dementia, hearing impairment, or language processing difficulties, can store essential documents in a blue envelope, signaling the need for communication accommodations with law enforcement. Blue envelopes are available at the Boulder County Sheriff's Office (5600 Flatiron Parkway, Boulder), our substations in Lyons, Nederland, or Superior, or by email.

✉️ BCSO@bouldercounty.gov



Burn Permits and Agricultural Burns

Before you proceed with an open burn (slash pile) in unincorporated Boulder County, you need to complete a burn permit application. Agricultural burns also need to be registered, but do not require a permit. Burn permits and agriculture burn registration can be completed at the website below.

🌟 BurnPermits.BoulderCounty.gov

Cadet Program

Career orientation program that offers interested youth between the ages of 14 and 21 the opportunity to experience the law enforcement profession firsthand. Cadets ride along with deputies on patrol, assist detectives, observe the operations of the Communications Center, and work in the Boulder County Jail.

🌟 boco.org/SheriffRecruiting

Fingerprinting

The Boulder County Sheriff's Office provides fingerprinting by appointment only for court-ordered prints, concealed carry permits, and Boulder County employees.

🌟 boco.org/SheriffFingerprinting ☎️ 303-441-3600

Reserve Unit

The Reserve Unit provides a ready resource of qualified, trained volunteers to the operations of the Sheriff's Office. The Reserve Unit is composed of three sections: the Operations Reserves, the Jail Reserves, and the Sheriff's Volunteers. Operations and Jail Reserves are sworn and uniformed deputies.

🌟 boco.org/SOReserves

Restorative Justice

Volunteers participate in the restorative process where victims are heard and understood, offenders take responsibility for harm, and loved ones and community members offer support. Volunteers attend restorative justice conferences as community members, facilitate the restorative justice process, and mediate or speak at victim impact classes in the jail.

🌟 boco.org/SheriffRestorativeJustice

Victim Assistance

Volunteers help victims of crime, accidents, trauma, and other critical events. On-scene advocates are on call for a designated period each month and respond in person to assist the victim during the immediate crisis. Outreach advocates contact victims assigned to them by phone, mail, or email to offer information, advocacy, and referrals related to their case.

🌟 boco.org/SheriffVictimAssistance



Property Tax and Valuations

- The county calculates, collects, and distributes tax on behalf of 135 different taxing entities.
- Every two years, the Assessor's Office is required by the State of Colorado to appraise the value of all residential and commercial properties using an assessment rate set by the state. The next valuations will be sent to property owners in May 2027.
- The Treasurer's Office calculates property taxes based on the assessed value and the mill levies set by the taxing authorities where the property is located (for example, school district, fire district, library district, water district, city, etc.). Tax notices are sent out in January each year.

Find out more about property assessment:

 boco.org/Assessor  303-441-3530

Find out about tax calculations, exemptions, and payment deadlines:

 boco.org/Treasurer  303-441-3520

Find out about the infrastructure and services that your tax dollars support:

 boco.org/YourTaxesAtWork



Voting and Elections

The Elections Division, which is under the office of the Clerk & Recorder, registers voters, maintains voter registration records, and conducts elections for the county. There are typically elections every November on state and/or local issues/candidates and primary elections in June of even years. Additionally, there is a presidential primary in March every four years. A few voter tips:

- Get registered or check your voter registration at GoVoteColorado.gov. Voters must update their voter registration record every time they move.
- In Colorado, eligible voters are automatically mailed ballots for every election beginning about 3 weeks prior to the election. Voters also have the option to vote in person.
- Colorado does not have a registration deadline, and eligible voters can register to vote up to and including Election Day.
- Consider adding an email address to your voter registration record. Emails are considered confidential and not part of the public voter file. An email address helps the election office reach voters if a problem arises with mailing addresses or ballot envelope signatures.

 BoulderCountyVotes.gov



Motor Vehicle and Records

Vehicle Registration

The Motor Vehicle Division, which is under the office of the Clerk & Recorder, titles and registers motor vehicles, issues disability placards, and renews vehicle registrations for Boulder County residents. In recent years, in order to reduce wait times for the public, Boulder County Motor Vehicle moved to an appointments-only system for in-person visits (with exceptions for emergencies). Additionally, annual vehicle registration/license plate renewals need to be completed out of office. Convenient options include online, by mail or drop box, or at a self-service kiosk. For more information or to make a motor vehicle appointment or find a drop box/kiosk location, visit the website below.

🌟 BoulderCounty.gov/MV

Marriage/Real Estate Records

The Recording Division, which is under the office of the Clerk & Recorder, issues and records marriage licenses and civil unions. The Division also records real estate documents, such as warranty deeds, deeds of trust, quit claim deeds, liens, and subdivision plats for public notice.

🌟 BoulderCounty.gov/Recording

Vital Records – Birth and Death Certificates

Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) offers certified birth and death certificates for people who need official copies for things like travel, school, or legal documents. You can request a certificate for someone born in Colorado or who passed away in Boulder County. Services are available online, by mail, or in person, and most requests are processed quickly. These records are important for many life events, including applying for benefits, enrolling in programs, and settling legal matters.

🌟 boco.org/PublicRecords

Are you a homeowner?

Sign up for free email notifications to detect possible fraudulent activity on your home or property. A service of Boulder County's Clerk & Recorder — Recording Division.

Learn more at BoulderCounty.gov/Recording.



Sustainability and Climate Action



Boulder County Switch Together

Residents interested in discounted rooftop solar, home batteries, or EV charging can join Boulder County's solar group purchasing program, Switch Together. This program is free to join and offers vendor-neutral expertise, facilitates competitively priced installations, and provides educational resources. Members can benefit from 10%-20% savings compared to market rates and make informed decisions with unbiased guidance.

