

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP #1

Wildfires, Resiliency, Disaster Management

04/29/2025

AGENDA

10:00am Welcome & Collaborative Overview

10:05am Topic #1 Disaster Management

10:30am Topic #1 Q&A

10:35am Topic #2 Wildfire & Resiliency

11:00am Topic #2 Q&A

11:05am Discussion Roundtable

11:15am Close Out

Collaborative Overview

The **Western Regional Collaboration** is a multi-state collaborative consisting of 100+ members representing local and state governments, MSA's, territories, and tribal nations. The goal of the collaborative is to share resources and best practices to advance decarbonization, resiliency, and sustainability across the western region.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT **RESILIENT RECOVERY**



Ann Schmid

Director, Disaster Recovery

ICF



Disaster Recovery Lifecycle

Recovery is a cyclical, interdependent process where response, rebuilding and mitigation often overlap. Progress may be disrupted or reset by new disaster, requiring flexible, adaptive approaches.



National Disaster Recovery Framework

Third Edition

December 10, 2024

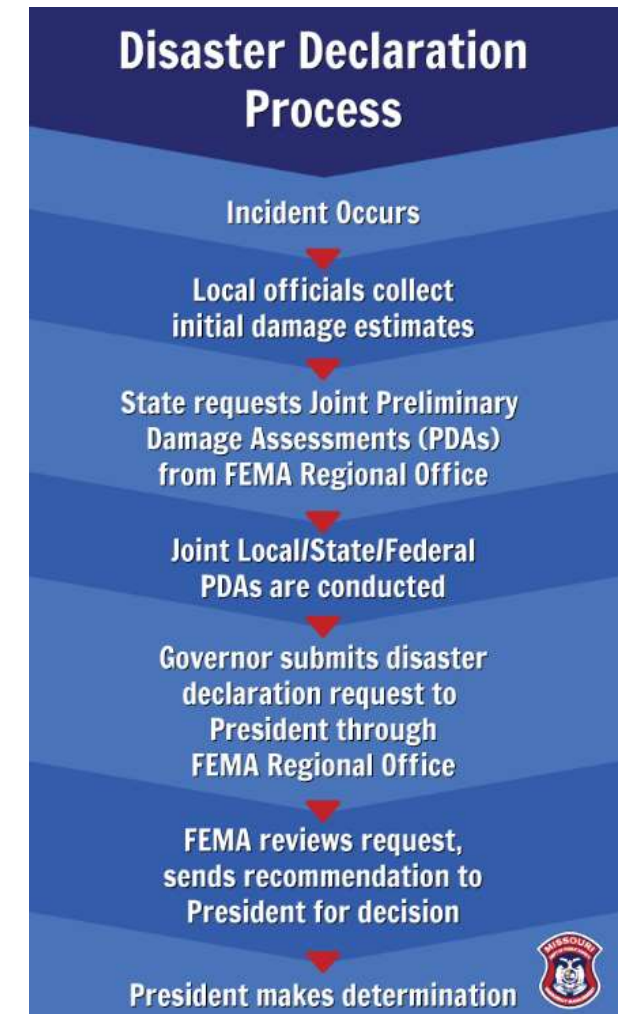


https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_national-disaster-recovery-framework-third-edition_2024.pdf

Disaster Recovery Starts Local

This process requires understanding resources and asking for help

- County emergency managers work in a connected framework with State Emergency Management
- When local resources are maxed out, the State provides additional support
- When State resources are maxed out the State requests Federal Support
- Disaster Declaration Process – Required for Federal Assistance



<https://sema.dps.mo.gov/recover/federal-disaster-declaration-process.php>

Community Development
Block Grant- Disaster
Recovery (CDBG-DR)

Community Development
Block Grant-Mitigation
(CDBG-MIT)



HUD



FEMA

FEMA Public Assistance
(PA)

FEMA Individual
Assistance (IA)

FEMA BRIC

HMGP



States & Localities



Responsible Organizations

Resilient Recovery Approach



Response



Recovery



Mitigation



Housing – CDBG-DR

Key Activities

- Perform initial damage survey
- Collect data on debris removal and emergency preparedness measures
- Attend subrecipient briefings
- Support subrecipient request for Public Assistance

- Develop comprehensive strategy to leverage all recovery funds
- Maximize insurance claims
- Advocate for increased state funding
- Expedite FEMA funding
- Develop projects for eligible work

- Integrate 406 Hazard Mitigation into recovery process for more resilience and to obtain 80% cost share
- Drive long-term resilience strategy through HMGP, BRIC, FMA, CDBG-DR, and state funds

- Understand the process for allocation
- Document damages and expected outcomes
- Engage with state and federal officials to formalize request
- Begin building Action Plan

Primary Goals

- Protect life and property
- Conduct initial damage assessments
- Provide information to local, state, and federal partners

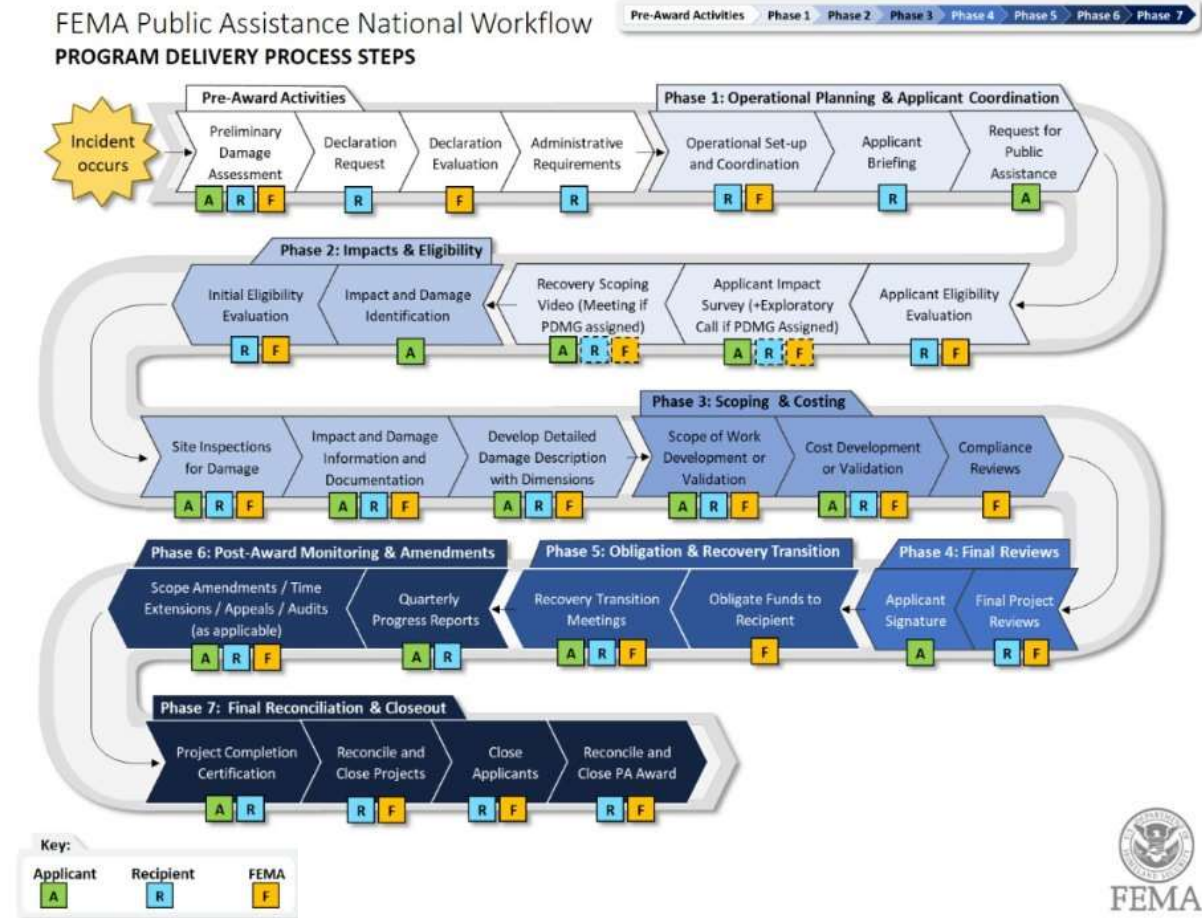
- Restore property to pre-disaster condition
- Implement mitigation measures for resiliency
- Ensure all documentation is compliant

- Ensure all Requests for Information are resolved
- Request funding

- Advocate for the largest amount of funding possible by making the case now for funding
- Ensure an appropriation for a CDBG-DR program for Los Angeles

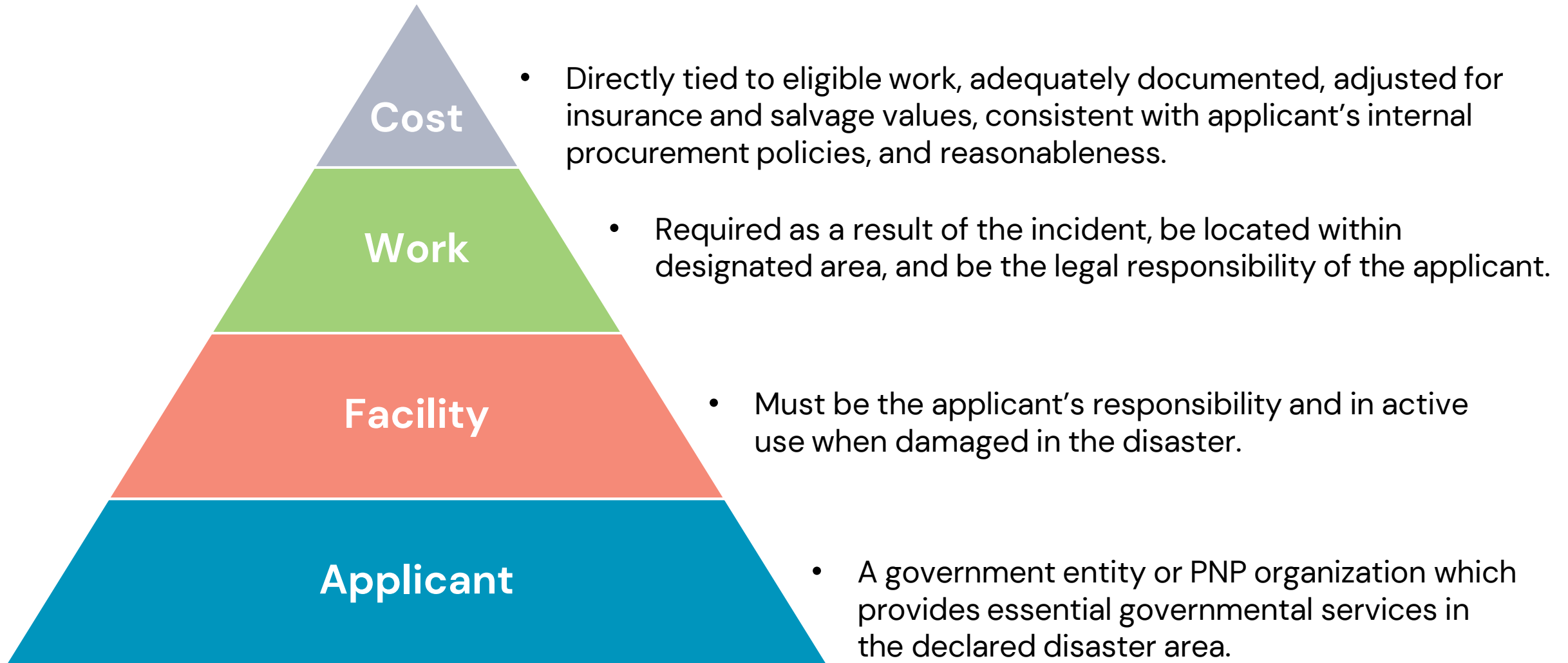
The FEMA Public Assistance Process

FEMA's PA Program aims to support **state, territorial, Tribal, and local governments**, along with eligible private nonprofit organizations, by helping communities rapidly respond to and recover from Presidential-declared disasters or emergencies.

