The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving.

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The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators

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HOW GREEN Do You Think We Are?

BOULDER COUNTY’S GETTING OLDER
Our Aging Population

How STRONG Is Our Safety Net?

Over 70 WAYS TO GAUGE
what we are doing well where we could improve what YOU can do

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The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving.

commfound.org
Boulder County’s story is
The Community Foundation’s story.
Created by a group of forward thinking residents in 1991, the Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in the county, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving among all the county’s residents, businesses, decision makers, and nonprofit organizations. Whether people are looking for a way to get involved in an issue they care about, seeking support for a local nonprofit organization, or want to establish a legacy of giving in Boulder County, The Community Foundation offers its expertise and services.

Today the Foundation is providing pro-active, solution-driven, community leadership in areas where it can uniquely bolster current community efforts or form collaborations to catalyze systemic and transformational change. Investing in the work of The Community Foundation is an investment in Boulder County, now and forever.
The Community Foundation’s Healthy Community framework is a vision of what strong community life could look like and how philanthropy and volunteerism can play a role in creating it. Using this framework, community members see how they can help build a high quality of life for all Boulder County residents by focusing on seven core elements.

**Building Our Healthy Community**

**A HEALTHY COMMUNITY:**

Meets the basic needs of its **PEOPLE**.

Promotes **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

Creates quality **EDUCATION** and learning opportunities for all ages.

Ensures a vibrant and diversified **ECONOMY**.

Acts as a steward toward sustaining a healthy **ENVIRONMENT**.

Provides broad access to **ARTS AND CULTURE**.

Fosters strong and connected **CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND GIVING**

**WHAT ARE COMMUNITY INDICATORS?**

Very simply, indicators are pieces of information that tell us something about the status of a larger system. Many kinds of indicators are used to inform many different kinds of decisions.

Community indicators reflect the status of a community’s health and quality of life. In order to know if we’re heading in a desired direction, we need some guides to show us the way. Indicators are a tool for helping us understand ourselves as a community. They can aid citizens, policy makers, government agencies, the media, businesses and community activists in identifying and exploring the relationships among a wide range of community health trends and conditions.
The indicators used in this report were selected out of a broad, community-based process that engaged 400 Boulder County leaders, policymakers, business people, and neighbors over 10 years ago. This dedicated group outlined four visions for Boulder County (see: History of the Civic Forum, at the end of this report). They also selected 50 community indicators to track.

The Civic Forum continues to track these 50 indicators each year to provide longitudinal data on Boulder County and to help inform our community on how we are doing. The indicators give us an idea of where we’ve been, where we are now, and what may lie ahead.

The indicators are organized into 7 chapters and reflect the visions established by the Civic Forum founders and the areas in which The Community Foundation makes grants. We acknowledge that these indicators do not give the complete picture. Rather they attempt to give a broad overview of our community’s health, while reflecting the practical limitations of the data available for collection. The data contained here is almost entirely quantitative, meaning it’s measured in numbers, though we all know much of what makes up a community is qualitative.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?**

No matter who you are in our community, you have something to give. The challenge is to be strategic and purposeful in your approach. Each chapter provides

- a list of indicators included in that section
- the current status of these indicators
- a few examples of programs currently serving this sector
- a summary of where we are doing well and where we could improve
- a list of action items meant to offer suggestions for what you can do as an individual, a parent, a business, a donor, a volunteer, or just somebody who loves this place.

The programs highlighted offer only a few examples of what is being done right now in our community, but the opportunities are endless.

Boulder County is a special place. Those of us who live here have much to celebrate, but there is also work to be done. Join us in preserving those unique qualities that we love and in tackling the challenges we face.

— Josie Heath
President, The Community Foundation
BOULDER COUNTY AT-A-GLANCE

2007 **POPULATION** estimate: 294,750

Total **ACREAGE** in the County: 474,320
   Percent of **PUBLICLY HELD** land in County: 65%

Number of **HOUSEHOLDS**: 113,405

2007 **MEDIAN AGE**: 35.8

**RACIAL/ETHNIC** makeup:
   - 87% White
   - 12.8% Latino (any race)
   - 3.6% Asian
   - 0.6% African-American
   - 0.7% Native-American
   - 5.6% Some other race
   - 2.5% Two or more races

Percent of people who speak a language **OTHER THAN ENGLISH** at home: 15.8%

**EDUCATIONAL** attainment:
   - 94% High school graduates
   - 58% Bachelor’s degree or higher
   - 24% Graduate degree

2006 **MEDIAN AREA INCOME**:
   Family of four: $81,600
   **PER CAPITA INCOME**: $45,944

2007 **POVERTY LEVEL** for family of four: $20,650

**PERSONS BELOW** poverty: 11.8%
   **FAMILIES BELOW** poverty: 6%

All numbers reflect 2005 American Community Survey data unless otherwise noted.
We look different. Boulder County is growing. And aging. And diversifying. Latinos now make up nearly 13% of the county’s population and Asians another 4%. Nearly 16% of Boulder County residents speak a language other than English at home. And by 2020, it’s estimated that one out of every five of us will be over 60. But who’s running the show? Of the 93 elected officials countywide, people of color are greatly underrepresented. The boards and leadership staff of nonprofit organizations don’t reflect the clients they are serving, which may compromise effectiveness of services. And though we rank highly in per capita income, our Anglo households earn an average 37% more than our Latino households and 134% more than our Native American households. How can we build community assets out of our differences?

We raise the bar. When it comes to health care, Boulder County boasts an impressive array of services, including community health clinics that integrate dental and mental health and terrific community hospitals that provide specialty care. Plus, the community has created a Strategic Plan for human services, incorporating work already begun by Aging Services, the Health Youth Alliance and the Early Child Care and Education Council. The goal is to build an accessible, dynamic and effective system of care. But the safety net has gaping holes. Too many of our residents have no health insurance, or work in jobs that provide too little insurance. Our community clinics provided primary and dental care to more than 33,000 uninsured and low income residents in 2006 but our emergency rooms are the health care choice of first resort for too many of our low income residents. Is there a community Rx for this challenge?

We’re a smart bunch. Boulder County is one of the most educated communities in the country. Within Colorado we boast some of the highest achievement scores in public schools. We’re home to the University of Colorado, Naropa University, Front Range Community College, and numerous federal and state research labs, attracting high tech industries and employees from around the world. But we still have a lot to learn. We’re also home to one of the largest achievement gaps in the state. Twice we’ve failed to pass a supplemental funding Mill Levy to support the St. Vrain Valley School District, allowing it to remain one of the lowest funded districts in the Metro area. The dropout rate of Latino students far outnumbers that of non-Hispanic white students. Are we smart enough to confront this inequity?

Continued on page 6
There’s a lot of money out there. Our county was reported as the 7th wealthiest in the nation in 2005 as measured by per capita income. Boulder was recognized as the top city outside of major metropolises for attracting private equity and venture capitalist investment, and our highly educated residents countywide provide an employee base for many of the high tech companies that call our community home. Job growth has continued every year since the regional recession hit in 2002. But not everyone’s getting a piece of the pie. Our middle class is disappearing. We lack job training opportunities for many of our neighbors who need it. More than one out of every 10 residents lives below the poverty line. Even more live below the self-sufficient standard – many of those are families. Child care, health care, housing … It all adds up and the till is empty for many.

It ain’t easy being green. Boulder County has a strong history of commitment to environmental stewardship but it takes a lot of work. The County government and the City of Boulder have both adopted zero waste policies, and a number of businesses and schools are making strides toward waste reduction and energy efficiencies. We’re home to the first Climate Action Tax in the country and our tax dollars have made a significant impact in land conservation. But we’re not all walking the talk. Our consumption of coal-powered electricity contributes 48% of our greenhouse gas emissions. Only 5% of us regularly use public transportation to get to and from work. The vehicle miles traveled within Boulder County are growing at close to 1.5% per year, considerably faster than our population. And yet “highways and transit” were listed as the second most concerning issue to community residents in a recent Boulder County government survey, just behind “manage/stop growth.” Think green. Act green.

We value community. Nearly 80% of those we surveyed said they volunteered their time to help a friend, neighbor, or family member this past year. Another 56% worked on a community-improvement project and 46% worked with a nonprofit organization, government agency or faith community. Nearly half of residents surveyed said they had attended at least one public meeting over the past year. Our mid-term election turn-out was far higher than the state rate. But are we truly connected? Almost 80% of those surveyed think Boulder County organizations need more financial support, but only 63% said they gave money last year. Our average charitable donation is less than half of Denver’s. In addition, 70% of us live in a different community than the one in which we work. How much do we love this place?

