



NAVIGATING DISASTER

FOR BOULDER COUNTY

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains was able to obtain private funding for the Recovery Navigators to extend services based on ongoing needs of the community. Extending the program is primarily to assist with applications for Additional Living Expense (ALE) funding and connection to other resources, emotional support throughout the anniversary period and acknowledging that a high number of homes are still in early stages of permitting and construction.

The Navigating Disaster Program will continue to provide one-on-one support for disaster-impacted individuals and households through March 2024. It is recommended that those who are just starting their recovery/rebuilding process or those who have not met with a Navigator to date do so as soon as possible to maximize available recovery support.

Navigators continue to assist residents with online applications as needed and will do so in the coming months for Housing Recovery Program funding and the Community Foundation Boulder County. Navigators can provide information and answer questions regarding the programs and the process. For those who choose to apply independently, Navigators can help scan and upload documents that are required with the application. Technology support is also available through Marshall ROC, by appointment.

Navigators served as guides and worked alongside many recovery agencies, organizations and governmental partners providing information at the Marshall Fire Moving Forward Funding and Resource Fair on October 7, sponsored by Marshall ROC. Navigators were available to answer questions and assist with locating the appropriate resource booths for the more than 400 persons attending the event.

Navigator Program leadership members meet with representatives from Boulder County Recovery and Resiliency, Marshall ROC, DOLA and Impact Development Fund bi-weekly to plan for a smooth transition of services after the Recovery Navigators program ends in the spring 2024. Plans for robust communication in the coming weeks and months to provide resource information within the community, and planning and implementation of ongoing support for survivors is a top priority.

TRENDS / CONCERNS

As previously mentioned, insurance funding for Additional Living Expenses (ALE) will be expiring at the end of 2023 for many households. Navigators are aware of more than 200 households with this concern. There are a few insurance companies that have extended benefits for homes under construction and who have firm completion dates. Survivors should request an extension through their insurance company as a first step. There is income-limited funding through Community Foundation Boulder County and options to speak with financial counselors who can advise regarding managing housing costs. Applications are available online and Navigators will be prepared to assist with this process if needed.

Navigators continue to work with more than 75 standing smoke-damaged homes with damages ranging from moderate to severe. Safety, financial burdens, construction delays and lengthy periods of displacement continue to cause great stress for families. 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 as needed. A Smoke

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Damage Task Force has been established to work on the specific issues, both short-term and long-term, related to smoke, thermal and partial burn damage caused by the Marshall Fire. The group includes survivors, neighborhood representatives, recovery organizations, and state and county government officials. The task force meets bi-weekly and is hosted by Marshall ROC.

PROGRAMMATIC CHALLENGES

The Recovery Navigation Program will be adding a Program Assistant in November for administrative support. Hiring for temporary positions remains challenging but Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains is committed to continuing services with a robust team through the final 5 months of the program.

FUTURE PLANNING AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Navigators are in the process of closing cases for those where primary needs have been met. The process involves personal contact and can take days to weeks to conclude. Navigator reports will continue to show a change in the number of open and closed cases in the coming months as work is completed and the transition takes place to an information and referral approach with new clients.

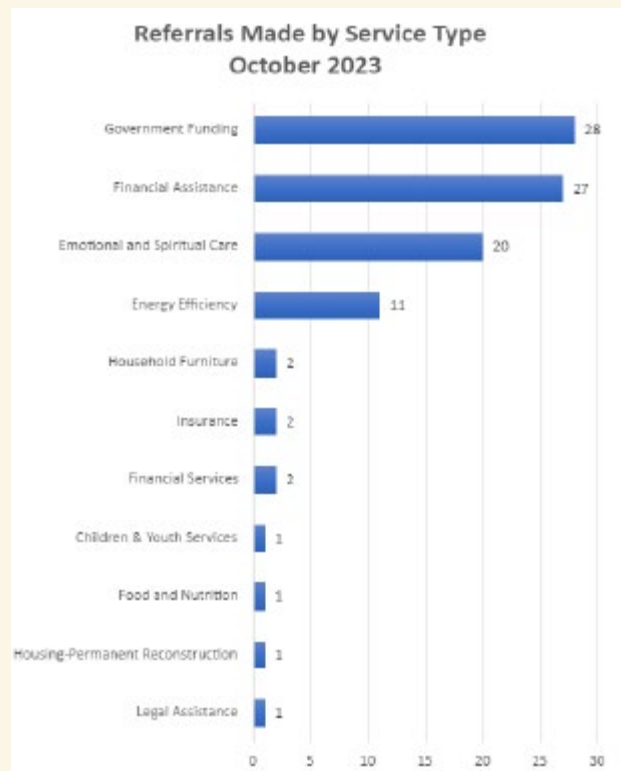
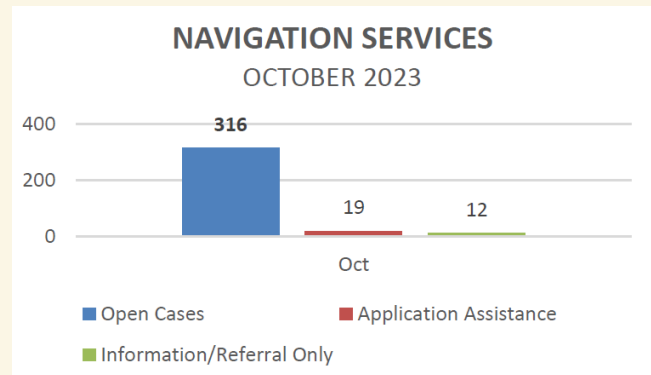
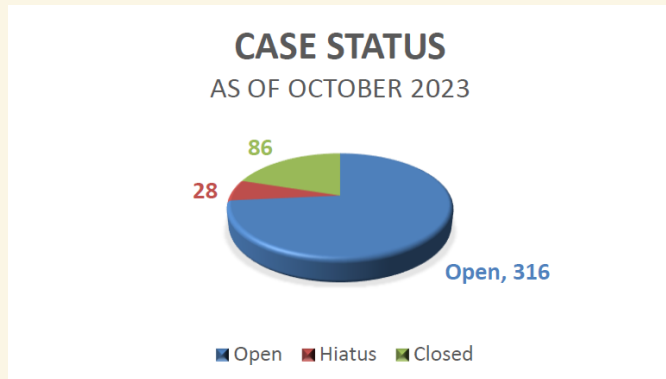
Navigators will continue to work with Partner Recovery Groups such as Marshall ROC for informational sessions, town hall meetings and outreach to residents over the next few months.

CLIENT IMPACT STORIES

- A resident that finished construction and moved into her home wrote the following to the Navigator who assisted her throughout her recovery journey: "A big Thank You to everyone who worked on my case. It was a tremendous help on my journey to rebuild, both financially and knowing I was not alone on my journey."
- A mother wanted to return to work after spending months working on the family's recovery process. A faith-based organization donated assistance to pay for 6 months of childcare so she could return to work for the first time since the fire. That family happily moved into their rebuilt home this month.
- A couple with small children had moved to Colorado to be near aging parents in November 2021. All of their belongings were destroyed in the Marshall Fire, and they did not have insurance. They struggled to replace items and are very grateful to have received financial assistance for household goods and furniture from donated Unmet Needs Funds held by the Community Foundation Boulder County.

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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.

