

A Letter to the Community and Announcement of New Application Intake Processes

December 28, 2023

Dear Marshall Fire Community,

As we approach the two-year anniversary, the Impact Development Fund (IDF) Disaster Recovery Team would like to acknowledge the emotions of this time and the continued strain on impacted households. We have shared tears of both grief and joy, and we are inspired by the resilience and grit of every survivor, as well as the continued camaraderie of so many community resources coming together to rebuild.

The IDF Disaster Recovery Team is honored to administer programs on behalf of partner organizations and agencies, including the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Community Foundation of Boulder County, the Colorado Energy Office, and Boulder County. IDF began the Disaster Recovery program in June 2022, with the first funding disbursed in August 2022. IDF program administration highlights include:

- Over \$5.1 million distributed under the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' (DOLA) Housing Recovery Program, totaling over 220 traditional and forgivable loans for rebuilding and over 220 mitigation assistance fundings via loans and grants.
- Over \$10 million of Community Foundation of Boulder County's (CFBC) rebuild grants were distributed to over 495 households.
- Over \$1.3 million Unmet Needs grants distributed in response to over 530 unmet needs. Read CFBC's 2-year report here.
- Over \$1.38 million to 435+ households received grant funds for Boulder County Use Tax rebates.

We also want to share our appreciation for Colorado Economic Development Project (CEDP) and their dedicated application intake efforts contributing to the program highlights above! During their work with IDF, the CEDP team assisted with processing applications resulting in over 17,000 touchpoints.

As of December 29th, all <u>new</u> applications for programs administered by IDF will be redirected to a streamlined, revised application at https://impactdf.org/disaster-recovery. The previous CEDP Rebuild page will automatically redirect and the phone line will forward to IDF's Disaster Recovery Intake team.

Many current applicants have already been introduced to their IDF Intake Specialist. IDF has been working with our partners to ensure an effective transition, document collection, prioritization of ongoing and backlogged applications, streamlined processes and new technology for incoming applications, and onboarding of new staff to handle the large volume of clients.

IDF has a team of 10 full-time staff members dedicated to the Disaster Recovery team, four of whom are specifically assigned to application intake and case management. To contact our team:

- Call our hotline: the main Disaster Recovery phone line for assistance is 970-744-4835.
- Email: program specific inboxes have been established for general inquiries. Email groups can be found on the website and program application.
- Meet with an Intake Specialist: you can set up a 1:1 appointment with your assigned Intake Specialist. Meetings are available via phone or video conference to connect about your case status, complete an application, discuss follow-up documents needed or next steps for funding. Your Intake Specialist will also ensure documentation is recorded and will establish a unique link for Dropbox to share documents privately and securely.

The IDF Disaster Recovery website will be continuously updated with new information from program partners, including the launch of the updated Colorado Energy Office Electrification Rebate application and the re-launch of DOLA's Landlord Recovery Program. Additionally, reference guides, program policies and FAQs for programs will also be available, including the Department of Local Affairs updates to income review policies. The updated website also includes an HRP Appeal and Rebuild Appeal button to request a secondary review of a current eligibility decision.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the current volume of applications is at its highest level since program launch and applications have grown more complex as we move further from the disaster. IDF is committed to working tirelessly to move through the high number of applications in process and provide great client service. We thank you for your patience as we work through this caseload.

Sincerely,

The IDF Disaster Recovery Team