When it comes to the arts, we’re gifted. Boulder County has something for every one in arts and culture. Classical music, theater, dance, bluegrass, jazz, visual and experiential arts abound. Cultural vitality is a key contributor to a high quality of life and a profound economic driver. We are home to more than 1,200 artists and arts organizations and their work attracts 650,000 arts lovers every year, including 82,000 from outside the county. Audiences stay in hotels and dine at restaurants, wander through our shopping districts and buy stuff to take home. But who picks up the artistic tab? As the quality and variety of arts offerings increases the cost goes up. Ticket sales cover only a small portion of the cost of doing business. Even many of the most well established and nationally recognized presenters in Boulder County struggle to keep the lights on and pay the performers. Can we invest in the arts with more than our emotions?
**Resumen Ejecutivo**

**Nos vemos diferente.** El Condado de Boulder está creciendo. Y envejeciendo. Y se está diversificando. Hoy los Latinos son el 13% de la población del condado y residentes Asiáticos conforman otro 4%. Casi el 16% de los residentes del Condado de Boulder habla otro idioma que no es el Inglés en casa. Y para el 2020, se estima que uno de cada cinco de nosotros estará por encima de los 60 años. **¿Pero quién está a cargo del show?** De las 93 personas elegidas para un cargo a través del condado, solo una persona es de color. Los directorios y equipos de liderazgo en organizaciones sin fines de lucro no son un reflejo de los clientes a los cuales sirven, lo cual podría comprometer la efectividad de los servicios. Y a pesar de que tenemos una posición alta en cuanto a ingresos per cápita, nuestros hogares Anglos ganan en promedio un 37% más que nuestros hogares Latinos y un 134% más que nuestros hogares de Americanos Nativos. **Como podemos construir un patrimonio comunitario de nuestras diferencias?**

**Elevamos las metas.** Cuando del cuidado de la salud se trata, el Condado de Boulder tiene una selección de servicios impresionante, los que incluyen clínicas de salud comunitarias que integran servicios dentales y de salud mental y excelentes hospitales comunitarios que brindan cuidados especializados. Además, la comunidad ha creado un Plan Estratégico para servicios humanos, incorporando un trabajo que ya había sido empezado por los Servicios para la Tercera Edad, La Alianza para la Salud en la Juventud y el Consejo de Educación para el Cuidado de la Niñez. La meta es construir un sistema de cuidados accesible, dinámico y efectivo. **Aún así la red de seguridad tiene algunos agujeros.** Muchos de nuestros residentes no cuentan con seguro médico, o trabajan en puestos que brindan muy poco seguro. En el 2006 las clínicas de nuestra comunidad suministraron atención básica y cuidados dentales a más de 33,000 residentes sin seguro médico o residentes de bajos recursos, aún así nuestras salas de emergencia son la primera opción o primera salida para muchos de nuestros residentes de bajos recursos. **¿Habrá alguna prescripción comunitaria para este reto?**

**Somos un grupo muy inteligente.** El Condado de Boulder es una de las comunidades con el nivel más alto de educación en el país. En el estado de Colorado podemos presumir de algunos de los puntajes más altos de desempeño en escuelas públicas. Somos sede de la Universidad de Colorado, La Universidad de Naropa, Escuela Comunitaria de Front Range, y muchos laboratorios federales y estatales de investigación, lo que atrae a industrias de alta tecnología y empleados de alrededor del mundo. **Pero todavía tenemos mucho por aprender.** También somos sede de una de las brechas más grandes de desempeño en el estado. Hemos fallado dos veces en pasar la ley Mill Levy para ayudar a suplementar al Distrito Escolar de St. Vrain, lo que ha permitido que permanezca como uno de los distritos con más bajos fondos del área metropolitana. La escala de retiros de los estudiantes Latinos es mucho mayor que la de estudiantes blancos no-Hispanos. **¿Seremos lo suficientemente inteligentes para afrontar esta desigualdad?**
Hay mucho dinero allí fuera

En el 2005 se informó que nuestro condado es el 7mo más rico de la nación siendo esto medido por ingresos per cápita. Boulder fue reconocida como la primera ciudad fuera de las áreas metropolitana más grandes en atraer la inversión privada e inversión de capitales en empresas nuevas, nuestros residentes con un alto nivel educativo brindan una base para muchas de las compañías de alta tecnología que llaman casa a nuestra comunidad. Cada año el crecimiento del campo laboral ha sido continuo desde que la recesión regional nos atacó en el 2002. **Pero no todos están recibiendo un pedazo del pastel.** Nuestra clase media está desapareciendo. Nos faltan oportunidades de entrenamiento de trabajo para muchos de nuestros vecinos más necesitados. Más de uno de cada 10 residentes vive debajo de la línea de pobreza. Aún más viven debajo de los estándares de auto-suficiencia - muchos de estos son familias. Guardería, cuidados de la salud, vivienda... **Todo suma y la caja sigue vacía para muchos.**

No es fácil ser verde

El Condado de Boulder tiene un fuerte historic de compromiso con el medio ambiente pero esto toma mucho trabajo. Ambos, el gobierno del Condado y la Ciudad de Boulder han adoptado la política de cero desechos, y un buen número de escuelas y negocios están dando grandes pasos para reducir sus desechos y usar energía de un modo más eficiente. Somos sede del primer Impuesto de Acción Climático del país y nuestros dólares en impuestos han impactado significativamente la conservación de terreno. **Pero no todos ponemos en práctica lo que hablamos.** Nuestro consumo de electricidad generada por carbon contribuye en un 48% a las emisiones de gas invernadero. Solo un 5% de nosotros usa el transporte público para ir y venir del trabajo. Las millas vehiculares recorridas en el Condado de Boulder están creciendo cerca de un 1.5% al año, considerablemente más rápido que nuestra población. Aún así “Carreteras y Tránsito” ocupó el segundo lugar en temas que preocupaban a los residentes de la comunidad en una reciente encuesta hecha por el gobierno del Condado de Boulder, solamente después de “manejar/parar el crecimiento”. **Piensa Verde. Actúa Verde.**

Valoramos la Comunidad

Casi el 80% de los encuestados dijeron que habían ofrecido de modo voluntario su tiempo para ayudar a un amigo, vecino, o miembro familiar el año pasado. Otro 56% trabajó en algún proyecto para mejorar su comunidad y un 46% trabajó para alguna organización sin fines de lucro, agencia gubernamental o comunidad de fé. Casi la mitad de los residentes encuestados dijeron que asistieron a al menos a una reunión pública en el transcurso del pasado año. Nuestras elecciones de medio término tuvieron una asistencia mucho más alta que la del resto del estado. **¿Pero estamos realmente conectados?** Casi el 80% de los encuestados piensan que las organizaciones del Condado de Boulder necesitan más apoyo financiero, pero solo el 63% dijo que contribuyo con dinero el año pasado. Nuestro promedio de donaciones para caridad es menos de la mitad que el de Denver. Aparte, el 70% de nosotros vive en una comunidad diferente a la que trabajamos. **¿Cuanto queremos a este lugar?**

**Resumen Ejecutivo**
DEFINITIONS

This report uses a great deal of data found through the American Community Survey (ACS), a new nationwide survey to provide communities updated information in between bicentennial censuses. The most recent data available through the ACS is for 2005, so unless otherwise noted, data reported reflects 2005 numbers.

There are some differences between the Census 2000 and the ACS methodology. The ACS collects data for all 12 months of the year, not for just a single point in time. The decennial census takes a snapshot of the population and housing stock based on a single day - April 1 of the decennial year. ACS surveys are distributed year-round, so we have January data and December data.

In the decennial census you are counted where you are residing on April 1 (with a very few exceptions, such as a person who was on a trip that day and fills out the form when they get back home.) With ACS it is more complicated; where you get counted is based on where you reside when you get the survey (unless you are only staying there “temporarily”, defined as less than 2 months).

The term “Latino”
In this report we use the term “Latino” to encompass people identified as “Hispanic” or “Latin” by the American Community Survey, or other similar data collecting organizations. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

We use the term “Non-Hispanic white” to refer to people who self-identify as white but do not claim Latino heritage.

Students
Group quarters like dormitories or sororities are not included in the statistics. Students who live off campus are counted in the data as individuals, including information on poverty, household income, health care access, etc.

Income vs. Wages
“Income” includes wages, salary, bonuses, self-employment income, gifts, tips, investment income, transfer payments such as social security or food stamps, pensions, rents, and interest income.

“Wages” include only payments received from an employer in an employment relationship that is reported to the State of Colorado for purposes of unemployment insurance. Wages do not include self employment income.