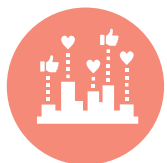


Source: FEMA

Eligibility for Public Assistance Grant Funding



Pre-disaster



Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)

Reduce future loss of life and property due to disasters from all hazards before an event.



Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

Reduce the risk of repetitive flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program.



Safeguarding Tomorrow Through Ongoing Mitigation (STORM)

A state revolving loan program designed to reduce future loss of life and property due to disasters.

Post-disaster



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Reduce future loss of life and property due to disasters following a Major Disaster Declaration.



Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

Focused on long-term recovery efforts that address a disaster-related impact.

In the last 5 years, ICF has secured \$385.4 million in hazard mitigation funding for our clients.



Congress makes CDBG-DR appropriations after major disasters if there is **ongoing unmet need**

- Focuses on long-term recovery efforts
- Addresses unmet needs that other federal programs have not yet addressed
- Intended to bridge the gap by supplementing, not replacing, other federal funds
- Ability to design and customize programs to meet local community needs
- Universal Notice provides waivers and alternative requirements (**CDBG-DR is not identical to annual CDBG**)
- Limited timeframe for implementation (6 years)

Examples of CDBG-DR programs



Housing

- Homeowner repair or reconstruction
- Mandatory and optional elevation
- Interim mortgage assistance
- Acquisition for redevelopment
- Small rental repair
- Multi-family rental repair or new construction
- Buyout



Economic revitalization

- Small business loan, grant, and technical assistance
- Infrastructure investments for economic revitalization purposes
- Micro-enterprise assistance



Infrastructure and community facilities

- Non-federal share match (FEMA Public Assistance and HMGP)
- Critical infrastructure
- Assistance to local governments for other recovery infrastructure programs



Public/social services

- Expansion or new public services
- Mental health services
- Workforce development
- Homelessness prevention programs



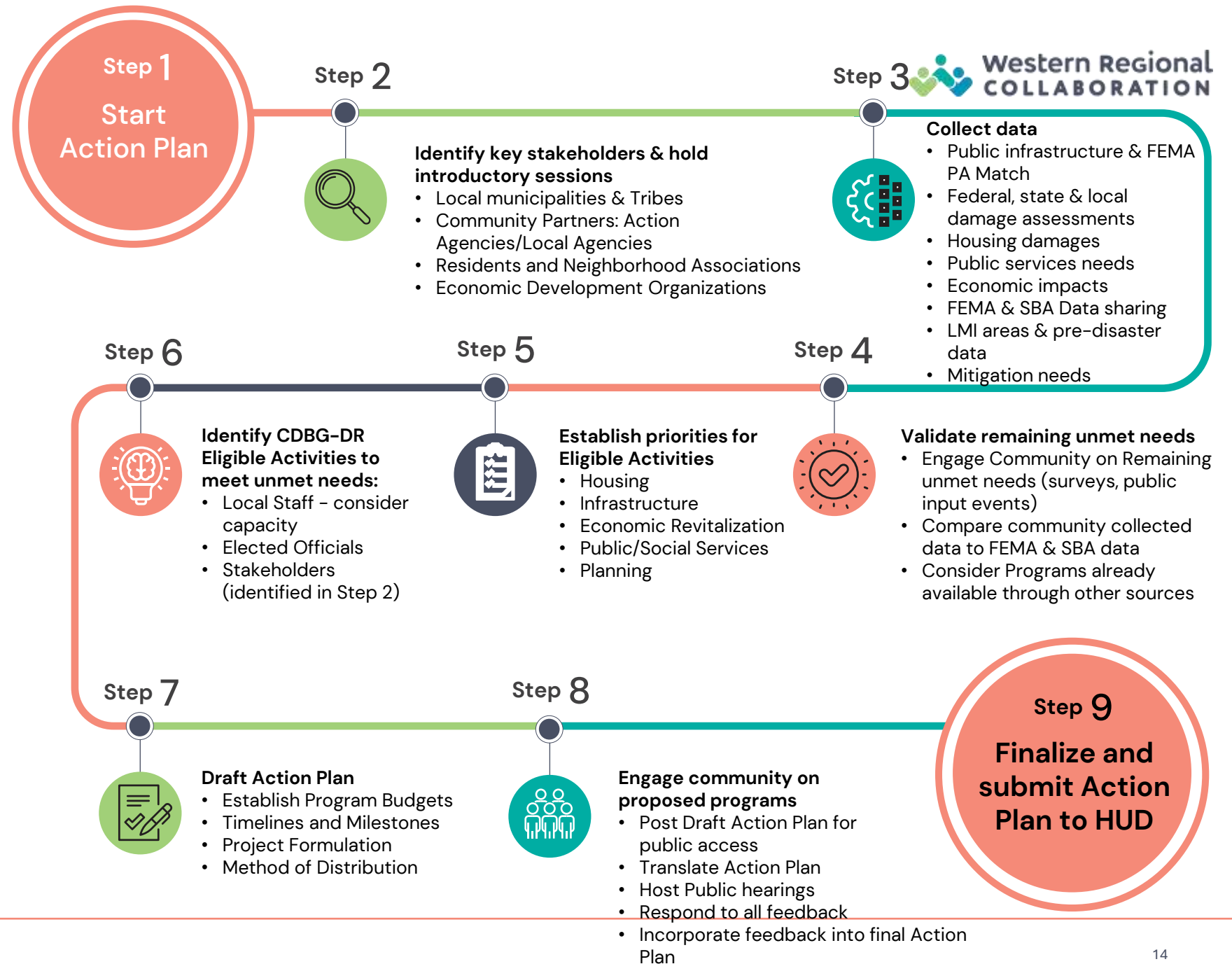
Planning

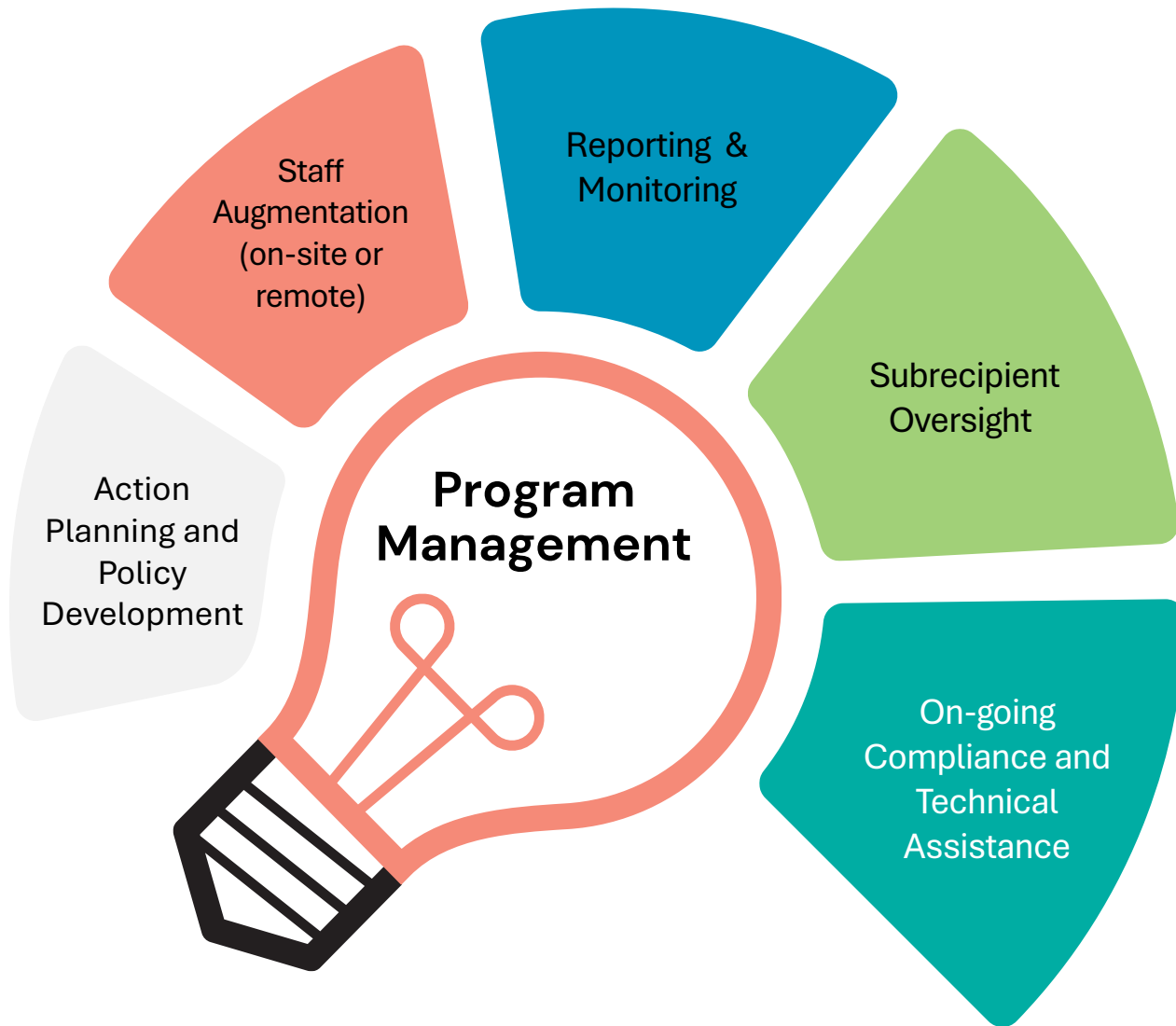
- Community development, recovery, and/or mitigation /resilience plans
- Data collection and/or modeling

Action Plans are customized to meet specific local needs that remain after the disaster

Plans require coordinated engagement to

- Document remaining needs
- Identify eligible programs to fill those needs
- Validate programs
- Design programs





- Davis Bacon and Related Acts (Labor Standards)
- Environmental Review Records
- Section 3
- Fair Housing
- Procurement
- Financial Management
- Stafford Act – Duplication of Benefits (DOB)

Environmental Compliance

NEPA Compliance Documents:

- Programmatic Agreements
- Environmental Assessments (EA)
- Tier II Site Specific Reviews
- Section 106 (Historic Preservation) Consultations
- Categorical Exclusions (unique to each federal funding agency)

All federal funds are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the laws and executive orders that must be assessed when federal funding is used to support disaster recovery.

Capacity

700+

environmental planning professionals available, providing a deep bench of project managers and SMEs

70+

cultural resource experts in built environment and archaeology

Demonstrated ability to scale up or down:

Oversaw NEPA compliance for 12,000+ ERRs in New Jersey and 5,000+ in Puerto Rico

Expertise

Maintains a contract with HUD to deliver HUD trainings on environmental processes, procedures, and resource categories, like new FFRMS standards.

Utilize a 5-day checklist to quickly identify necessary review items and kickstart consultations and in-depth analysis, streamlining the environmental review

Leverage HUD-NEPA expertise to advise on program development, including redesign of home purchase program to reduce the environmental process from 3+ months to 1 day

Oregon 2020 Labor Day Fires

SEP
2020

Historic fires damage or destroy more than 4,400 homes

APR
2021

ICF contracted to provide recovery technical assistance, including:

- Advocating for resources with federal delegation
- Designing programs to leverage state and federal funding
- Building local capacity to carry out new, complex programs with a mix of state and federal funding
- Developing housing strategies that will speed recovery

FEB
2022

HUD allocates \$422.3M in CDBG-DR to Oregon for long-term recovery

- Developed a comprehensive unmet needs assessment and Action Plan
- Completed and published Action Plan in less than 60 days

SEP
2022

ICF develops unmet needs assessment and Action Plan

- Completed and published Action Plan in less than 60 days
- Held 6 public hearings across state and received HUD approval

SEP
2023

ICF contracted to support OHCS with "Disaster Recovery and Resilience Program Management Services"

- Launched four programs totaling over \$350 million to date
- Scoped and managed development of an enterprise system of record
- Delivered rent checks to more than 300 families
- Provided project/grant management for grants to 15+ local subrecipient organizations carrying out recovery programs
- Launched and updated public dashboard

With ICF support, OHCS state and federal funding has accomplished the following outcomes:

> 1,300

housing units constructed to-date with a mix of state and federal funding

> 300

families have received rental assistance while they seek a permanent housing solution

> 1,000

households fully recovered

7

collaborations with community recovery partners

6

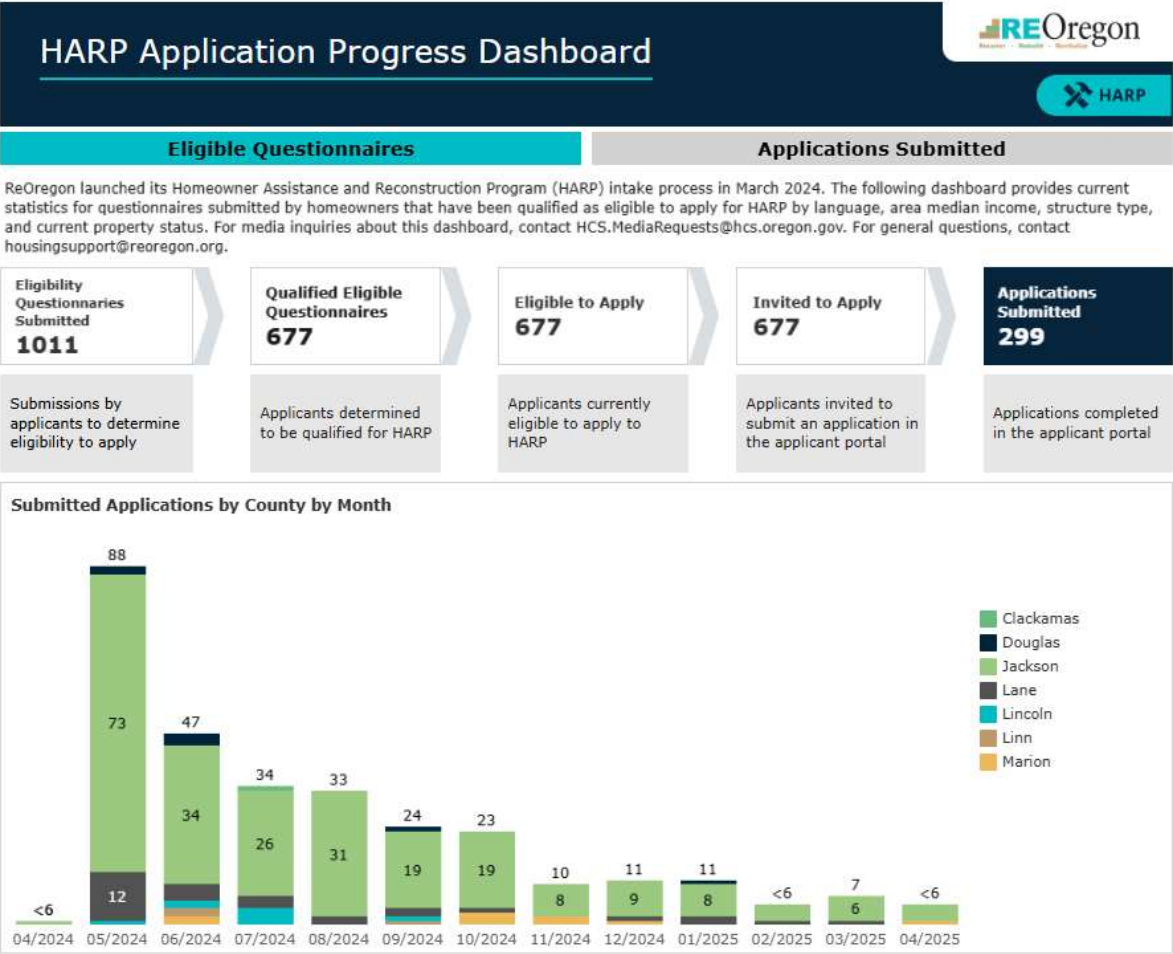
program pathway options developed and launched to-date:

- Single family rehab/ reconstruction
- Home purchase
- Rental assistance
- Economic recovery
- Infrastructure repair/ construction
- Downpayment assistance

> 200

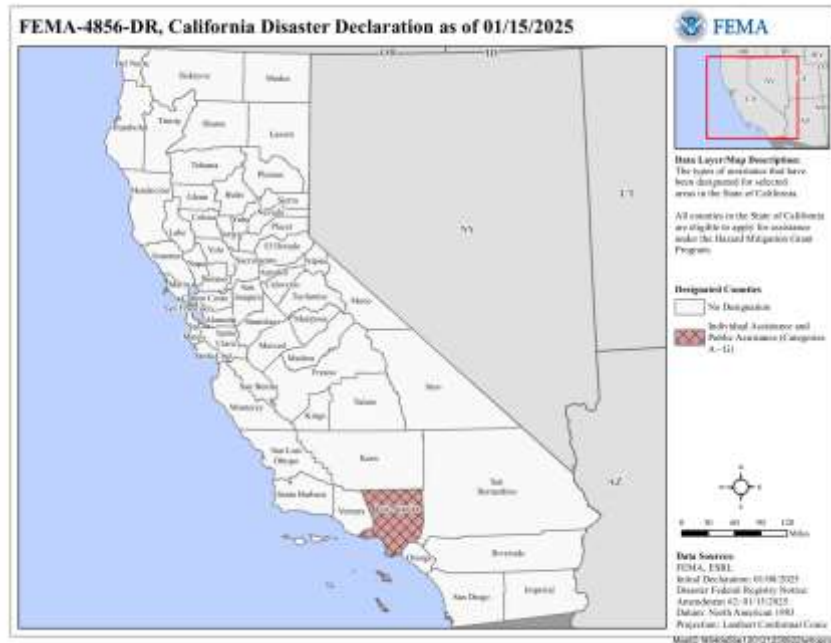
families moved into permanent or alternative intermediate housing, enabling early closure of FEMA's Direct Housing Mission





LA Wildfires January 2025





Funding Obligations

Individual Assistance	Amount
Total Housing Assistance (HA) - Dollars Approved	\$32,185,316.01
Total Other Needs Assistance (ONA) - Dollars Approved	\$85,515,135.89
Total Individual & Households Program Dollars Approved	\$117,700,451.90
Individual Assistance Applications Approved	33520

FEMA Data as of 4/15/2025 [4856 | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/4856)

Palisades Fire <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2025/1/7/palisades-fire>

Damage Assessment

Confirmed Damage to Property, Injuries, and Fatalities.

973 Structures Damaged Residential, Commercial and Other	6,837 Structures Destroyed Residential, Commercial and Other	12 Confirmed Civilian Fatalities	3 Confirmed Civilian Injuries	1 Confirmed Firefighter Injuries
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Eaton Fire <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2025/1/7/eaton-fire>

Damage Assessment

Confirmed Damage to Property, Injuries, and Fatalities.

1,074 Structures Damaged Residential, Commercial and Other	9,414 Structures Destroyed Residential, Commercial and Other	18 Confirmed Civilian Fatalities	9 Confirmed Firefighter Injuries
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CalFire Data as of 4/15/2025

Develop a funding capture strategy

- Know the risks, vulnerabilities, criticalities, and consequences for your infrastructure
- Understand the Disaster Recovery process and sequence of funding opportunities
- Be proactive and have a funding strategy to pursue funding
 - Identify projects well in advance of funding announcements
 - Engage stakeholders and form partnerships continually
- Have “award-ready” applications developed in anticipation of funding announcements!



QUESTIONS?

