



NAVIGATING DISASTER

FOR BOULDER COUNTY

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Navigating Disaster Program continues to provide one-on-one short and long-term support to hundreds of disaster-impacted individuals and households. Navigators continue to provide information about resources and assistance with applications for funding sources.

Many residents have requested assistance with the online application process which is time-consuming and can be confusing. As Navigators have an on-going relationship with DOLA and IDF personnel, they are uniquely suited to assist and provide knowledgeable support to those who apply for rebuilding funds.

Navigators will work with many local and national disaster recovery groups in providing comprehensive information at a public resource fair on Oct. 7. Navigators will provide personal support and assistance at the event.

The program met with representatives from Boulder County Recovery and Resiliency and Marshall ROC to analyze data related to the ongoing needs of the community. Based on that data, it was determined that the Recovery Navigation program will be extended through the first quarter of 2024, pending the availability of funding. Highlights from the data set were:

- Only 5% of homes lost had received a Certificate of Occupancy at the time the data was run
- 61% of lots were permitted or in the permit review stage
- 34% of owners had not yet begun the permitting process

It was also noted that a majority of households receiving ongoing recovery navigation services are approaching the end of Additional Living Expense (ALE) coverage with most expirations happening at the end of December, which aligns with the upcoming anniversary of the event.

The decision to extend the program is primarily to allow navigators to support residents with applications for an extension of ALE and connection to other available supports, as well as to be available to assist with emotional support through the anniversary period.

TRENDS / CONCERNS

There are concerns regarding the number of households that may or may not be aware of the many funding sources available for rebuilding. Recovery Groups such as Marshall ROC are working diligently to provide information to residents about resources and will continue to do so in the coming months.

Navigators bring unique situations to the attention of DOLA staff based on real-life resident experiences. Navigators continue to participate in bi-weekly meetings with DOLA and IDF personnel to review new programs and policies and will continue to advocate for residents in their appeal process, if appropriate, regarding funding decisions.

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As previously mentioned, insurance funding for rent payments - Additional Living Expenses (ALE) - will be expiring at the end of 2023 for many households. Navigators hope that all residents are aware of income-limited funding through Community Foundation Boulder County and options to speak with financial counselors to manage housing costs. Applications are available online or by phone and Navigators will be prepared to assist with this process if needed.

Also, as previously mentioned, standing or smoke-damaged homes continue to be a concern within the community, including concerns about safety and the financial burdens created by the length of time residents have been displaced. Some funding is available through Community Foundation Boulder County and the Housing Recovery Program which can be applied for at cedproject.org/rebuild. Navigators can assist with the application process if needed.

PROGRAMMATIC CHALLENGES

The Recovery Navigation Program has experienced some staff turnover and is continuing efforts to hire additional Navigators if possible, however, hiring for a temporary position remains challenging. Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) hopes to maintain a robust team through the final 6-months of the program. LFSRM is committed to continuing services into 2024 and has secured partial funding through Boulder County, but is seeking additional funding needed to provide services through the month of March of 2024.