“Per capita income” is calculated by taking all the income earned in the county and dividing this number by the population.

Broomfield County
Broomfield became its own county in at the end of 2001. The State Demography Office has adjusted population, age, and ethnicity numbers prior to 2001 to reflect only the area that is now Boulder County.
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Cover Photo: Women’s Wilderness Institute
Who Are We?

We’ve grown. We’ve diversified. We’ve aged.

16% of us speak a language other than English at home.

The face of Boulder County has changed nearly as much as our landscape over the last 20 years. From a community of just over 200,000 in 1990, we have grown almost 40% and are expected to reach over 300,000 by 2009. This growth has increased the need for housing, transportation, energy, water, and other resources. It has also strengthened our economy and cultural vitality. The people of our community are our greatest assets, in tandem with our surrounding environment. They are our teachers, our business leaders, our public servants, our builders, our volunteers, our child care providers, and our family. Each brings a unique voice and talent to Boulder County, contributing to our quality of life.

INDICATORS
IN THIS CHAPTER

County population growth
Population by age
Household make-up
Ethnicity
County migration
Boulder County’s current population is 294,750.

Boulder continues to be the largest city in the county at an estimated 97,500 people, but Longmont is quickly catching up with nearly 82,000 residents, a 15% growth since 2000. With the City of Boulder approaching development “build-out,” as defined by the surrounding blue-line of Open Space, future population growth is expected to increase elsewhere in the county. A good number of people, over 44,000, reside in unincorporated Boulder County with other municipalities and towns gaining population each year.

As components of growth, our natural population increase (births-deaths) has outpaced our net migration for the last several years.

Over one third of our households include children under the age of 18 (for a total of 63,272 children). Another 15% of households include a person over the age of 65.

Nearly 9% of our population over the age of 5 has a disability.

These factors are important when considering appropriate design of new housing and community facilities. Though almost half of the households in Boulder County include a married couple, 8% are headed by single women and another 40% are made up of non-family members.

We are also an increasingly diverse community.

Latinos now comprise 13% of our county’s population, up from 7% in 1990.

In Lafayette and Longmont, it’s estimated the percentage of Latinos is more than 20%. Four percent of our County identifies as Asian, while our African-American and Native-American populations each represent just less than 1% of the total population. Close to 11% of our community residents were born outside of the U.S.

More than one out of every 10 (16%) Boulder County residents speak a language other than English at home.

That’s slightly lower than the estimated 17% of Colorado residents and the 19.4% of U.S. residents, and reflects national trends toward increase. Even if it is not the first language of many of our residents, only 6.8% report speaking English less than “very well.”

Also reflecting national trends, we’re getting older. Boulder County appears to be outpacing much of the country.
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

CONSIDER YOUR SOCIAL CIRCLES – are you making an effort to build a diverse set of personal and professional connections?

ATTEND ONE OF THE MANY MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS that happen throughout Boulder County: Boulder Asian Festival, Cinco de Mayo in Longmont, Cesar Chavez Events in Lafayette, Nedfest in Nederland, and many more!

THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN HOME. Are there modifications you can make that would make it easier for you to "age in place"? Encourage builders to consider these modifications in new home construction.

JOIN THE PROGRAM PLANNING of Boulder County Aging Services

WHAT’S CHANGING?

Population growth is spreading throughout the county, increasingly outside of the City of Boulder.

We’re getting older and have more people of color in our community.

Our population shifts affect demand for services and may require elder-friendly design changes in new developments.

Efficient transportation networks and continued environmental stewardship will be vital in mitigating the environmental effects of growth.

Currently, just over 11% of Boulder County’s population is over 60+. That demographic is expected to grow to comprise over 20% of the population by 2020.

Our median age is 35.8, an uptick from 35.1 in 2005 and 31.5 in 1990. Colorado’s median age is 34.7.

We’re expected to reach a median age of 37.5 by 2020 when the number of residents over 60 are projected to more than double, making up 20% of our population. Some of this is due to the natural maturing of our baby boomer population. But a large number of seniors are joining the Boulder County community from other parts of Colorado – and the country – to be closer to family and to enjoy our remarkable setting. The implications are enormous, and not just for services in the areas of health care, housing, and transportation. It also means tremendous opportunities for recreation, volunteering, civic engagement, and our economy.

Twenty-one percent of residents in Boulder County moved during the past year, 9% of those in from another county, state, or abroad.

This is down from the peak number who moved into the county in 1999, a time of strong economic growth, but up from 2003 and 2004. More recent in-migration may signify a strengthening of our local economy – but also represents a challenge for nonprofits and businesses alike. How do new residents connect with services and visa versa?

To continuously improve the quality of life in Boulder County we must keep vigilant about our changing community and consider how we may design programs to effectively meet residents’ needs. This is best accomplished by including diverse community voices in the planning process.

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Currently, just over 11% of Boulder County’s population is over 60+. That demographic is expected to grow to comprise over 20% of the population by 2020.

Our median age is 35.8, an uptick from 35.1 in 2005 and 31.5 in 1990. Colorado’s median age is 34.7.

We’re expected to reach a median age of 37.5 by 2020 when the number of residents over 60 are projected to more than double, making up 20% of our population. Some of this is due to the natural maturing of our baby boomer population. But a large number of seniors are joining the Boulder County community from other parts of Colorado – and the country – to be closer to family and to enjoy our remarkable setting. The implications are enormous, and not just for services in the areas of health care, housing, and transportation. It also means tremendous opportunities for recreation, volunteering, civic engagement, and our economy.

Twenty-one percent of residents in Boulder County moved during the past year, 9% of those in from another county, state, or abroad.

This is down from the peak number who moved into the county in 1999, a time of strong economic growth, but up from 2003 and 2004. More recent in-migration may signify a strengthening of our local economy – but also represents a challenge for nonprofits and businesses alike. How do new residents connect with services and visa versa?

To continuously improve the quality of life in Boulder County we must keep vigilant about our changing community and consider how we may design programs to effectively meet residents’ needs. This is best accomplished by including diverse community voices in the planning process.
We think of ourselves as an active, healthy community. And, for the most part, we are! In fact, 92% of Boulder County residents classified their health status as “Good” or “Excellent,” when surveyed by the Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) in 2005. We enjoy many of the benefits associated with access to the outdoors and a strong network of government, nonprofit, and private providers. As a community, however, we continue to face challenges related to access to insurance, domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse. There are also inequities in health status by race/ethnicity, income, and age. Most of our measurements of public health are based on the behaviors people practice and therefore, are preventable, if given sufficient resources and attention. Public and private partnerships county-wide are working to address these behaviors early on through screening, treatment and support.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Health status
Health care access
Prenatal care
Women’s health care
Low birth weight births
Teen birth rates
Mental health
Crime statistics
Domestic violence
Child abuse
Adult physical activity
Adult overweight
Adult smoking
Adult alcohol use
Youth risks and behaviors

We feel good. We’re paying for it.
Since 1997, we’ve had a 93% increase in our insurance premiums.

Our Health & Human Services
Access to a regular source of health care is an important element to maintaining wellness and preventing illness that when left undetected may be difficult and expensive to treat. Regular check-ups and screenings are at the core of practicing positive public health.

Ninety percent (90%) of Boulder County residents reported some form of health care coverage, including private insurance, HMOs, Medicaid, and Medicare in 2005. This leaves nearly 30,000 people without some form of coverage. This is lower than the rate reported in the previous two years (91%), but higher than Colorado's overall coverage rate of 84%. Close to 80% of the uninsured have at least one working family member. It is estimated that 45% of our community lacks dental insurance.

Access to health care coverage is not equitable. Non-Hispanic whites report a rate of health insurance at 94.2% while Latinos report coverage rates of 57.3%. Income is also a significant contributor to lack of insurance. Of Boulder County residents making less than $25,000 per year, only 68.5% report some kind of health care coverage, as compared to 98.8% of those with an annual income above $50,000. Age is a risk factor for being uninsured. Nineteen point four percent (19.4%) of 18-24 year olds in our community claim no form of health coverage, followed by 12.3% of 25-33 year olds. Additional demographics at risk include those completing lower education levels and those who work for small employers.

We are lucky in Boulder County to have a strong network of community health centers that primarily serve our low income and uninsured populations. Over 27,000 individuals accessed care through one of four community clinics in 2006. Most of the services provided are essential primary care visits and screenings for individuals and families. Specialist services are referred out to hospitals and private providers. Dental Aid saw over 6,500 individual, uninsured patients for dental care in 2006, about half of whom were children. Practicing oral health can prevent decay and bacterial infections that lead to discomfort, diet restrictions, and more serious health complications.

