



## Creating Strategies for Flood Preparedness Home Preparedness Assessment Program (Boulder, Colorado)

*This program is one of 12 featured in our Creating Strategies for Flood Preparedness profile series. The flood assistance/preparedness programs highlighted in this series represent state and local efforts across the country to make homes and communities flood resilient and to aid in recovery efforts after flooding events. When possible, each program's background information, funding, impact, eligibility, services, and challenges/lessons learned are summarized in the series. These examples can be used as models for other states and local agencies as they consider local possibilities to develop, fund, and implement their own programs.*



**Program Background.** The Home Preparedness Assessment Program was implemented in 2017 as a home resiliency retrofit program in the City of Boulder and Boulder County, Colorado. In addition to addressing flood risk in homes, the Home Preparedness Assessment Program provided unique opportunities for coordinators to converse with homeowners about the risk of other natural disasters and the resiliency of their homes.



**Funding.** The home preparedness assessment program was established with \$215,000 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding.



**Impact.** Through the Home Preparedness Assessment Program, a total of 103 homes received in-home assessments to identify potential home improvements to prepare for flooding and other natural hazards. Forty percent (40%) of participating homes applied and received rebates for approved home improvements. The majority of participants preferred the in-home assessments to an online assessment and believed they received value from the experience.



**Program Eligibility.** Single-family homeowners and mobile-home homeowners who were impacted by a flood that struck the region in 2013 were eligible for the program.



**Program Services.** The program offered a free one-hour in-home consultation with a professional advisor to all eligible participants. These advisors provided homeowners with a list of recommended home improvements to respond to and protect their homes from flood, fire, and drought. In addition to the free consultation, each homeowners could receive a cash rebate to cover the first \$500 of repairs and improvements to their home. Some of the activities that the rebate covered were gutter inspections, replacement of roof flashing to prevent leaks, inspection and repairs to sump pumps, installation of “smart” landscaping (such as grading around the structure such that water is carried away from the home’s foundation, reducing the likelihood of leakage or flooding), and installation of sewer backflow preventers and floor guards. See “[Case Study: Boulder, Colorado’s Home Preparedness Assessment Program](#)” for additional detail.



**Challenges and Lessons Learned.** Initially, there was a high demand to participate in the program, which led program coordinators to suggest that a demand for these types of assessments exists in the market. Recommendations for future resiliency included that (1) home assessment programs have a qualified team to assess homes, (2) green solutions should be included in rebate repairs, (3) programs should have a marketing strategy, (4) in-home assessments are valuable, and (5) programs may need to cover additional repair and replacement costs to reach residents of lower-income communities. For more information about recommendations, visit “[Case Study: Boulder, Colorado’s Home Preparedness Assessment Program](#).”

*For additional examples and resources related to flood preparedness, visit...*

<http://bit.ly/NCHHpubsCSFP>



**Creating  
Strategies  
for Flood  
Preparedness  
Boulder, CO**

*This resource was made possible through a contract between the National Environmental Health Association and the National Center for Healthy Housing, funded through cooperative agreement NU38OT000300-04-05 between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Environmental Health Association.*

**July 2022**