Please add questions in the chat or raise your hand

MARSHAL FIRE **REBUILDING BETTER**



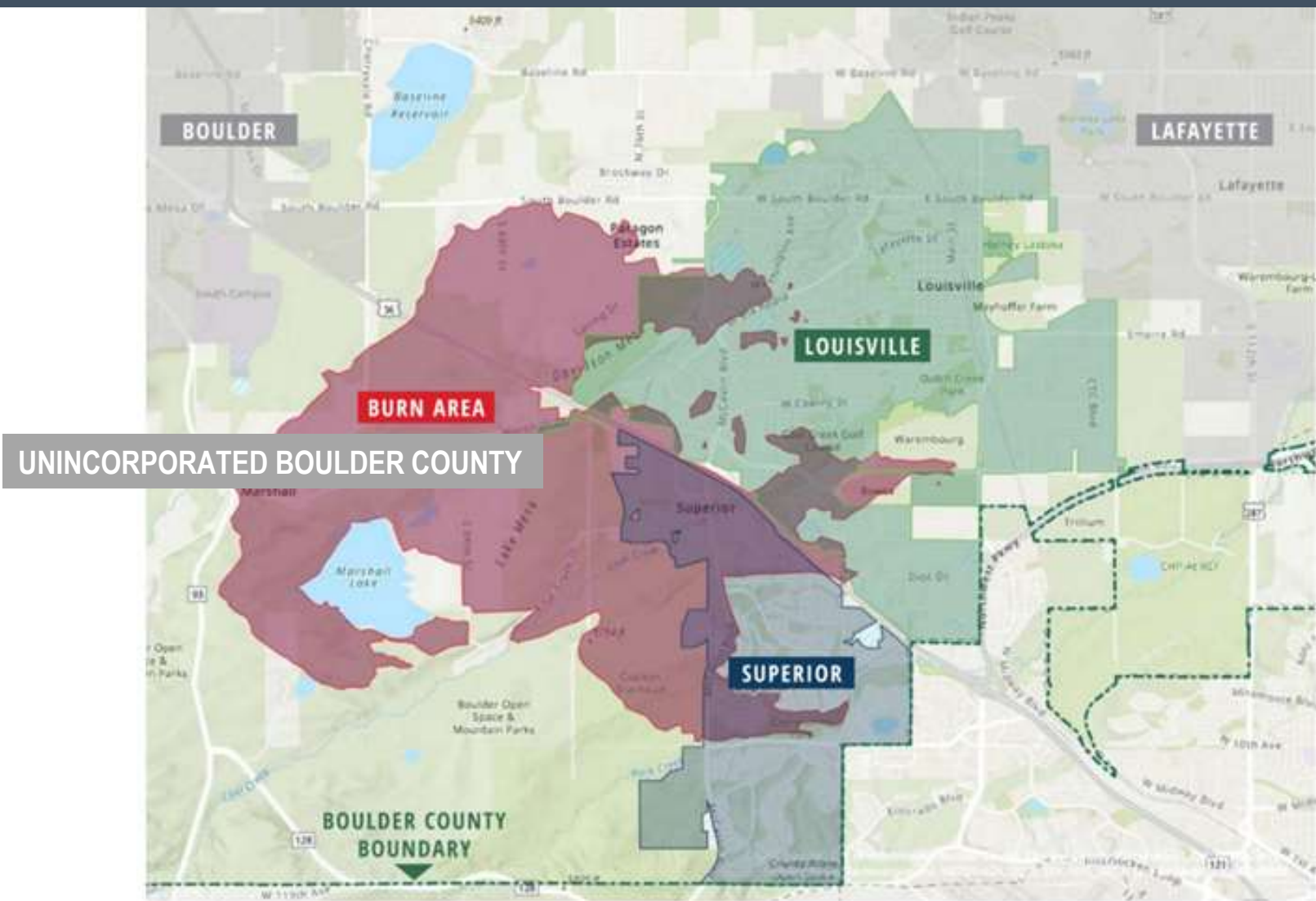
Zac Swank

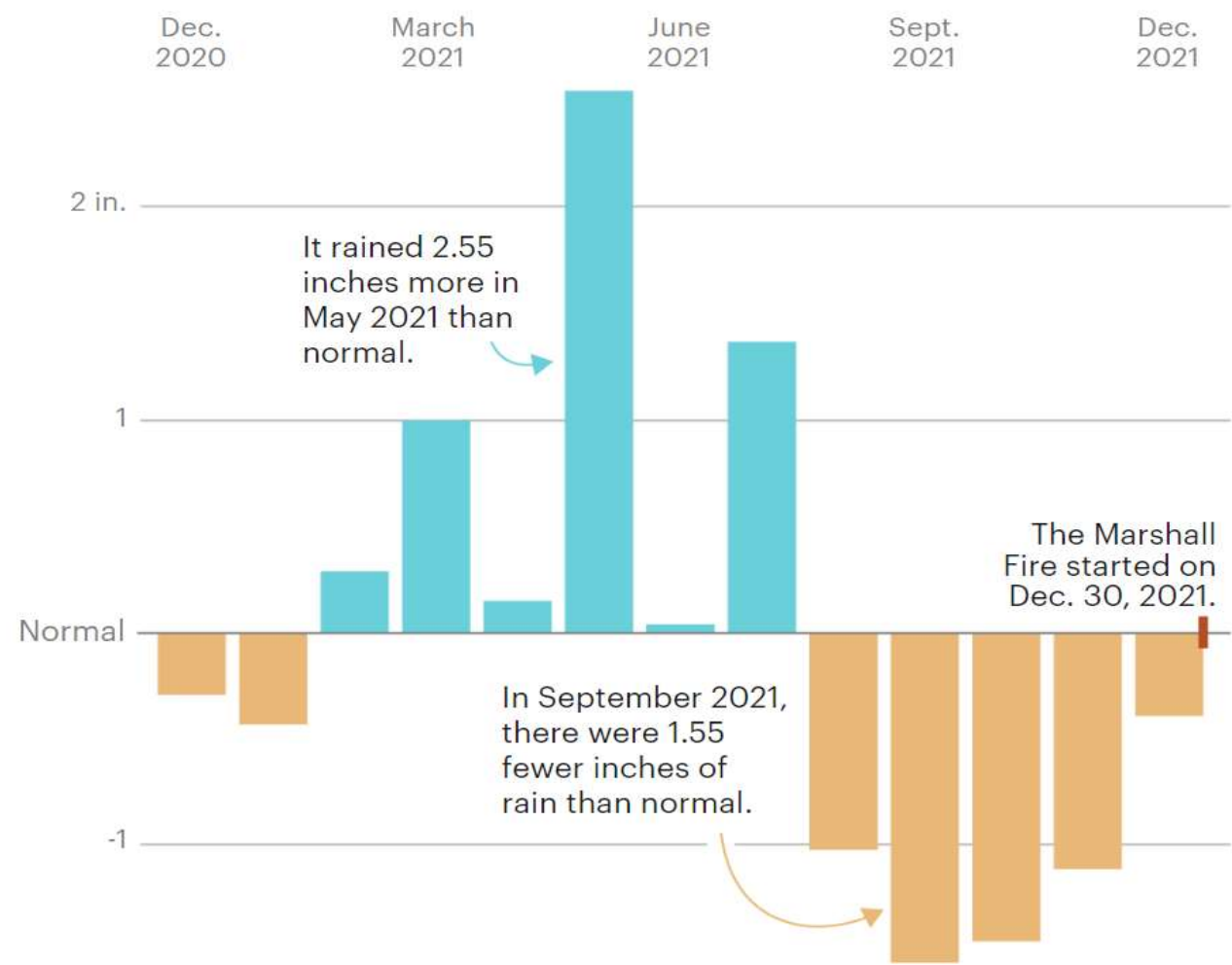
Deputy Director
Boulder County Office of Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resilience

Marshall Fire: Rebuilding Better



Impacted Areas





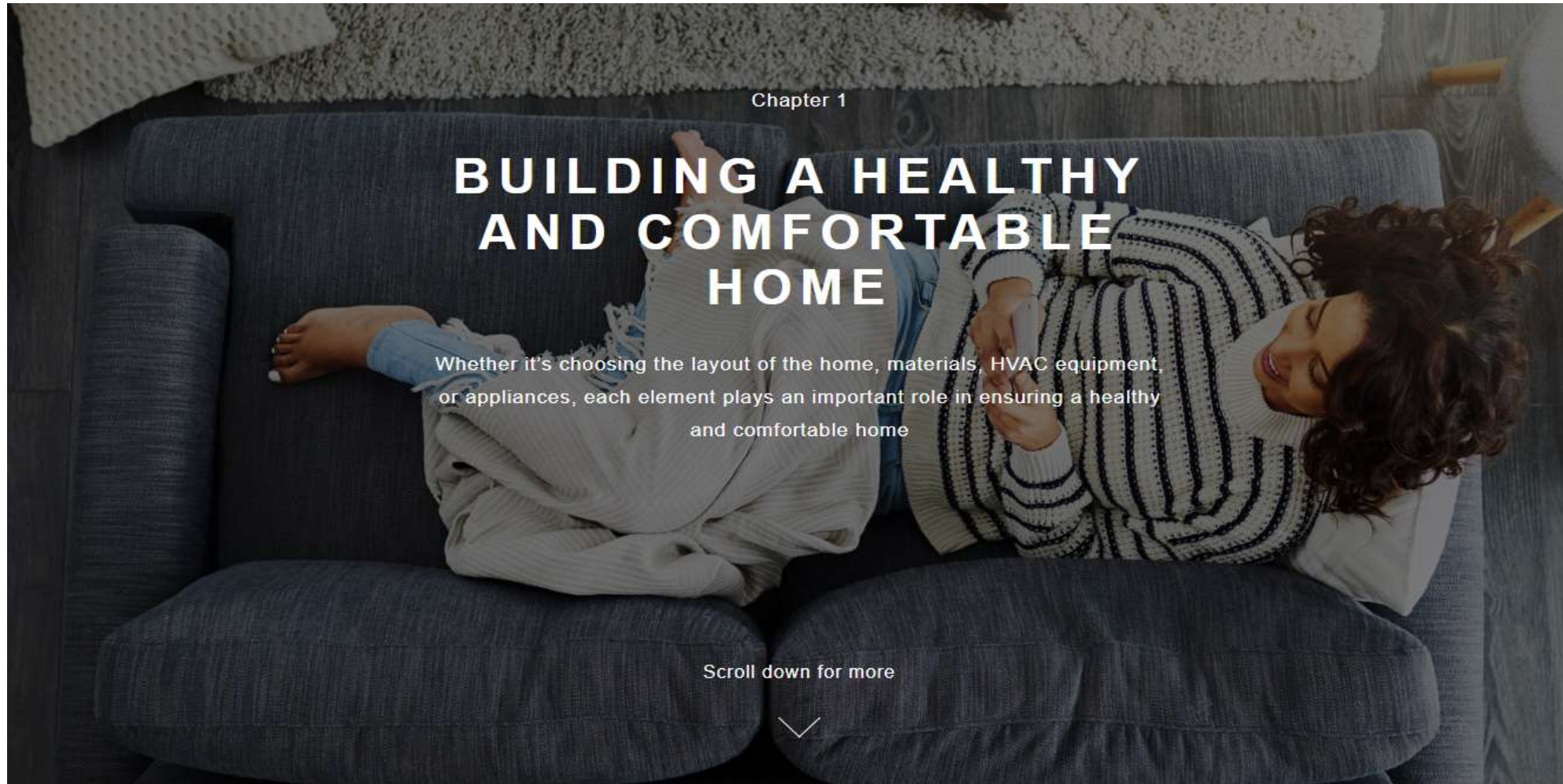
Data Source: National Weather Service Denver-Boulder Forecast Office. Graphic by Lucas Waldron/ProPublica.



After the Fire: Where to Start?

- Call all your friends
- [*Advanced Energy Rebuild*](#) from Tubbs fire in Sonoma County
- [CA Assembly Bill 513](#)
- Quickly develop centralized communication channels





Our Partners



Xcel Energy®



COLORADO
Energy Office



SOUTHWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT



COLORADO
GREEN BUILDING GUILD



Jan 14, 2022 |

📅 BoCo Brainstorm: Rebuilding Impacted Communities

AGENDA - Friday, January 14th - 9:00 am

- Introductions
- Updates from the field - city/county staff
 - Defining narrative/response to Louisville Net Zero codes/Sustainable Building Costs
 - Timeline for Sustainable Building/Developers Housing Fair
- Subcommittee work - updates

Facing a Stiff Head Wind

- Massive trauma
- Massive underinsurance
- Widespread misinformation



**MARSHALL FIRE**

Cost estimates under new Louisville building code leave fire survivors confused

One family said a builder told them it would cost around \$100,000 to meet these standards. A state office said the cost is less than \$5,000.