Health care coverage is an issue of national concern. While comprehensive reform is postponed by policymakers, businesses and ultimately individuals continue to struggle. Colorado has experienced greater insurance premium increases than the U.S. average over the past 10 years, with a 93% increase in the private-sector premium per worker, compared to the national average of 86%. Wages have not kept pace. Insurance premiums now cost more than $11,700 per year for families and upwards of $4,300 each year for individuals. Though most people still receive health care coverage through their employers, workers must often supplement the rising cost of premiums directly. Those with family coverage contribute an average of 27% to the premium cost.
Medical bills accounted for approximately 11,800 bankruptcies filed in Colorado in 2005. Many of these individuals had some form of health insurance when they were diagnosed.

Though Medicaid is available to Colorado’s poorest families, it can still be difficult to qualify for coverage. Low-income adults below 65 years of age and not reporting a disability may only receive Medicaid benefits if they have dependent children and an income below 60% of the federal poverty level (which is just above $20,000 for a family of four.) Most new Medicaid enrollees tend to be children, but the majority of costs come from the elderly and those with disabilities who require long-term care.

**WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL?**

Our health is largely better than the state and the nation’s.

We enjoy strong public/private health and human services partnerships county-wide that increase access and continuity in services.

Policy-makers, funders, providers, and clients have come together to create a Human Services Master Plan outlining goals and activities to improve the quality of services for all residents.

Many of the substance use and abuse numbers have decreased since the 2003 Youth Risks and Behavior Survey.

The disparity between the risk to white and Latino students has decreased since the last report.

Youth are being included in the research design and program development by which they are affected.

**WHERE COULD WE IMPROVE?**

Disparities in access continue between ethnicities, races, incomes, and ages.

Mental health continues to face funding cuts and public stigma.

Adult substance use and abuse provides negative modeling for our community’s youth.

There is a lack of programming to help parents and youth communicate about risky behavior.

Disparities between white, Latino, and GLBQ students raise concern over discrimination and access to effective programming.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS providing care to Boulder County’s uninsured.

Get regular health SCREENINGS.

ADVOCATE for comprehensive health care coverage statewide.

PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH funding increases.

ENCourage youth participation in developing youth programs.

TALK WITH YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE about wise decision making re: alcohol and drugs and model that behavior yourself.

BE A MENTOR.

---

**COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER VISITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2006</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3,902</td>
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</table>

**Electronic Health Records**

In 2005 Clinica Campesina in Lafayette joined with Avista Adventist Hospital, Boulder County Public Health, and several private practice doctors to establish a common system for electronic health records (EHR). Clinica is largely a primary care clinic but from time to time, patients may need to see a specialist. With the implementation of the EHR, a diabetic Clinica patient who sees a specialist affiliated with Avista Hospital will have his full medical chart immediately available to the specialist. The doctors will know what medications the patient is taking, the results of any lab work or other tests done by Clinica Campesina and when he last saw his primary care physician.

In addition to costs savings and building comprehensive patient records, the EHR brings another large advantage. It will allow these medical providers to collect high quality, up-to-date data on patient conditions and to track health trends over time and use data for quality improvement activities.

[www.cchn.org](http://www.cchn.org)
Healthy Women = Healthy Children

Access to health care for women and children, in particular, opens the door to creating a high quality of life from pre-birth into old age. In 2005 Boulder County welcomed 3,500 new babies. Pregnant women who receive proper prenatal care early in their pregnancy tend to deliver healthier babies than women who do not. Low birth-weight can mean risks to a child’s survival, growth, and development from infancy into adulthood. Teen mothers experience higher rates of low birth-weight babies, and may struggle with completing an education that allows for the self-sufficiency of herself and her children. Early cancer detection through screenings like pap smears and mammograms may increase a woman’s cancer survival rate by up to 97%.

It is estimated that 87.8% of pregnant women in Boulder County received prenatal care in the first trimester. This is much higher than the state rate of 78.6% and represents a continuing upward trend since 1990 (77.6%). Access is inequitable, however, among women of color. Forty-six percent (46%) of Native American women, 15% of Latina women, 14% of African-American women, and 8% of Asian women reported late or no prenatal care, compared to just 5% of non-Hispanic white women.

The 8.4% of babies born with a low birth weight in Boulder County is still higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal of 5%, but below the current state rate of 9.3%. The local rate has not changed substantially in the past several years, hovering between 6.9% and 8.7%. Boulder County’s and Colorado’s rates are typically higher than the national average for low birth weight, and several studies point to our higher altitude as a contributing factor. Other factors known to be associated are age (teen births and babies born to women over the age of 45 are at a higher risk for low birth weight), smoking, and alcohol use.

The Boulder County teen birth rate has remained at about half that of the state (20 per 1,000 teen girls vs. 39.2). Teen birth rates declined again in 2005, continuing the trend down since a 1999 peak. Strong collaborations between the county’s Public Health Department and nonprofit prevention programs have contributed to this decrease. However, nearly 70% of younger teen births (10-17 years) are to Latina girls. Boulder County rises above the state for rate of women who have had a pap smear in the past 3 years (87% vs. 84%) and women over 50 who have had a mammogram in the past two years (73% vs. 71%). However, cancer screening was found to be inequitable across ethnicity and income levels in Boulder County by the BRFSS.
Community Safety

Crime statistics are basic indicators of public safety and can be measured both in terms of threats to people and threats to property, although each presents distinct challenges to prevention, protection, and creating a positive sense of community.

The overall serious crime rate (i.e., rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft) in Boulder County was down 12% in 2006 from the previous year. This continues a downward trend seen in the past several years. Crimes against persons actually went up in 2006, with the entire increase coming from assault cases rising to 121 offenses, up from 100 the year before. Crimes against property decreased 13.5% in 2006.

County law enforcement saw an 11% increase in domestic violence cases (formal and informal*) in 2005 from the previous year, 38% of those from Longmont. Arrests for these were up 9%. The rate of women arrested in domestic violence charges rose to 24% (from 22% the previous year), and the majority of defendants and victims were between the ages of 18 and 29. Use of alcohol and/or an illegal substance at the time of the reported incident has continued to increase each year, this year representing nearly 40% of total cases. Though police reports of domestic violence and subsequent arrests rose in 2005, these represent only a small percentage of the crisis calls made each year to human service providers in Boulder County. Experts estimate that only 1 in 10 people who make a crisis call to a domestic violence service end up filing a police report.

Organizations servicing domestic violence victims in Boulder County first assess the immediate safety of the caller and then work to provide shelter and support services.

The number of children witnessing domestic violence has increased over the three years preceding 2005, reaching 31% in the most current statistics. In nearly half of these cases, the defendant was charged with child abuse. A total 642 children were documented as witnesses to violence in the home, up from 580 in 2004.

Child abuse referrals continued a downward trend from a peak in 2001, with the exception of 2004. Of the 3,174 total cases reported to the Department of Social Services’ Child Protective Services, approximately 58% were investigated (1,460 cases) and 423 were substantiated. Nearly half (48%) of the reported cases of abuse are those of neglect, as compared to sexual abuse (7%) and other abuse (18%). Domestic violence, drug, and alcohol abuse were commonly correlated with cases of child abuse.

* "Formal" cases include arrests, while “informal” cases are pending charges and warrants.

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**AGE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS, 2005**

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<td>18-24</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 50</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Boulder County Human Services Strategic Plan – Building Caring and Livable Communities for All.

The Human Services Strategic Plan, developed through input from providers, clients, policymakers, funders, businesses, educators, and the broad public contains goals and strategies in the following areas:

- Promoting self-sufficiency and stability for Boulder County’s residents
- Improving educational opportunities
- Increasing advocacy for human services
- Increasing inclusivity in service delivery and decision-making
- Creating a coordinated system for human service delivery
- Creating a coordinated system of funding.

www.buildinglivablecommunitiesforall.org
Healthy Behavior

Boulder County’s natural and built environments offer many opportunities for regular physical activity. With Open Space, bike and walking paths, and indoor exercise facilities, it’s no wonder that Boulder County adults report a high rate of exercise. While this is an important factor in the prevention of cardiovascular disease, poor diet, stress, and cigarette and alcohol use remain concerning factors.

Cardiovascular disease continues to be the leading cause of death for Boulder County adults. This is followed by cancer, heart disease, and stroke. Sixty-three percent (63%) of adults engage in moderate activity 5 days per week or vigorous activity 3 days per week. This is compared to 54% of all Coloradans but is not equitable across all age groups, however. While 72% young adults (18-34 years) report a regular fitness routine in the county, older adults (55+) report a rate of 56%. When looking ahead at our countywide aging population, it is important to consider physical activity opportunities for older adults that will keep them healthy and free from injury.

