

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

August 19, 2022

The Honorable Marcia Fudge
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge:

We write to request that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) consider and approve the waiver request submitted by the State of Colorado's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to allow the State's Direct Action to utilize Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for recovery from the Marshall Fire.

As you know, the Marshall Fire occurred on December 30, 2021 and destroyed 1,086 homes in the City of Louisville, the Town of Superior, and unincorporated Boulder County. On December 31st, 2022, the President approved a major disaster declaration. The State of Colorado (the State) plans to utilize \$7 million in CDBG funds to help the community recover from the disaster. Specifically, the State will allocate \$6 million for housing rehabilitation and construction, and \$1 million for economic recovery.

Boulder County is a non-entitlement community and does not have the capacity to manage these HUD funds. Requiring Boulder County to administer these funds will further strain County resources, while they continue to respond to and recovery from this unprecedented disaster. As you know, HUD policy allows for exceptions to spending requirements for CDBG Disaster Recovery funds (CDBG-DR) and CDBG-CARES Act (CDBG-CV). Since these funds are also to be used for disaster recovery, we believe these exceptions should apply here.

Allowing the State to administer these CDBG funds will help streamline the recovery process, reducing complexity and avoiding potential duplication of benefits. We believe this will be more beneficial to Marshall Fire survivors and is a more efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

We appreciate your full and fair consideration of this request, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure full recovery from this disaster.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael F. Bennet in blue ink.

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of John Hickenlooper in blue ink.

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Joe Neguse in blue ink.

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress