

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

February 21, 2014

Secretary Shaun L. S. Donovan  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan,

We are pleased to submit this Action Plan for the initial \$62.8 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery (DR) funds. We thank the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Colorado's Congressional Delegation for the partnership and leadership in bringing these funds to Colorado. Securing the CDBG-DR money is an important step to advance Colorado's recovery effort.

The September 2013 flooding was the most catastrophic and pervasive disaster in the State's history. The unprecedented amount of rain across twenty-four impacted counties caused unusually high-velocity floodwater to race down the mountain corridors and swallowed our low-lying communities. Ten Coloradans lost their lives and more than 8,000 people were forced to evacuate their communities. The water ripped apart homes and carried debris across rivers, roads, and miles downstream to neighboring communities. Families, including many of low to moderate income, had to abandon their homes and those communities were isolated as a result of significant damage to roads and bridges. Over 900 manufactured housing units were damaged or destroyed, further affecting our low to moderate income Coloradans. Entire rivers jumped their channels, thereby creating damage and recovery challenges unique to the State of Colorado. Agriculture and tourism, Colorado's two biggest economic drivers which are serviced in large part by low income Coloradans, suffered devastating economic and infrastructure losses associated with lost revenue, job loss and damage to our ditches and head gates. The September floods impacted the entire social fabric of the State, causing major destruction to housing, businesses, and infrastructure.

Although we will never be able to make our communities whole, and will not be able to replace many homes, lost photographs, or family heirlooms, the State is working hard with all impacted communities to rebuild stronger and better than before. The CDBG-DR funds are critical to this effort. Our Action Plan will allow homeowners, businesses, and communities to prioritize their unmet needs and apply to the State based on those community priorities. We have incorporated valuable feedback received from local governments, homeowners, and businesses during our public meetings, a webinar, several meetings with local officials, and the public comment received through our CDBG-DR website. Coloradans are resilient and their commitment to building back stronger and better is reflected in this Action Plan.

We hope that additional funding in later allocations will continue to address some of the unique challenges we face in watershed restoration, housing, road and bridge repair, and impact to tourism and the economy. Colorado stands united in this recovery effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. Hickenlooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

cc: Senator Mark Udall (CO)  
Senator Michael Bennet (CO)  
Representative Diana Degette (CO-1)  
Representative Jared Polis (CO-2)  
Representative Scott Tipton (CO-3)  
Representative Cory Gardner (CO-4)  
Representative Doug Lamborn (CO-5)  
Representative Mike Coffman (CO-6)  
Representative Ed Perlmutter (CO-7)  
Rick Garcia, Housing and Urban Development, Regional Administrator, Region VIII jurisdiction  
Leroy Brown, Housing and Urban Development, Director, CPD  
Roxane White, Chief of Staff, Governor Hickenlooper