Even with high levels of physical activity, 42.1% of Boulder County adults are reportedly “overweight,” as categorized by a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25.0 or more. Nearly 14% are considered “obese” (BMI 30.0 or more), which is still lower than the state rate of 18%, but presents increased risks for heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

Approximately 14% of adult residents report cigarette use. Young people (18-24) and those with lower levels of education and income report higher rates of smoking.

Binge drinking (as measured by 5 or more drinks in one sitting during the prior month) now stands at a rate of 16%, down from over 21% in 1995. Young people are again at a higher risk with 39% of 18-24 year olds reporting this behavior, but older adults (35-44 years) in Boulder County also report binge drinking at a rate of 18.7%. It is important to consider the behaviors we are modeling for youth in our community and what the consequences are associated with those behaviors.

Mental Health

Often stigmatized and under-funded, mental health is of great concern to public health. Mental illness has been linked to substance abuse and criminal activity.

Colorado ranks 33rd in spending for mental health, yet suicide took more lives in Colorado in 2005 than automobile accidents (795 vs. 662.) This is also true of Boulder County (49 vs. 25.) Suicide is the highest cause of death among 15-24 year olds in our community. The state’s budgetary spending on mental health has declined significantly since 1970.

The BRFSS found 38% of Boulder County residents reported at least one day during the previous month that they felt their mental health was “not good.” More than 10% of those cited at least 8 days of “not good” mental health in that month. Rates displayed some inequity when broken out by race/ethnicity (42% of Latinos vs. 38% of non-Hispanic whites).

38% of Boulder County residents reported at least one day during the previous month that they felt their mental health was “NOT GOOD.”
The Boulder County Prevention Connection, through the County’s Community Services Department, conducts a biennial survey of youth risks and behaviors. The survey was conducted in 2001, 2003, and most recently in 2005, in 17 Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School District high schools. In total 2,344 students participated with a 79% response rate. While many of the results are concerning, it is important to focus not just on the bad news. In fact, many of the risky behaviors identified in previous surveys have decreased. Much like health trends seen among adults in our community, disparities exist between risks to white, non-Hispanic students and those who are Latino or Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Questioning (GLBQ.)

Across all participants, the greatest concerns highlighted from this process include stress and depression, substance use and abuse, and harassment and violence. An underlying sense of isolation among youth and their families appears at the core of many of these challenges.

While there has been little noticeable change in the numbers from year to year, the 2005 survey added questions related to parental disapproval, which was found to be a significant factor in prevention of concerning behaviors. Those teens who felt a parent disapproved were less likely to ever smoke marijuana, ever drink alcohol or smoke cigarettes, or begin drinking before the age of 13. The survey also revealed that early substance use, self injury, and depression were linked to multiple behaviors.

Teen rates of early cigarette use (before the age of 13) and binge drinking have both declined since 2001. Boulder County teens have a lower rate of drinking and driving than Colorado teens and U.S. teens. The rate has decreased since 2003, from 11.6% to 8.5%. Boulder County teens were also less likely to have consumed alcohol in the month prior to the survey than Colorado teens (44.9% vs. 47.4%).

The rate of marijuana use among Boulder County teens has remained unchanged since the 2003 survey and remained higher than the state and U.S. rates. Twenty four percent (24%) of teens reported marijuana use during the previous month.

Though serious consideration of suicide by Boulder County teens continues to be higher than the state rate, the county’s rate has decreased since 2003, from 19.4% to 16.9%. In Colorado, 13.6% of high school students seriously considered attempting suicide. Even with decreases, however, youth depression remains a serious concern to our community, disproportionately afflicting young women and GLBQ youth.

In the Boulder Valley School District gaps between Latino and white students are decreasing. This is seen across all risk behaviors, though disparities still exist with Latinos being at a higher risk. Nearly 12% of the county’s
Latino high school students and 17.5% of students in other non-white race/ethnic groups reported ethnic harassment, compared to 4.3% of white students. Nine percent (9%) of Latino students did not attend school at least once because they felt they would be unsafe, compared to 1.8% of white students.

**Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/and Questioning (GLBQ)**

Teens continue to be at a higher risk for nearly all behaviors surveyed.

Approximately seven percent (7%) of Boulder County high school students identify as GLBQ. Nearly 15% of GLBQ students surveyed said they had felt too unsafe to go to school on one or more day in the previous month. GLBQ students were also more likely to have used alcohol or other drugs.

The disparities in risk again raise questions about perceptions of community support and effective outreach for services. The discrimination felt by youth in our community is largely reflective of the environment modeled by our adult population.

New to the youth risks and behaviors assessment this year was a youth-led survey process created to engage high school students in research and solution building. Some of the survey’s key findings include:

**Youth wanted to try drugs and alcohol at early ages because of the example older kids set.** In response, the Healthy Youth Alliance has recommended juniors and seniors lead prevention programs with younger teens. Focus groups found that youth would be responsive and interested in both designing and facilitating these types of programs.

**Elementary school drug and alcohol prevention programs actually increased youth awareness of drugs and alcohol, and in many cases, it was their first introduction to them.** Response recommendations

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**MentorsMatter**

MentorsMatter is a collaboration of eight Boulder County organizations to promote the benefits of mentoring and to educate the community about the needs of at-risk youth in Boulder County. The partner organizations work together to recruit adults from the local population to be mentors, advisors, and tutors for the many youth waiting to be matched with a caring adult role model. Mentors serve at sites throughout Boulder County.

The partner organizations currently serve over 350 youth in Boulder County, but estimate another 250-300 youth are waiting to be matched up with a mentor. To find out how you can become a mentor, visit [www.volunteerconnection.net/MentorsMatter](http://www.volunteerconnection.net/MentorsMatter) or call 303-444-4904.

Partner organizations include:

- I Have a Dream
- Boulder County’s Social Services Mentoring and Tutoring programs
- YWCA
- Partners Mentoring Youth
- RSVP Senior Corps Volunteer Program
- Volunteer Connection
- Youth Advocacy Program at the Mental Health Center
- Boulder Enhanced Supervision Team (B.E.S.T.) Mentoring Program
include beginning and continuing education and prevention for substance abuse in middle school.

**Constantly being told NO to do drugs and alcohol often had the opposite effect because it sparked curiosity and rebellion.** Youth felt a more effective message would be to encourage delay of use, focusing on the biological effects of early use as a deterrent.

**More parent involvement in youth lives would decrease the use of substances.** Youth felt it would be helpful to have parents who were willing to engage in honest communication, without judgment, and stated that parents need help in learning how to do that. More specifically, the group learned that youth want parents to be better listeners (not judge the youth’s actions) and to create situations where youth feel comfortable and not interrogated.

**Youth felt that depression and stress were strongly linked.** They recommended establishing a county-wide tutoring program, free of cost and available at varying times throughout the day, to help ease school related stress in student’s lives by giving them a place to find help if they need it. Youth also wanted to see a training program for teachers to help them understand the issues of stress on high school students. In addition, they felt a training program to help teens and their families navigate the college application and financing processes would be helpful in reducing stress during their senior year.

As a community we can shift our values to ones that support and appreciate youth participation and relationships. We must also ensure a sound network of services for both youth and parents encouraging open communication. Most importantly youth must themselves be a part of building these solutions to ensure buy-in and effective programming.
Our Education

We’re learning. We’re one of the “smartest in America.”

But our achievement gap, between those who are doing well in school and those who are not, is growing.

Boulder County continues to lead much of the West in rates of highly educated people. In fact, we are ranked among the Top 10 in the United States in terms of residents holding a bachelor degree or higher. Over 94% of Boulder County residents 25 or older are high school graduates, and nearly 58% hold bachelor degrees. Further, almost a quarter of residents have graduate degrees (masters, professional degrees or doctorates).

The City of Boulder was recently recognized as the “Smartest City in America,” due to the percentage of adults holding a bachelor’s degree. While a highly educated population is great news for employers, it also creates a highly competitive environment for job seekers. Many of our residents were educated outside of Boulder County, and it is important to consider the educational opportunities we provide within our own community, from early childhood through older adults.
Closing the Gap

Education and training drive economic opportunities. Professional and technical services, manufacturing, and government jobs, which make up a significant portion of our employment, generally require a higher level of formal education than many of their lower-paying counterparts, such as retail and hospitality services. Those without a high school diploma in our community make, on average, only 53% of the salary of someone holding a bachelor’s degree. This helps to explain why 20% of Boulder County residents without a high school diploma live in poverty, compared to just 5% of those who completed college. Studies estimate a lifetime earning difference of over $1 million.

