



BoCo Strong Community Resilience Building Initiative

Who is BoCo Strong?

BoCo Strong was created with the purpose of building a culture of resilience throughout Boulder County. It formed in the wake of the 2013 Flood and began as a sub-committee of the long-term flood recovery group (LTFRG). After a natural disaster the main focus is typically on restoring physical infrastructure and making it more resilient, while social infrastructure is frequently ignored or forgotten. BoCo Strong focuses on building social capital, increasing connections and fostering cooperation around already existing social networks. BoCo Strong is comprised of representatives from Lyons, Jamestown, Boulder, Longmont and Boulder County as well as the Red Cross, Boulder Flood Relief, Foothills United Way, Intermountain Alliance, and the Office of Emergency Management.

Why is resilience important?

In 2014 BoCo Strong convened two county-wide resilience meetings, a flood anniversary commemorative event, and conducted more than 22 resilience conversations in flood impacted neighborhoods throughout the county. A major finding from these activities was that neighborhoods, businesses, and communities with connected people and connections to nonprofits and local government responded more effectively and recovered faster.

BoCo Strong's Plan to Build Community Resilience

In January of 2015, BoCo Strong successfully obtained a Community Development Block Grant for Resilience Planning through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The timeframe for this effort, the Community Resilience Building Initiative, is August 2015 to December 2016. The initiative includes a set of four interlinked goals to increase resilience at the household, neighborhood, community and county level. Using a bottom up approach, the program directly involves community members in identifying projects to enhance the resilience of their community.

We see the accomplishment of these goals as the first phase in increasing resilience to community stressors at all levels and sectors in Boulder County.

- **Goal 1:** Strengthen county-wide preparedness, response effectiveness, and resilience by creating a county-wide resilience network.
- **Goal 2:** Improve non-governmental organization coordination through coordinating the development and launching of an independent, local VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Aiding in Disasters).
- **Goal 3:** Grow a shared understanding and comparable metrics for assessing resilience through development of a common approach and methodology for county-wide resilience.
- **Goal 4:** Increase neighborhood capacity, preparedness and resilience through targeted support of local resilience building initiatives.

BoCo Strong has already begun to take action on these goals. Three project coordinators have been hired to guide implementation. Our work will be focused on Goal 4: Increasing neighborhood capacity, preparedness, and resilience through targeted support of local resilience building initiatives. Laura Seraydarian is your point of contact for neighborhood and community capacity building.



BoCo Strong Contacts

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For more information, visit our website: www.BoCoStrong.org

The role of BoCo Strong is to assist community leaders to build a program that best serves their community. Laura will be available outside of these meetings/workshops to provide ongoing assistance to the Resilience Leadership Teams in each community. BoCo Strong is excited to assist in building upon the existing leadership and capacity that is already present in your community