

Wildfire Partners Home Hardening Pilot Program Full Description

The goal of the Wildfire Partners Home Hardening Pilot Program is to help develop a community of home hardening contractors in Boulder County by training, providing experience, and evaluating the work of select contractors. If the pilot program is successful, the next step is to develop a Wildfire Partners Home Hardening Contractors List to share with participants and offer a Wildfire Partners Home Hardening Financial Award. Wildfire Partners has had home hardening contractors lists in the past; however, these lists have been ineffective for a variety of reasons including a lack of contractors, contractors with insufficient training and experience, contractors who only perform one or two mitigation measures, and contractors who only work in small geographic areas.

Pilot Program Components

1. Home Hardening Contractors

In March 2026, Wildfire Partners initiated a formal, competitive, procurement process to select home hardening contractors to participate in this pilot program. Five contractors have entered into formal contracts with Boulder County to complete the pilot program and undertake the following tasks:

- Attend and successfully complete a formal training program (completed).
- Conduct site visits and provide written bids to participating homeowners.
- Enter into a written contract for the work with the homeowner based on the approved bid.
- Complete home hardening mitigation measures* based on approved bids.
- Participate in a final inspection with homeowners and Wildfire Partners representatives.
- Incorporate feedback into future work and redo any measures that fail the final inspection.

2. Pilot Program Participants (Homeowners)

Homeowners are responsible for many of the same tasks they undertake when hiring a contractor to work on their home. We want the pilot program to be as similar to the typical homeowner-contractor relationship as possible. Homeowners will:

- Attend a site visit with their assigned contractor and explain all of the home hardening work that needs be completed according to their assessment report.
- Review and approve a detailed bid provided by the contractor.

- Enter into a written contract for the work with the contractor based on the approved bid.
- Schedule and oversee the work of the contractor.
- Communicate directly with the contractor on all aspects of the project.
- Participate in a final inspection with Wildfire Partners representatives.
- Pay the contractor for their financial share of the work.
- Complete a written evaluation of the contractor.

*Note: This pilot program does not include defensible space mitigation measures as Wildfire Partners already has a Forestry Contractors List. Home hardening is all about structures and the first five-foot noncombustible surface; it does not include vegetation management.

3. Wildfire Partners Home Hardening Technical Consultant

The technical consultant will:

- Provide training sessions for the contractors.
- Perform a desk review of the contractor bids.
- Perform an on-sight inspection of each completed contract with the homeowner.
- Evaluate each contractor.

4. Wildfire Partners Financial Assistance and Staff Support

Wildfire Partners will pay 50% of the costs of qualifying home hardening mitigation measures capped at \$2,000. For example, if the final cost of a project is \$1,000, Wildfire Partners will pay the contractor directly \$500, and the homeowner will pay the contractor directly \$500. If the final cost is \$6,000, Wildfire Partners will pay the contractor directly \$2,000 and the homeowner will pay the contractor directly \$4,000.

To qualify, a home-hardening mitigation measure must be identified in the assessment report as a red checkbox: required item (west county) or priority item (east county). Recommended measures (yellow checkboxes) do not qualify for any financial assistance and are excluded from the pilot program.

Wildfire Partners staff (our call center and email address) are fully occupied and dedicated to supporting other existing programs. They are not able to support this pilot program. Pilot program participating homeowners will be required to work directly with their contractors on

most issues. For other questions, pilot program participants will be required to email homehardeningpilot@bouldercounty.gov to receive support.

5. Application Process

Participation in the Wildfire Partners Home Hardening Pilot Program is limited. Depending on demand and contractor capacity, it may take several weeks to hear back on the status of your application. You will be notified if and when your application has been accepted. Applications will be accepted and evaluated until the program has been completed in 2027.