Of the more than 11,000 adults in our local workforce who speak Spanish at home, 44% do not have a high school diploma, compared to only 5% of the total workforce over 25 years of age (131,247 adults.)

There are few opportunities currently available to pursue continuing education for these workers.

Just 22% of dependent students from low-income families in Colorado attend college. Pell Grants, the greatest form of financial support for low-income students seeking higher education (because they do not require return payment), decreased the number of eligible students last year and the level of support per student. The top grant a student with no parental support can receive is just over $4,000, and yet, CU-Boulder’s tuition and fees now top $5,500 a year, up over 75% since 2000. Because of increasing costs coupled with decreases in government subsidized loans, lending from banks and private institutions has played an increasing role in funding higher education in the past several years (20% of total borrowing, compared to 12% five years ago).

However, before a student can pursue higher education he must complete high school.

Both the Boulder Valley (BVSD) and St. Vrain Valley (SVVSD) school districts enjoy graduation rates exceeding Colorado’s overall rate.

Boulder Valley Family Literacy Program

The Boulder Valley Family Literacy Program is a comprehensive four component family literacy program including English as a Second Language (ESL) and computer instruction, parenting classes, early childhood education, and parent and child together (PACT) time. New this year, the program will offer GED services, as well. Families also receive a monthly home visit. One of the main goals of the BVFLP is to ensure children’s success in school by working to raise the education level of the entire family.

To contact please call: 303-245-5826

Boulder Valley Family Literacy Program

The Boulder Valley Family Literacy Program is a comprehensive four component family literacy program including English as a Second Language (ESL) and computer instruction, parenting classes, early childhood education, and parent and child together (PACT) time. New this year, the program will offer GED services, as well. Families also receive a monthly home visit. One of the main goals of the BVFLP is to ensure children’s success in school by working to raise the education level of the entire family.

To contact please call: 303-245-5826
Tenth graders in both school districts have outperformed their statewide peers on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) for the past several years. Certainly these are accomplishments to be lauded, but the CSAP numbers do not tell the whole story. The achievement gap between Latino and white students casts a dark shadow on even our brightest successes. Graduation rates of white students vs. Latino students vary greatly in both school districts. **BVSD posted the second highest gap in CSAP scores statewide in 2006 and the highest in the Denver metro area, with over a 40 percentage point spread in passing rates across all grades.**

In the district's defense, a partial explanation of that gap is attributable to the remarkably high scores of BVSD’s white, non-Hispanic students, though this does not dismiss the concern. St. Vrain also struggles with a significant achievement gap. **Fifteen percent (15%) of St. Vrain’s students are English Language Learners, compared to 9% of Boulder Valley’s.**

Both districts have developed strategies to close the gap, but it will take long term dedication and investment.

The Boulder Valley School District developed a Stratification Task Force to address the achievement gap, and the group released an analysis with recommendations in 2005. Findings contributing to the gap include uneven socio-economic distribution of students at BVSD schools due to attendance area boundaries and housing patterns; the centralization of specialized programs, including those focusing on ESL; lack of accurate information on school quality for parents; and the unintended consequences of open enrollment. The District has also struggled to hire teachers that better reflect the students they teach. **Ten percent of licensed BVSD teachers were identified as people of color in 2006/2007 (up from 8% almost 10 years ago), a rate far below the nearly 23% of students of color. Similarly, 14% of students are Latino but only 7% of teachers.**

Longmont held an Education Summit in March 2007 to engage the community in support of education from early care to adult education. Common themes identified for future actions included: increasing community awareness of education opportunities; addressing equity and access gaps, educating educators, assessing the content and quality of learning to ensure a more complete picture, motivating learning, and building community involvement and support at all levels.

In both districts, the achievement gap between white non-Hispanic students and Latino students starts out big and then widens over a student’s years in school. There are many at-home influences on a student’s ability to achieve. Family income, social class, stable housing, home literacy, and nutrition all contribute to academic success or challenges. In 2006 over 1,200 students were identified as homeless in Boulder County – 940 in St. Vrain and 312 in Boulder Valley. It's hard to imagine concentrating on school work, if you don’t know where you will be sleeping that night.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total Revenue Per Pupil</th>
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<td>St. Vrain</td>
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**AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY**

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</table>
Most experts agree that to successfully bridge the gap for all students investments in education must be made early in a child’s life. Early childcare and education can prevent a lifetime of playing catch-up. Brain development in the first year-and-a-half of a child’s life will impact his learning from then on. While Boulder County offers good resources in the way of child care centers and infant care, access is often inequitable due to the prohibitive costs. We also lack a system of quality assurance.

**Boulder County is home to 147 licensed child care centers (an increase from 2002) and 150 licensed child care homes (a decrease).**

Only 12.2% of the centers have successfully gone through the national accreditation process, compared to 16.5% in the state.

Accreditation helps to ensure quality programming, reducing the risk for gaps in learning. Quality, however, can be expensive.

**Child care costs in Boulder County have increased up to 28% above inflation since 2001.**

Centers for infant care in Boulder now run close to $1,100 per month. Boulder and Lafayette have seen the greatest increases in cost, but the need for affordable care is county-wide. Nearly 38,000 families with children in Boulder County live below the federal poverty level (29% of those are households headed by single mothers.)

**Though over 1,000 low-income families in Boulder County qualify for the state child care subsidy (CCCAP) many of them face a gap in coverage, even with increased funding to the county in 2005.** In 2007 that gap reached upwards of $120 per week for children 2 to 5 years.

Funded by the Federal government, Head Start of Boulder County serves 300 three-to-five year olds, while the Longmont Children’s Council (a Head Start program) serves 181 children, all from families at or below the federal poverty level. Head Start programming includes health screenings and parenting classes, along with early education.

In addition to the costs of child care, there is a cultural component to families’ decisions about where they place their young children. Many Latino families choose relatives or neighbors as caregivers, placing significant value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVERAGE WEEKLY COST OF INFANT CARE 2–12 MONTHS IN CENTER</th>
<th>2001</th>
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</table>
on relationships and familiarity. The Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition estimates that nearly three-quarters of low-income Latino families use unregulated care. Their experience has also shown that the majority of these unregulated providers are themselves low-income and lack formal education beyond grade school, therefore their care does not include formal developmental components. The result is an existing gap in social and literacy readiness, even before these children reach kindergarten.

Research in Denver showed that low-income children enrolled in preschool and full-day kindergarten had a much higher chance of reading at or above grade level, as compared to those who only had access to half-day kindergarten programs. **Only 12% of all Boulder County kindergartners are enrolled in full-day programs compared to 28% statewide, according to the Colorado Children’s Campaign.**

Focus groups conducted through the Early Care and Education Council of Boulder County initiative on “Promoting School Readiness for Latino Children in Boulder County” show Latino families expressing similar needs and goals around school preparation and success as white families. However, interviews also point to a distrust of Boulder County child care settings in being culturally and linguistically competent to meet the needs of Latino children and their families. Latino parents want their children to maintain their native language and cultural values and may be unaccustomed to leaving their children with someone they don’t know, in addition to incurring high costs for care. Additional challenges arise for parents in understanding and meeting requirements for enrollment (which may include birth certificates, social security numbers, etc.).

Several programs, locally and statewide, seek to increase parental awareness and skills to enhance early childhood development. By providing support to parents and decreasing barriers to quality care, Boulder County can help all children arrive at school ready to learn.

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**ECECBC Overview May 2007**

The vision of young children as a priority in Boulder County was the common ground on which several community agencies came together to form the Early Care and Education Council of Boulder County (ECECBC) in 1998. Work has focused on support for direct service providers as well as on the development of a plan for a county-wide system of ECE.

Today its membership includes non-profit organizations, government agencies, child care centers, family child care providers, and individuals interested in improving the system of early childhood care and preschool education in our community. [www.bouldercountyecce.org](http://www.bouldercountyecce.org)
Learning is certainly not restricted to a classroom setting or to a specific age range. With a highly educated population, it is important for a community to offer opportunities to engage in lifelong learning. With the state’s flagship university housed here, along with Naropa University, Front Range Community College, Longmont Free University, and many nonprofit organizations offering programs for older adults, there are countless opportunities to engage in life-long learning.

From the first years of life to the 90th, Boulder County has the ability to provide a rich, stimulating, and supportive education for the entire community. Our strengths hold the key to repairing our deficits, along with visionary leadership and community-wide commitment.
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Advocate for **PUBLIC EDUCATION** funding.

Support **QUALITY EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION** opportunities for all families in Boulder County.

Volunteer as a **MENTOR** to youth.

Encourage your business to support **YOUTH INTERNSHIPS**.

Promote **ADULT EDUCATION** opportunities.

**HOLD OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACCOUNTABLE** to their strategies for closing the achievement gap.

**READ TO A CHILD.**

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WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL?

Boulder Valley School District has the highest achievement scores in the state.

Boulder was recently named “Smartest City in America.”

We are home to the University of Colorado, Naropa University, Front-Range Community College, and numerous federal research labs.

Both school districts have developed strategic plans to decrease gaps in student achievement.

The Early Care and Education Council of Boulder County is collaborating countywide to improve school readiness.

WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE?

BVSD has the second largest achievement gap in the state between Latino and non-Hispanic white students.

SVVSD has twice voted against a Mill Levy tax to increase school funding.

There is a lack of options in early care and education for low-income families.

Colorado lags in funding support for low-income families who want to send their children to college.

We lack opportunities for adult education and job training.

Teachers of color are under-represented in K-12 schools.

Parents need additional support for maneuvering the school system and college applications.

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**Sources:**


http://factfinder.census.gov

St. Vrain Valley School District, www.stvrain.k12.co.us/
Our Economy & Housing

We’re rich. We’re getting richer.

But 12% of us live below the Federal Poverty level and our middle class is declining.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Per capita income
Household income
Unemployment rate
Job growth
Labor migration
Commercial lease rates
Poverty level
Self sufficiency wage
Employment by industry
Average wage by industry
Housing affordability
Foreclosures
Homelessness

Boulder County was reported as the seventh wealthiest county in the nation in 2005, as measured by per capita income.

We were recognized as the top city outside of major metropolises for attracting private equity and venture capitalist deals. Boulder County’s economy reflects Colorado’s lead as the top state for high-tech employment. While these are all signs of a strong local economy, increases in wages have not kept pace with increases in living costs. Wealth disparities have increased in our community for the past several years.
Making Ends Meet

The number of households earning more than $150,000 increased in 2005, up to 13.2% of all households, as compared with 10% in 2004. At the same time, households earning less than $25,000 make up a full 21.6% of our county (down only slightly from the 22.3% in 2004.) All incomes in between have decreased since 1999, continuing a trend of declining middle class identified in the last Civic Forum Report. This also reflects a larger trend seen nationally, with the top 10% of Americans (those earning roughly $100,000 or more) receiving the largest share of national income in 2005 (since 1928) and the other 90% seeing decreases in average income compared to the year before.

Per capita income in 2005 for Boulder County was $45,944, up 5.6% from the year before.

While this is good news for those who enjoyed the increase, it is important to acknowledge that this is not a universal experience. The median household income in Boulder County for Anglos in 2005 was 143% higher than that of Native American households and 37% higher than Hispanic households.

Our unemployment rate hovered around 4% in 2006, lower than Colorado’s overall rate, and in March of 2007 was at 3.4%. Job growth has continued to make gains from the economic downturn in 2002 that cost our community over 11,000 jobs (and brought unemployment rates above 6%).

Employment in the county increased by 6.1% in 2006. Wages were up by 5.6%

Even with the more recent increases, at the time of this writing, we are still 4,000 jobs below Boulder County’s peak employment in 2001. One explanation points to job computerization and automation that filled in for lost workers during the downturn. Employers eliminated the need for as many workers and won’t necessarily replace positions filled prior to 2002.
In a community with numerous assets and a high level of wealth, poverty and need can be harder to recognize but must not be overlooked.

**Our county’s median family income in 2006 was $81,600. However, 12% of the population lives below the federal poverty level, which for 2007 was $9,800 for an individual and $20,650 for a family of four.**

The federal poverty measure is developed by taking the cost of food and adjusting it for inflation each year. This ignores important factors of cost such as family composition and geography. Measures for poverty levels are the same for a rural town in Alabama, as for New York City, or for Boulder, Colorado. The cost of living in Boulder County, as measured by the Colorado Fiscal Policy Center in 2004, was $59,273 for two adults, an infant, and a preschooler. This means with two working parents, each would need to make over $14 per hour. Assuming an annual increase to the consumer price index*, the 2007 cost of living for the same family is now $64,769.

**The self-sufficiency wage per adult for two working parents with an infant and a preschooler is $16.87.**

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**This reflects the minimum cost of housing, food, health care, transportation, and child care in our community.**

The measure of poverty as estimated by the census bureau is grossly underrated. Amendment 42, passed by Colorado voters in 2006, increased the minimum wage to $6.85. This allows for an annual individual income of $14,248—not far above the federal poverty measure and still well below the cost of living in Boulder County.

Boulder County’s average annual wages are among the wealthiest in the surrounding area. We land just below Broomfield County, but above Adams, Jefferson, and Weld Counties, and the statewide average. Professional and business services and manufacturing represent strong sectors in our local economy, both by the number of jobs in the county (increasing employees over the past several years) and by their average annual wages, $85,800 and $69,264 respectively, though the manufacturing sector is expected to slow throughout Colorado in 2007. Government employees include the University of Colorado and many federal research labs. Retail is also a significant sector by the number employed, but average salary is just above $25,000 a year, not enough to support a family’s cost of living. Information technology wages are higher, but the number of jobs in this sector has decreased since 2004, with slow growth expectations into 2007.

Within the hi-tech industries, there is concern that many workers will retire in the next five to ten years. There has been little done in Colorado, either by the state or by the private sector, to prepare for this shift related to training and educational investment. Short supplies of appropriately trained workers could prove challenging for employers needing to quickly fill technical jobs.

*Source*:
*CPI rate estimated at a 3% increase annually.*
Employment is a regional issue, and this is especially evident when comparing where people live and where they work.

**80% of Boulder County workers live within the county.**
Although that’s the highest rate in the Denver/Metro area, a recent study on labor migration by the Boulder Regional Business Partnership revealed there is high crossover between cities and towns within the county. Only 9.6% of those who live in Lafayette work in Lafayette. Twelve percent (12%) of Superior’s residents work within their town and 32% of Boulder’s. The highest rate was seen in Longmont, where 44% of employees surveyed also lived in Longmont.

**70% of Boulder County employees don’t live in the same community as they work.**
Wages and housing costs greatly influence decisions as to where a family lives. The result has implications ranging from environmental impact to community engagement levels.

The cost of doing business and the benefits included often determine where a business chooses to locate.

**In 2006 the average commercial market lease rate was $16.67 per square foot.**
Boulder had a strong year in market leasing with a high rate of absorption (when a business simply shifts within the same geographical area) and the highest rate for space at $23 per square foot, as compared to $13.50 per square foot in Longmont. County-wide commercial space vacancies are down from 2002 and 2003 peaks, reflecting economic growth since the regional downturn.

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**PERSONAL INVESTMENT ENTERPRISE (PIE)**

Personal Investment Enterprise’s (PIE) mission is to provide tools that empower low-income people to save and build assets to strengthen their economic stability. It is the vision of Personal Investment Enterprise to become a source of hope for low-income families and individuals by helping them achieve their asset goals of homeownership, post-secondary education, or small business capitalization through matched savings accounts and financial management training. Each new participant sets a goal, establishes a savings account and begins to make monthly deposits of at least $25 into that account. Visit [www.unitedwayfoothills.org](http://www.unitedwayfoothills.org) for more details.
The Housing Continuum

Boulder County's housing continuum spans from multi-million dollar home owners to the homeless. Of the 113,405 occupied housing units in the county (including single and multi-family housing), 65% are owner-occupied and 35% are rental units. Another 8,000 units remain vacant. The next logical question may be, “With all of those vacant units, why do we face a housing crisis?” The issue is not one of supply, but one of income.

The median home price in Boulder County, at the time of this writing, is nearly $360,000, representing an over 200% increase since 1990.

In the City of Boulder, the median home price is above $560,000. Qualifying for a mortgage of that size in Boulder requires an annual household income of over $170,000. Longmont’s median home price is approximately $240,000. The median price of a condo or townhouse in the county is above $215,000. In fact, 84% of our housing is valued above $200,000, leaving very few options for home-ownership among low-income families. This largely contributes to the 658,665 person-trips into Boulder County from surrounding counties in 2005, on top of the 612,435 within our county.

Colorado made headlines for foreclosure rates throughout 2006. At one time leading the country for foreclosures, the state is considering an increase in programs to support financial education and reduce predatory lending. Predatory lending often targets those individuals already most vulnerable in our community.