Daily Camera



‘Let us come back home’: Louisville residents, Marshall Fire victims protest rebuilding codes

“You have had your "building experts" tell you that these new codes will not add more than an additional \$20,000 to the building cost, but the builders these families are talking to have said that the cost will be much more than that.”

- Louisville Resident, March 1st, 2022

“Are you saying that the policy of Net Zero matters more than people?”

- Louisville Resident, February 28th, 2022

“When I look at the data, it is clear we should keep the 2021 code. However the public narrative has gotten so out of hand, for the sake of my neighbors, I have to vote to repeal it.”

- Kyle Brown, Louisville City Councilmember, as recalled by speaker

Code Outcomes

- Exempted Marshall Fire from 2021 IECC
 - No wildfire code updates
 - Removed sprinkler requirement

UNINCORPORATED BOULDER COUNTY

- + No change to code stronger than 2021 IECC
 - + Passed wildfire codes
 - + No change to sprinkler requirements

- Passed 2021 IECC but exempted Marshall Fire
- Wildfire codes adopted but exempted Marshall Fire
- Exempted Marshall Fire from sprinkler requirements



☰ **Daily Camera** 👤 ▼ 🔍

‘Let us come back home’: Louisville residents, Marshall Fire victims protest rebuilding codes

“To ask people who have literally nothing to foot the bill for these environmental codes - on top of everything else we’re dealing with - is just too much.”

- Louisville Resident, February 27th 2021



☰ **THE DENVER POST** 🔴 2 ▼ 🔍

SUBSCRIBER ONLY

Marshall fire victims protested green building codes as too expensive. Now a majority are voluntarily adopting them.

“Why not do this? It’s good for the planet.”

- Same Louisville Resident, February 28th 2022



HBA letter to City of Louisville Feb 2022

2018 to 2021 IECC cost estimates range up to \$180,000 more

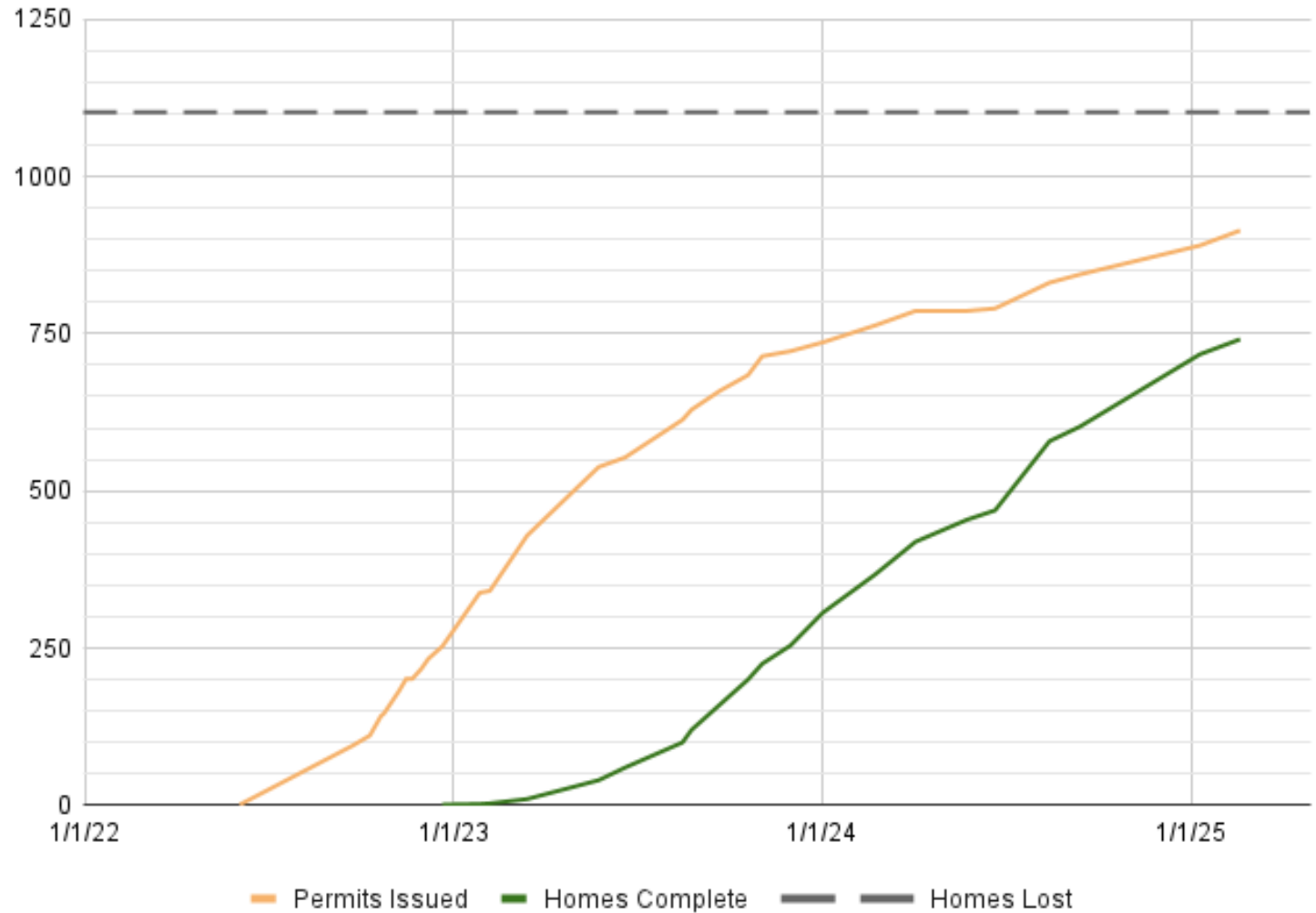
HBA letter to Town of Erie Sept 2022

“[2021] IECC cost comparison study indicated a cost increase between \$8,695 and \$11,900”