FUTURE PLANNING AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

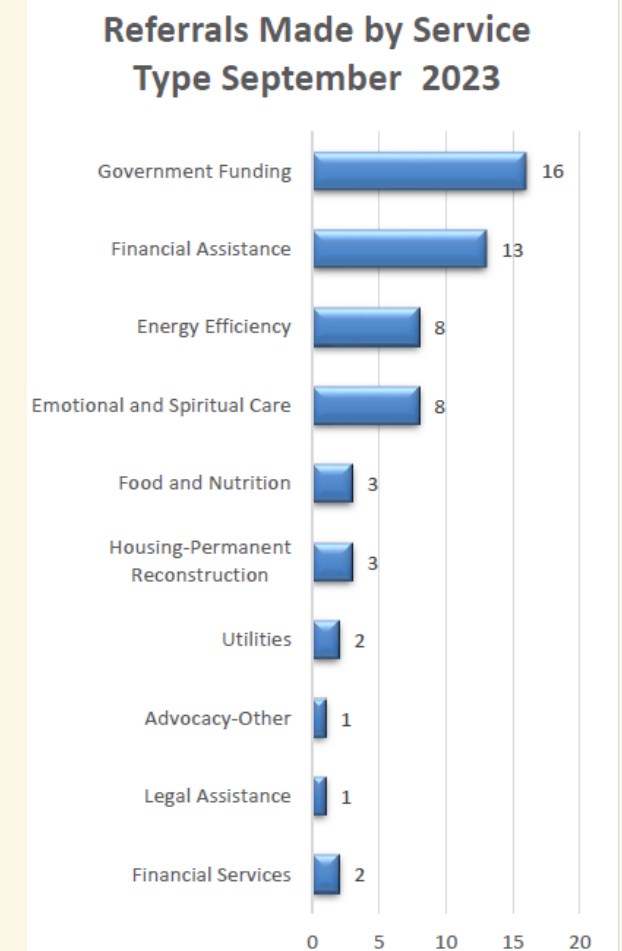
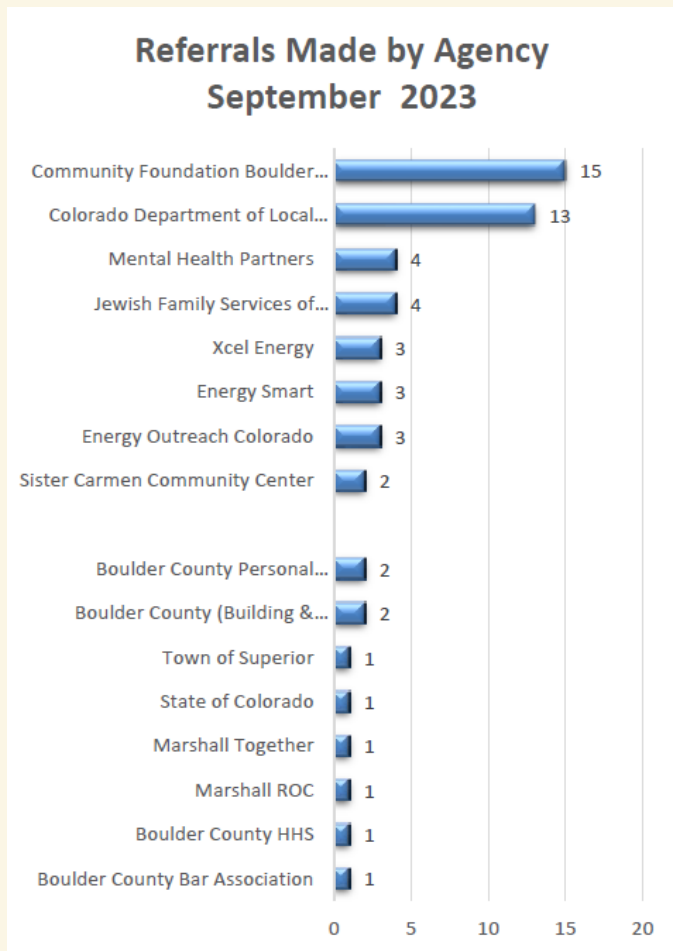
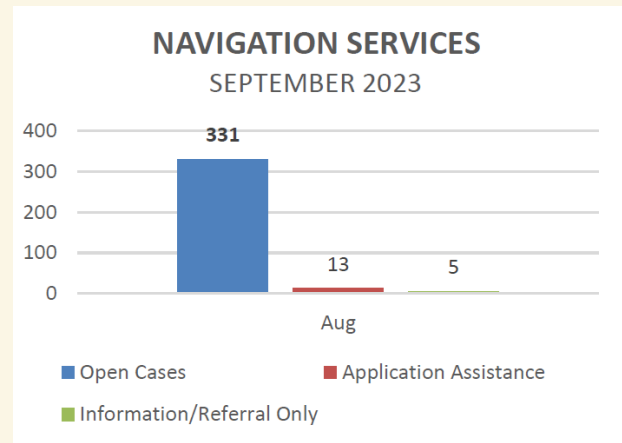
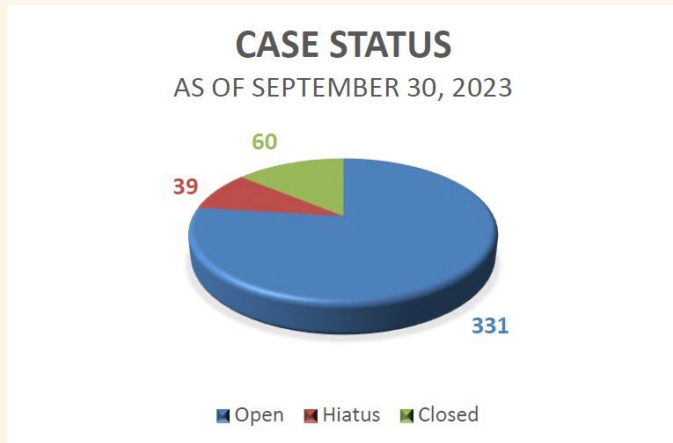
Navigators will continue providing resource information and services such as application assistance into 2024. The program is closing completed cases and will be transitioning to an information and referral approach with most new clients. The information provided in coming months will be substantial and will include new resources if they become available. Navigators will continue to work with Partner Recovery Groups such as Marshall ROC in any informational sessions, town hall style meetings, and outreach for residents that might be available in the coming months. Navigators will also continue work with the Housing Recovery Program and Community Foundation online applications.

CLIENT IMPACT STORIES

- A retired senior stated the rebuilding process included many challenges with insurance and the mortgage company, but was assisted by a Navigator in applying for the Housing Recovery Program funds. She stated it was a lot of documentation and many invoices, but she persevered and obtained a good deal of funding. She is now back in her home and stated she is grateful for the advocacy and research that the Navigator did on her behalf.
- A client received funding through a faith-based organization for a new membrane roof and much needed repairs to his carport and awning. The project was completed last week and will prevent additional damage to the client's home as cooler wet weather is not far down the road. Donated labor made it even more of a success as it took several organizations working together to make this happen. The client is beyond grateful for the generosity of the community and has personally written thank you cards to a handful of disaster lea

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PROGRAM DATA



Referral Data Tracking has been revised to better represent the types of referrals made by the program. Government Funding includes municipal rebates, City Grants, Housing Recovery Program (DOLA), SBA and others. Financial assistance includes referrals to Community Foundation Boulder County.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSED RECOVERY NEEDS Cumulative as of September 2023

