

Disaster Resilience Rebuilding Program Fund Reporting Colorado Revised Statutes 24-32-134

2024 Annual Report

December 20, 2024

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Overview

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) is providing this 2024 Disaster Resilience Rebuilding (DRR) Program Fund Report to the House of Representatives Transportation and Local Government Committee and the Senate Local Government Committee, or their successor committees, pursuant to C.R.S. 24-32-134. The statute requires the Division of Local Government (DLG) to annually submit a report summarizing the program. Legislation in SB 22-206 created the Disaster Resilience Rebuilding Program, the Sustainable Rebuilding Program, the Office of Climate Preparedness, and appropriated funding for those activities. The Disaster Resilience Rebuilding Program was then established in the Colorado Department of Local Affairs in 2022 to assist areas of Colorado impacted by state or federal disasters since January 2018. The program has the opportunity to help homeowners, businesses, local governments, and communities rebuild after natural disasters and is intended to help local communities and the state recover from the devastating physical and economic effects of natural disasters.

The three main recovery areas addressed by the DRR program are:

- Housing Recovery
- Economic Recovery
- Local Government & Neighborhood Recovery

Funds are not currently allocated for economic recovery or local infrastructure needs (second and third bullets above) due to the priority placed on housing recovery and the availability of other funding sources for economic, local government and neighborhood recovery.

Eligible Disasters and Outreach

While disasters since January 1, 2018 are eligible for DRR program funding, the program opened up with the focus on housing recovery as over 1,800 residential structures were lost in the 32 disasters in that timeframe. Outreach was conducted by DLG throughout the state using the network of Regional Managers who contacted

municipal and county managers as well as emergency services and first responders to determine whether or not the DRR program could be of assistance in the affected area. Statewide interest in the opportunity provided by the program came from residents affected by the following four disasters:

- Spring Creek Fire of 2018 in Huerfano and Costilla Counties,
- Cameron Peak Fire of 2020 in Larimer County,
- East Troublesome Fire of 2020 in Grand County, and
- Marshall Fire and Straight-Line Winds in Boulder County.

The DRR program has a total of \$14,500,000 allocated to the Housing Recovery Program funding and the Colorado Energy Office has provided an additional \$2,500,000. Because the Marshall Fire was a federally declared disaster, additional federal Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds will cover roughly 30% of the awarded funds for households at or below 80% to 100% of the area median income. Ultimately, these funds supplement DRR funds to fully resource the Housing Recovery Program. At this time up to \$8,100,000 in additional funding from CDBG-DR are anticipated to be added to the Housing Recovery Program, bringing the total response to the disaster to approximately \$25,000,000.

Table 1: DRR Program Allocation

Fund Category	Amount
Initial State DRR allocation	\$15,000,000
Additional Colorado Energy Office funding	\$2,500,000
Subtotal	\$17,500,000
Less: Housing Recovery Program funding	\$17,000,000
Less: Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	\$408,271
Unallocated funds	\$91,729

Housing Recovery Program (HRP)

The State of Colorado Housing Recovery Program (HRP) helps people affected by natural disasters stay in their communities by providing extra resources for rebuilding. It aims to reduce the financial burden of rebuilding, especially for households with limited resources. The program encourages rebuilding with high-performance building standards set by local communities. It also supports using sustainable building elements beyond what local codes require, such as fire-, wind-, and water-resistant materials, as well as energy-efficient measures.

HRP resources available to households include forgivable and/or traditional rebuilding loans depending on their income level. Households can also access additional hazard mitigation funding during their home rebuild for wind and fireproofing mitigation that goes beyond the required code.

Housing Recovery Program Expenses

Table 2: 2024 HRP Expenses through November 30, 2024

Category	2022 - 2023 Expenses	2024 Expenses	Total
Rebuilding Loans and Grants	\$6,148,152	\$5,640,060	\$11,788,212
\$5,000 Hazard Mitigation Incentives	\$575,459	\$674,288	\$1,249,747
Program Delivery	\$1,556,469	\$982,554	\$2,539,023
Total	\$8,280,080	\$7,296,902	\$15,571,903*

^{*}Thirty percent of the total will be covered with federal CDBG-DR funding.

Projections for the remaining disaster recovery show an approximate need for an additional \$9,606,890. CDBG-DR funds in the amount of \$8,100,000 will be used with State DRR funds to support the remaining applications in the queue.

More details on the Marshall Fire recovery and the impact of the Housing Recovery Program can be found on our website at: dlg.colorado.gov/marshall-fire-recovery-and-resilience-dashboard.

Crisis Track Portal

As directed under the DRR legislation, the Division of Local Government coordinated with and provided funds to the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) for the implementation of a statewide damage assessment and disaster survivor portal. Of the DRR program funding, \$408,271 was allocated to DHSEM for this portal.

In 2024, the Portal, called Crisis Track, launched in 63 of 64 counties and had not yet launched in the two tribal areas in Colorado. It also launched in 20 communities that span two or more counties, including: Arvada, Aurora, Basalt, Bennett, Brighton, Center, Central City, Erie, Green Mountain Falls, Johnstown, Littleton, Lochbuie, Longmont, Northglenn, Superior, Timnath, Westminster, and Windsor.