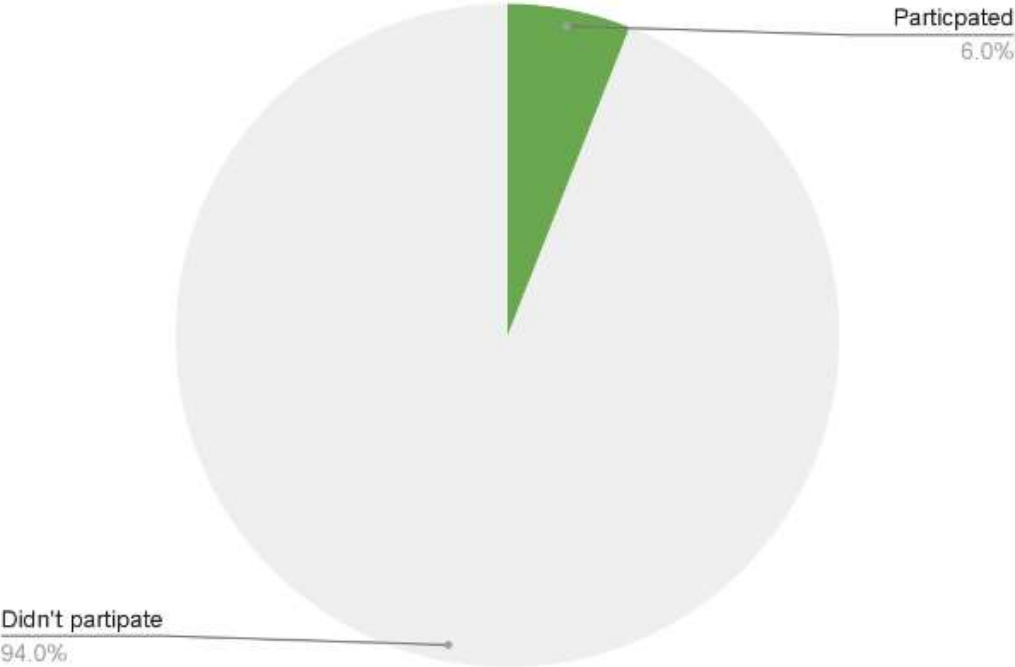
3 Years Later

85% Permitted

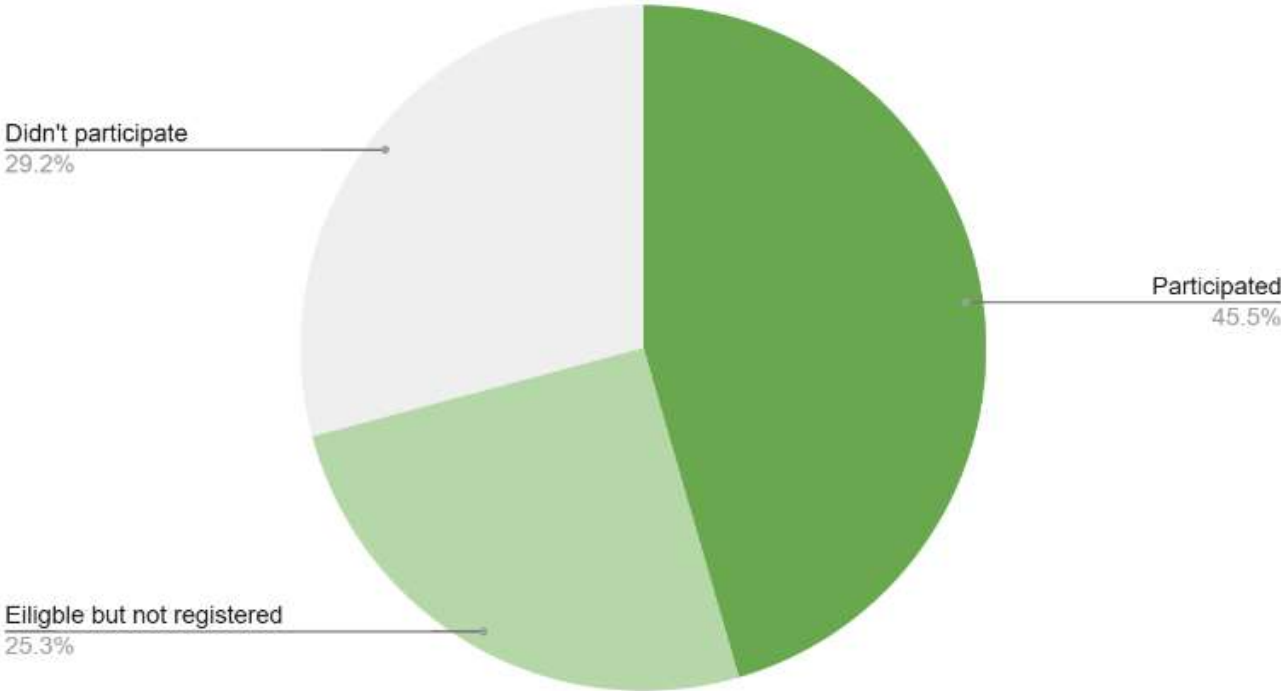
65% Rebuilt



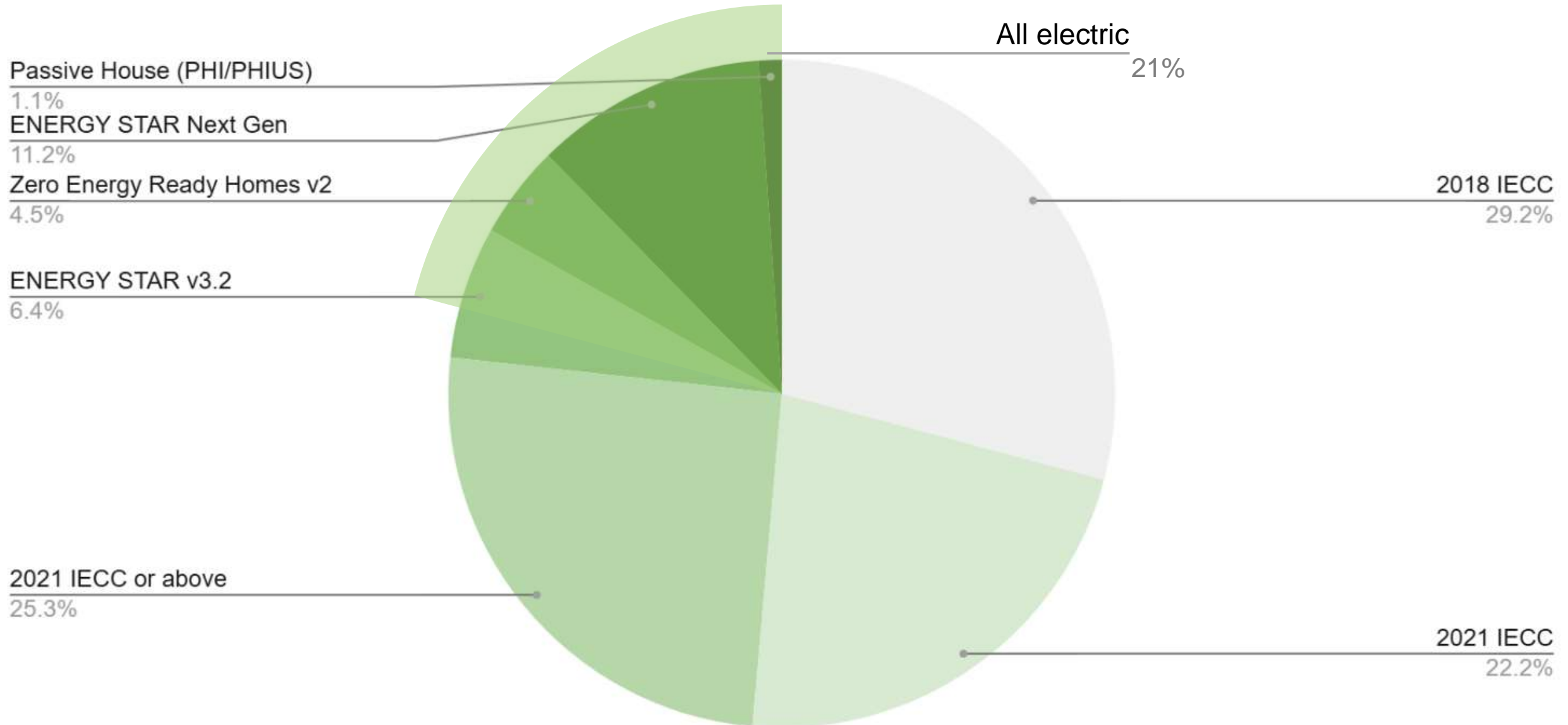
Tubbs Fire Advanced Energy Rebuild



Marshall Fire Rebuilding Better



Rebuilding Home Performance Outcomes



What Moved the Needle?

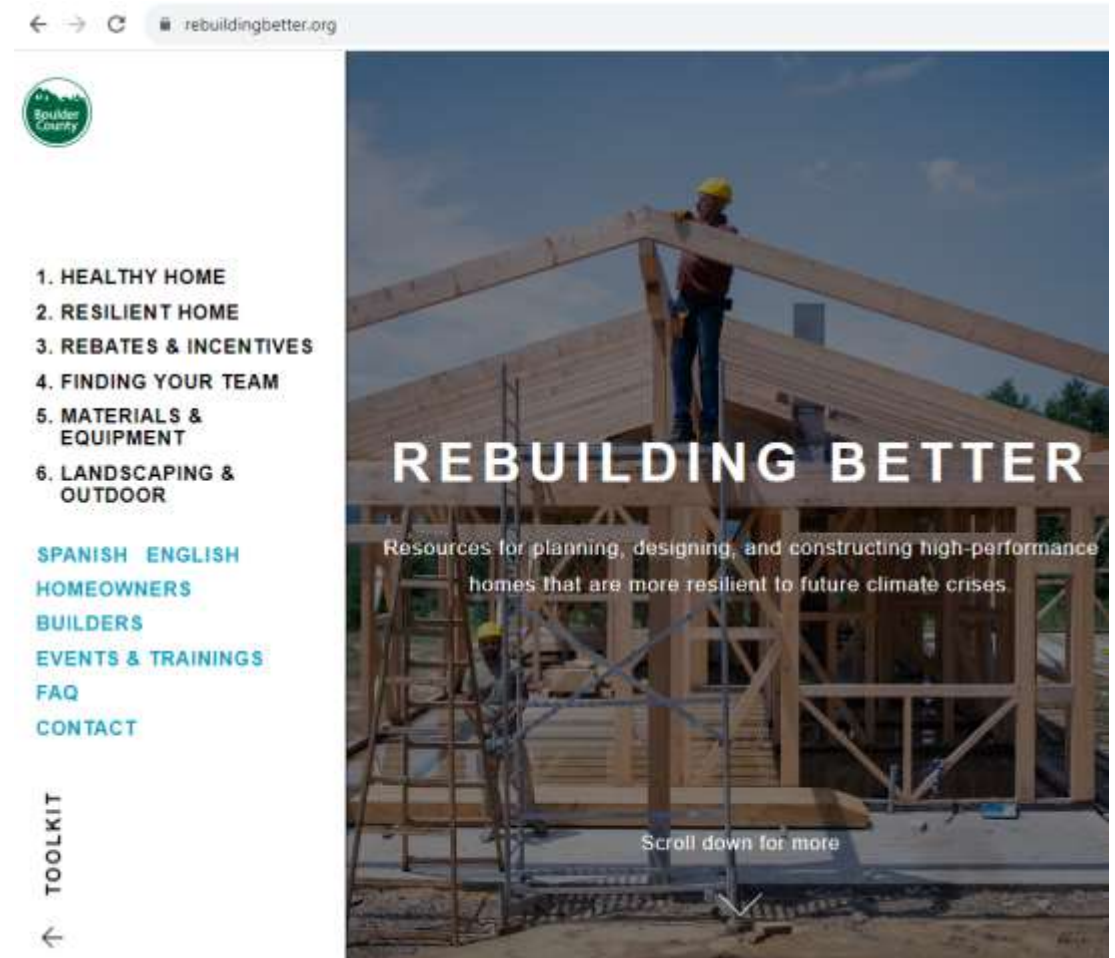
- Xcel Energy rebates
- State rebates
- Concerted media campaign
- Webinars for impacted residents
- Training for contractors/builders
- EnergySmart Marshall Fire New Homes Advisor
- RebuildingBetter.org



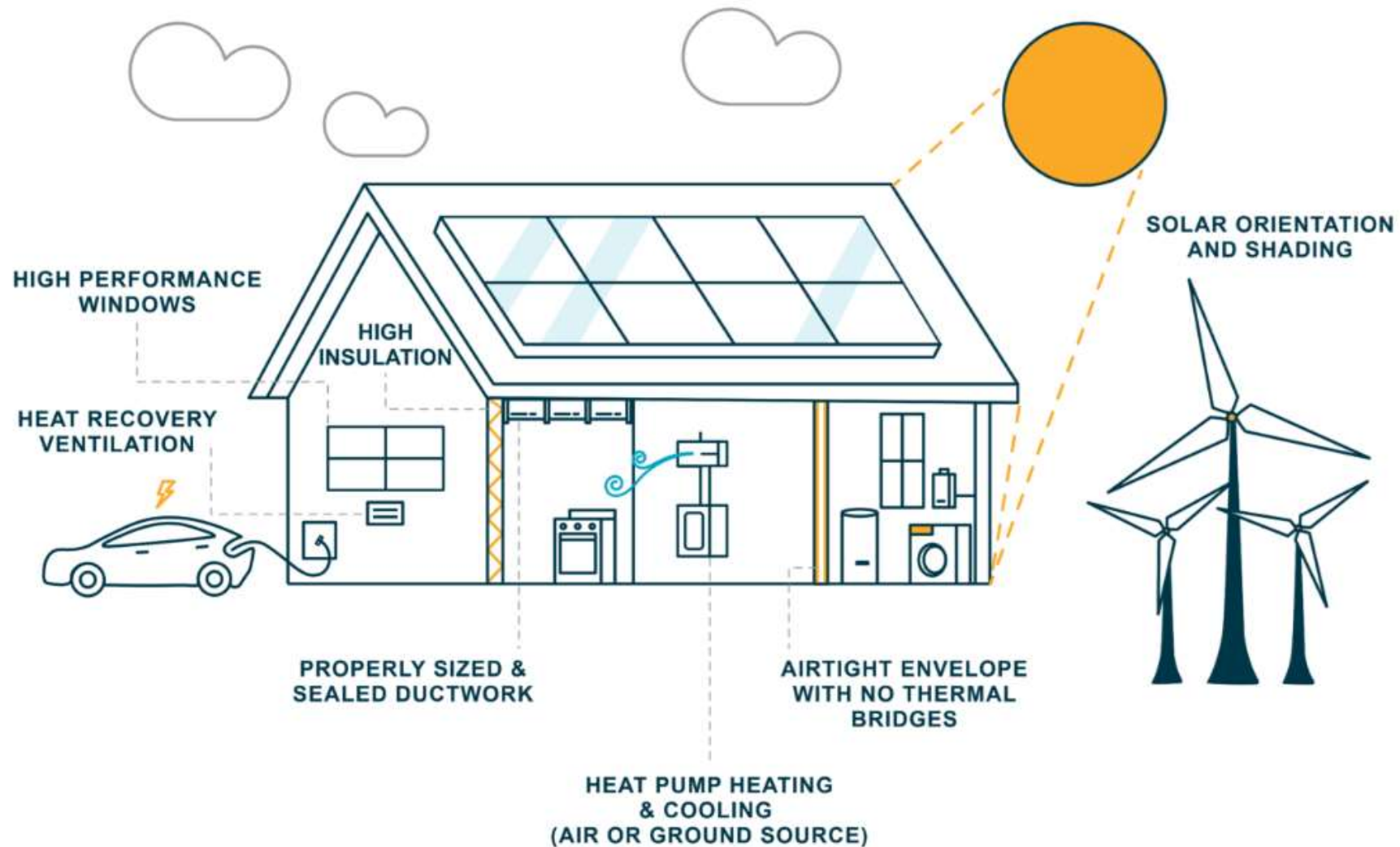
Home Certification Standard	Xcel Energy	Colorado Energy Office
2021 International Energy Conservation Code or Boulder County BuildSmart Code	\$7,500	<p>\$10,000 for air source</p> <p>\$20,000 for ground source</p>
ENERGY STAR® v3.2	\$10,000	
Zero Energy Ready Homes v2	\$12,500	
ENERGY STAR® + NextGen	\$17,500	
Passive House (PHI/PHIUS)	\$37,500	

“Night and day better than any other [high-performance home support] effort after a disaster.”

- Valarie Brown, United Policyholders

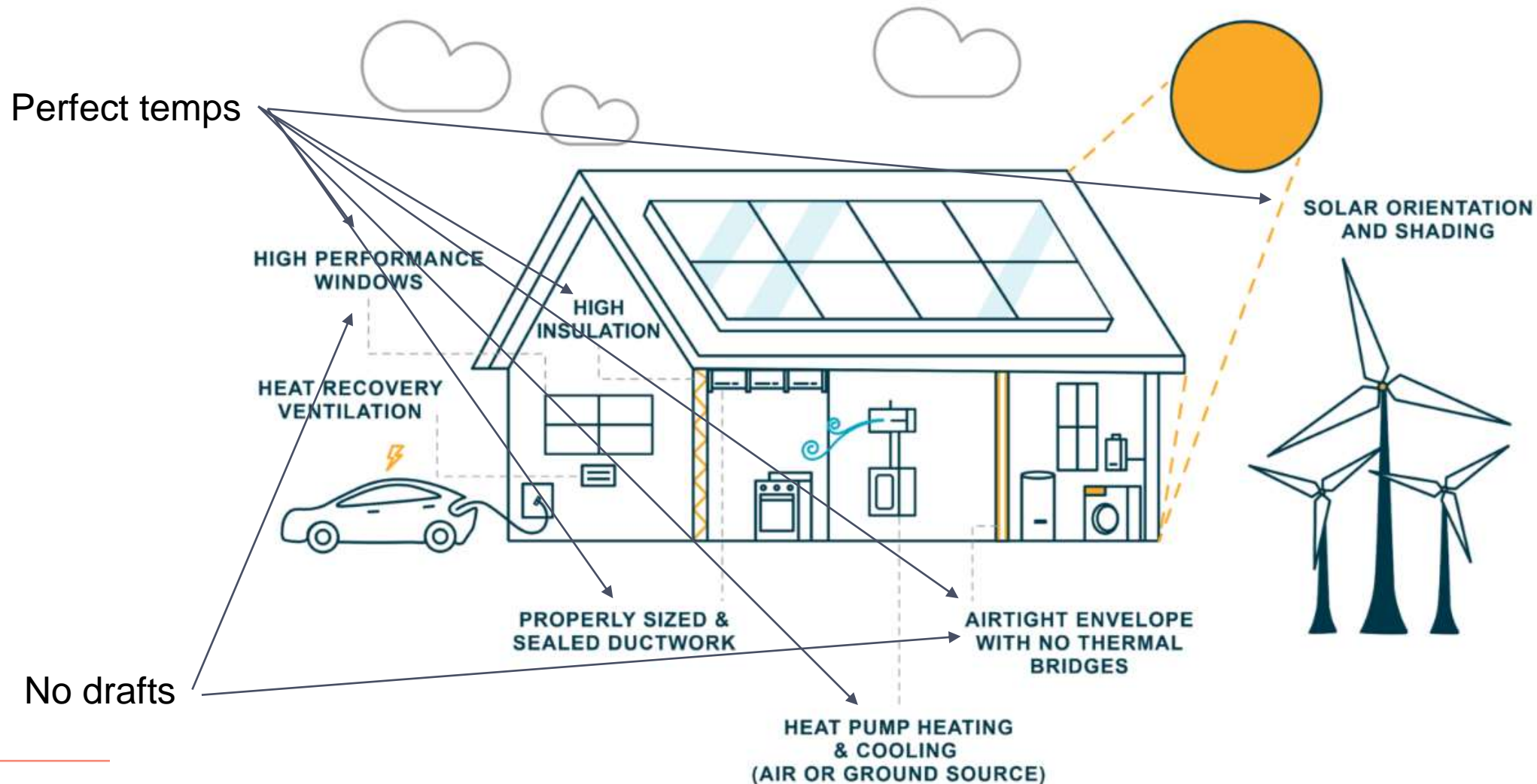


What is a “green home”?



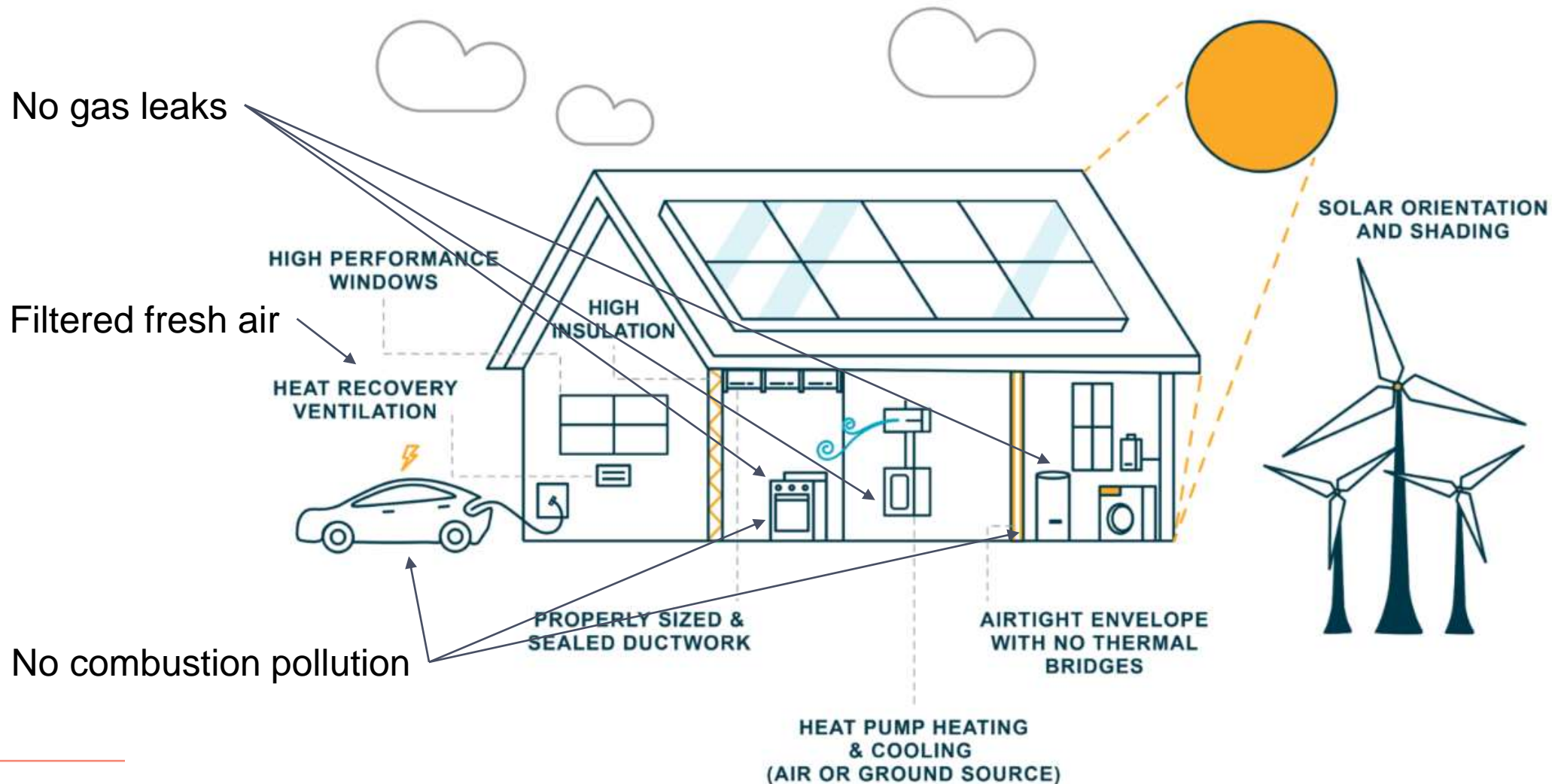
: Green Building, Passive House, Climate Change