🌱 boco.org/SwitchTogether

Colorado's Affordable Residential Energy (CARE) Program

Energy Outreach Colorado's CARE program provides income-qualified residents with free home energy efficiency upgrades that may include insulation, refrigerators, LEDs, shower heads, air sealing, and qualifying furnaces and water heaters. Visit the CARE Program webpage to find out if you qualify.

🌱 EnergyOutreach.org/CARE

Drive Electric Newsletter

This quarterly newsletter covers sustainable transportation topics, including electric vehicles, e-bikes, and charging stations. It also shares information on local, state, and federal rebates, community events, educational resources, and more. Sign up to stay informed about electric car and bike options, deals, and incentives in Boulder County!

🌱 boco.org/DriveElectric

EnergySmart

Boulder County's award-winning home sustainability program offers free, unbiased, one-on-one energy advising. It connects you to rebates, deals, and incentives to help you save money on energy-saving and healthy home upgrades like insulation, air sealing, heat pumps, and induction cooking. Learn more by emailing an advisor or visiting the website.

🌱 EnergySmartYes.com ✉ info@EnergySmartYes.com

Keep It Clean Partnership

This program focuses on preventing pollution and improving the health of the Boulder St. Vrain Watershed through stormwater management and educational initiatives. Visit its website for water quality reports, pollution prevention tips, and resources for residents, teachers, and businesses. Visit the website to learn more, subscribe to the newsletter, and report pollution.

🌱 KeepItCleanPartnership.org



Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE)

PACE offers free, one-on-one expert advising and rebate opportunities for Boulder County businesses. Advisors help businesses reduce waste, save energy, and cut costs on audits and upgrades. Subject to availability, PACE offers rebates and incentives for efficient lighting, electric landscaping equipment, food service and grocery equipment, heating and cooling, solar installations, heat pump water heaters, and other upgrades. Connect with an advisor to learn more.

🌱 [PacePartners.com](https://pacepartners.com) ☎ [303-786-7223](tel:303-786-7223) ✉ info@pacepartners.com

Rebuilding Better

Residents impacted by the Marshall Fire can find support through Rebuilding Better, the county's record-setting program that assists with planning, designing, and constructing high-performance homes. The program connects residents to specialized resources to guide them through sustainable and resilient rebuilding practices. The result: healthier, more comfortable, and energy-efficient homes that burn fewer — or no — fossil fuels. The website is continuously updated with new information and resources.

🌱 RebuildingBetter.org

Soil Health Initiative and Sustainable Food and Agriculture Fund

The county provides two distinct grant opportunities for projects and practices that support county farmers, ranchers, and food producers. The Soil Health Initiative offers grants to build and enhance soil health through practices like minimal tillage, cover crops, rotational grazing, and more. The Sustainable Food and Agriculture Fund supports projects focused on education, market infrastructure, food processing, and frontline farm worker support. Grants are awarded annually. For details on application periods, visit the website below.

🌱 BoulderCounty.gov/climate/soil-health-initiative

Zero Foodprint Grants

Boulder County farmers and ranchers can apply for Restore Grants to support regenerative agriculture practices. Funded by a 1% contribution from customer bills at participating Zero Foodprint member restaurants and food businesses, these grants support climate-beneficial projects that improve soil health and draw down carbon. To find out when the next application period opens or to see a list of local Zero Foodprint member businesses, visit the website below.

🌱 ZeroFoodprint.org



Recycling and Hazardous Waste

Recycling Center & Drop Off

Open 24/7 to accept single-stream recyclables like cans, paper, cardboard, glass, and plastics. Also accepts shredded paper. Free for all residents.

🌟 BoulderCountyRecycles.org

Hazardous Waste Management Facility (HMMF)

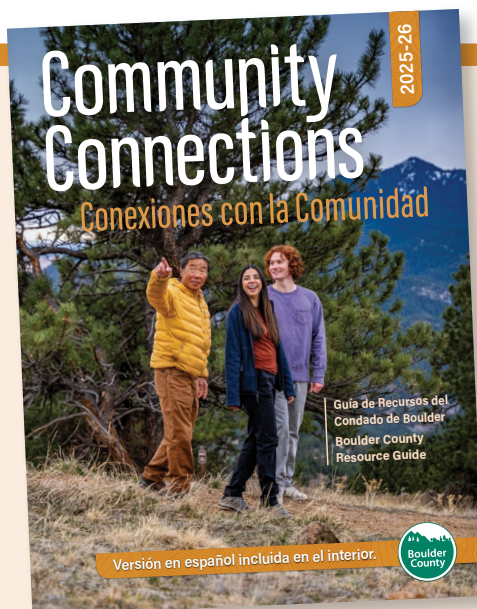
Accepts household hazardous waste for proper disposal. Free for Boulder County, Broomfield County, and Town of Erie residents. Facility also open for others outside of Boulder County for a fee. Businesses can use facility after applying.

🌟 boco.org/HMMF

Waste Transfer Stations

Free recycling, trash, and composting drop-off centers located in Nederland and Allenspark. Other materials also accepted for a fee, like scrap metal, appliances, and construction materials.

🌟 boco.org/NederlandRecycling



Community Connections is a bilingual English and Spanish publication designed using accessible fonts. An accessible digital version is available at boco.org/CommunityConnections.

To receive the articles in another language, email webmaster@bouldercounty.gov.

This publication is printed on recycled paper with FSC certification. FSC certification ensures that products come from responsibly managed forests that provide environmental, social, and economic benefits.





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