: Health, Comfort, Safety, Wildfire Resistance



: Green Building, Passive House, Climate Change

: Health, Comfort, Safety, Wildfire Resistance





: Green Building, Passive House, Climate Change



: Health, Comfort, Safety, Wildfire Resistance

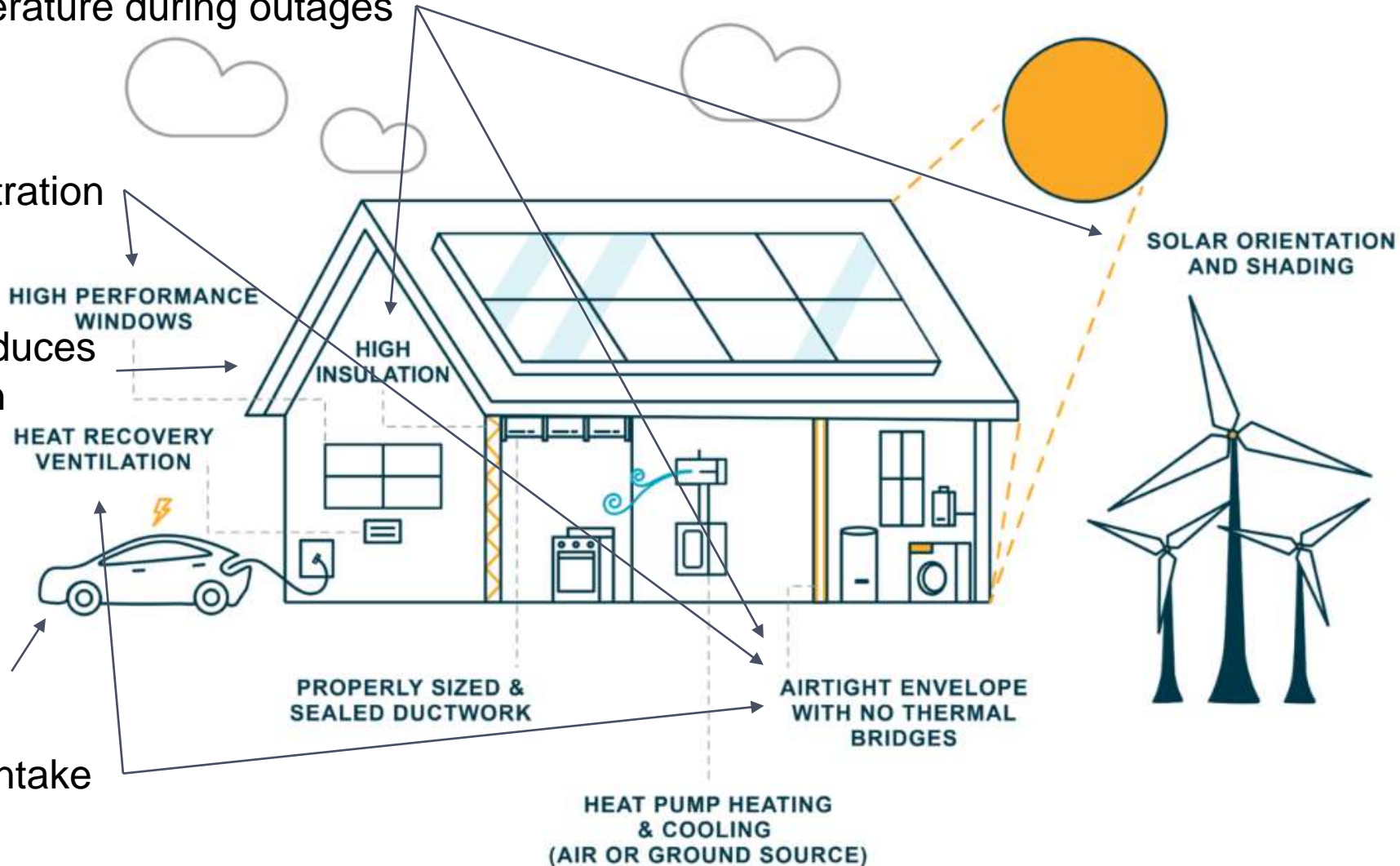
Maintains temperature during outages

No ember penetration

Home shape reduces
ember collection

Backup battery

Controllable air intake



Lesson Learned: Homeowners

- The narrative can get away from you quickly
- Perception becomes the reality
- Recognition of collective trauma
- No building official is ever going to be more credible than a builder
- Passive house professionals viewed as out of touch
- Leveraging trusted sources of information is critical



Lessons Learned: Builders

- Using new certifications requires extra training
- Homeowners need to be their own building science advocates
- Builders should be a key stakeholder
- Builders need education and support



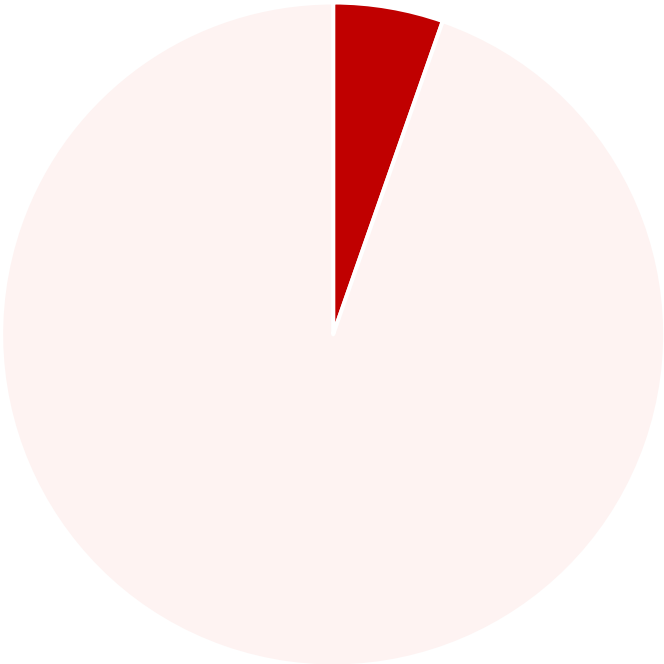
Estimated Increases in the White-Black Wealth Gap between 1999 and 2013
Attributable to Natural Hazards Damage



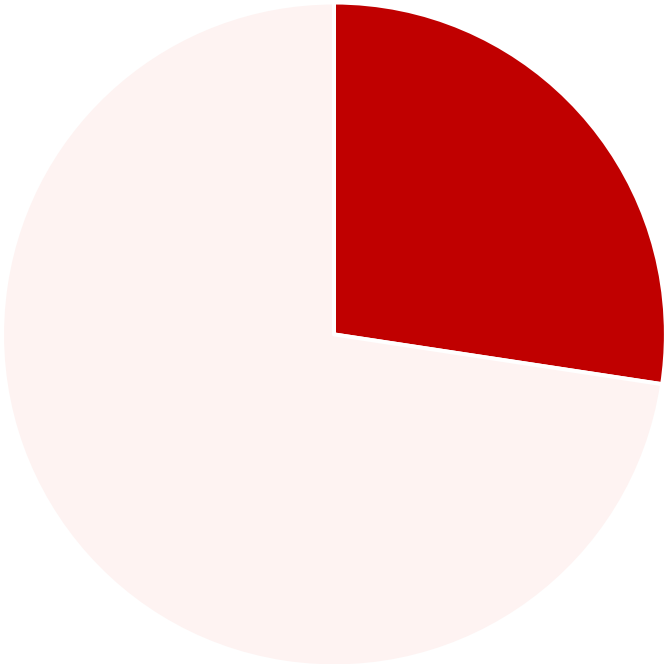
*Source: Howell, Junia and James R. Elliott. "Damage Done: The Longitudinal Impacts of Natural Hazards on Wealth Polarization in the United States." *Social Problems*. DOI: 10.1093/socpro/spy016
Note: Circle diameters are proportion to the amount of *increased* White-Black Wealth inequality attributed to Natural Hazard Damages.

Days of High Fire Danger per Year in Boulder

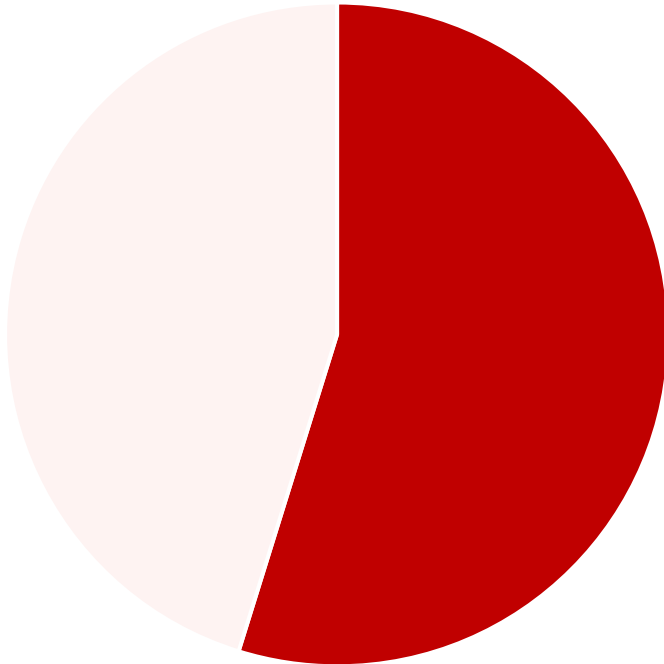
Year I was born



Today



2030

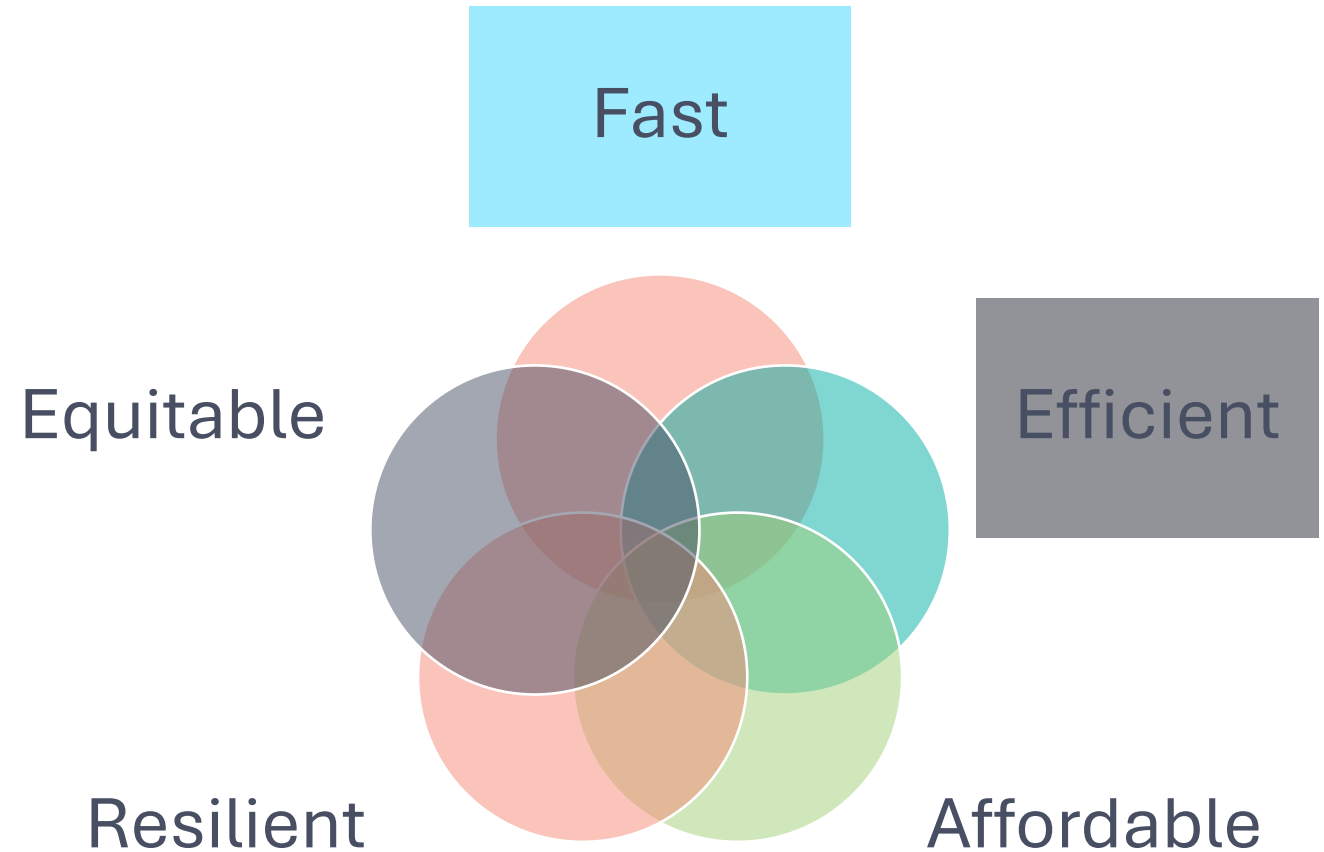


We can do it all!

RebuildingBetter.org

Zac Swank, Boulder County

zswank@bouldercounty.gov



QUESTIONS?

Please add questions in the chat or raise your hand

WHAT'S NEXT?

Next Virtual Workshop

- July 22nd, 2025 @ 10:00am Pacific Time
- More details to follow
- Feel free to share a suggested topic, or speaker for future workshops

Website – Now Live

- [WRCinfo.org](https://wrcinfo.org)
- Power Points, newsletters and other resources will be shared on the website
- Resource tool for sharing CCAP progress in the works

Open Roundtable

- Time for informal discussion among collaborative members

GET IN TOUCH



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THANK YOU

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