**Boulder County saw 790 foreclosures in 2006.**

The number of foreclosures in the county was up over 27% in 2006 from the year before and up over 50% from 2004. The Boulder County Housing Authority continues its outreach to buyers or those considering purchasing a home, including classes to help clarify the difference between what people can afford and what they may qualify for — often the disparity that leads to foreclosure.

For those who cannot enter into market rate housing, there are options beyond renting. The Cities of Boulder and Longmont have adopted comprehensive affordable housing programs to support opportunities for low-income families. Through inclusionary zoning; public/private partnerships; federal, state, and local funding; land annexations; and increasing density through redevelopment, these cities hope to achieve a supply of permanently affordable housing, comparable in quality to that of market rate housing. The permanence is upheld through resale restrictions. Affordable housing programs are an important piece of the regional housing picture and will continue to gain significance as the county’s population and economy grows.
Though homeownership is one piece of the puzzle, affordable housing remains largely dependent upon rental units in Boulder County. **53% of renters spend more than a third of their monthly household income on housing, that’s up from 41% the year before.**

The average rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in the Boulder-Broomfield area was $843 per month in 2006.

As a basic need, housing still continues to elude many in our community. The Metro Denver Homeless Initiative collaborates with local providers and community volunteers each year to conduct two point-in-time surveys about the homeless population in Boulder County. One survey is conducted in August, the other in January, to help paint a picture of homeless needs throughout the year and seasons.

**The most recent results published from August of 2006 estimate 1,026 homeless individuals in the county.**

The number has remained above 1,000 since 2001. A follow-up survey, with over half of the homeless counted, revealed that nearly 78% of the homeless surveyed were sheltered, and 78% had also been homeless before, leaving 22% as “newly homeless.” Sixty-five percent (65%) were men and 22.8% were Latino.

**The large majority (87.2%) of our community’s homeless are “episodically homeless,” meaning they have been homeless for less than one year.**

Sixty percent (60%) reported that their last residence had been in Boulder County.

**Fifty-five percent (55%) of Boulder County’s homeless reported at least one disabling condition (including physical disability, mental illness or substance addiction).**

Sixty-two percent (62%) were working at the time of homelessness, and 31.8% reported high housing costs as the reason for their homelessness.

Numerous organizations work together throughout the county to provide shelter, food, support services, and case management toward permanent housing. The Boulder Shelter for the Homeless serves adult men and women without children in winter months. Safehouse Alliance for Progressive Nonviolence and the Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley provide emergency shelter for women and children. Beginning in the fall of 2007, the OUR Center of Longmont will provide an overnight warming center for homeless adults. Several more organizations collaborate to support transitional opportunities for individuals and families trying to get back on their feet and into permanent housing.

**Longmont Housing Opportunities Team (LHOT)**

The number of homeless in Longmont has been increasing. The number of homeless in Longmont has been increasing at an accelerated rate since 2000. The homeless tend to be young (average age is 25.9 years), and half are homeless for the first time. Longmont’s homeless are poorly educated, and half of them are children. LHOT is a collaborative, communitywide partnership to eliminate homelessness in Longmont within ten years by addressing the root causes. The team has more than fifty members representing government, social services, shelters, housing providers, domestic violence agencies, police, mental health, school district, banks, youth services, churches, senior services, health groups, businesses, recovery programs, and private individuals.

LHOT is a departure from the traditional “human services model” that typically puts people into other programs before addressing their immediate housing need. In Longmont, furnishing housing comes first; social services follow.
**WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL?**

Continued job growth and wage increases, combined with low unemployment.

Boulder County is recognized for its entrepreneurial opportunities and investments.

Commercial real estate has enjoyed low vacancies expected to continue in 2007.

Boulder County has a strong network of housing advocates working to provide shelter and support services to those most in need.

**WHERE COULD WE IMPROVE?**

The federal poverty level inaccurately reflects cost of living in Boulder County.

Boulder County, along with the rest of the state, lacks ongoing opportunities for job training to build the skills of all workers, but particularly those in the hi-tech sectors.

70% of our workforce does not live in the same community in which they work.

Existing housing in the county does not meet the income needs for much of our community.

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**Boulder County Advocates for Transitional Housing (BCATH)**

BCATH is the culmination of many years of work by Boulder County agencies and individuals devoted to providing a missing piece of the continuum of care for homeless individuals and families in our community.

Working closely with seven local agencies, BCATH provides transitional housing and supportive services to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. They address the distinctive needs of the participants in order to assist them in reaching the highest possible level of independence. Approximately 80% of residents moving out of BCATH housing will transfer to a stable living environment.

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**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Support the adoption of a county-adjusted SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD in Colorado by the legislature.

Consider support for ROOT CAUSES of poverty – like educational inequality, growing health and child care costs, and cost of housing.

Promote and shop at environmentally and socially sustainable businesses that provide LIVING WAGES to their employees.

Encourage AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS county-wide that allow families of all incomes to live in the same communities in which they work.

Get involved in programs that SUPPORT THE HOMELESS and Housing First models.

VOLUNTEER at the Homeless Shelter or another basic needs organization.

Discuss HOUSING NEEDS in your faith community.

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**Sources:**

Our Environment

We think green. We talk green. We need to act on it.

Only 5% of us report using public transportation to work, we’re concerned about traffic but we’re each driving more in our our single occupancy cars.

Boulder County has long been a leader in setting progressive environmental policy. In the 1960s, we were the first community in the nation to pass a tax to acquire and preserve open space. We led the movement, in the 1970s, to adopt a curbside recycling program. In 2006 Boulder became the first city in the country to pass a Climate Action Tax, in an effort to reduce our climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions and help meet the aggressive goals set by the Kyoto Protocol.

This strong history of environmental stewardship largely contributes to both the scenic beauty we enjoy as residents of Boulder County and the access to the outdoors that enhances our quality of life. The high value community residents place on our environment is reflected in a survey done by Boulder County government in 2006 revealing that 20% of respondents listed “manage/stop growth” as the “most important issue facing Boulder County today.” “Highways and transit” concerns were the next most cited at 9%. The growth and development we experience as a county are filled with opportunities and challenges – and we all play a role in maintaining a thriving natural environment which will benefit future generations.
Air Quality

Last year Boulder County was in compliance with both state and federal air quality standards for the first time consistently in 30 years. With that achievement, activists are shifting their sights from simply reacting to pollutants through clean-up efforts, to proactively addressing future threats to air quality, namely oil and gas exploration.

Ozone continues to be the leading pollutant on over 80% of days in Boulder County, as compared to other particulate matter and carbon monoxide. Ozone is created when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) react in the presence of sunlight. It can cause respiratory problems for the elderly, young children, and those suffering from chronic ailments such as asthma. Healthy people exercising outside may also be affected by ozone irritation, and it cannot be seen or smelled at ambient levels.

Beyond the Climate Action Tax in Boulder, there have been strong community efforts to improve our air quality.

The County Commissioners adopted the goals outlined by the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 7% below the 1990 levels by 2012 – the equivalent to an 85% reduction from current trajectories.

This will require dedicated collaboration from businesses, government, and residents, alike.

Electricity is by far the largest contributor to Boulder County’s GHGs, making up 48% of the total. Vehicle fuel consumption and natural gas use are the next largest contributors at 19% and 17% respectively. Geographically the city of Boulder produces a full third of the county’s emissions, with Unincorporated/Other areas producing 25% and Longmont producing 21%.

Climate Action Tax

The Climate Action Tax passed in 2006 made Boulder the first municipality in the nation to tax greenhouse gas emissions. Collected revenues will allow the city to begin implementing programs to meet the Kyoto Protocol’s greenhouse gas reduction goals. Proposed efficiency improvements could reduce energy expenditures by 20% in commercial buildings and 15% in households. The tax will be levied based on electricity usage for city residents and businesses. The average household will pay $1.33 per month and an average business will pay $3.80 per month. Excel customers subscribing to Windsource will be exempt, for portion of electricity provided through wind power.
In addition to overall electricity reduction, there is a movement toward renewable energy sources to combat greenhouse gases. Amendment 37, passed in Colorado in 2004, requires energy companies to provide 3% of their total retail sales from renewable resources by 2007, increasing to 6% by 2011, and 10% by 2015. Governor Ritter signed a law in 2007 that raises the level for renewable contributions of our power supply to 20% by 2020 and includes rural cooperatives at lower levels. The new law translates to an 11% reduction of emissions in Colorado, increased job opportunities, and saved water. Longmont, which is not yet required to meet the requirements of Amendment 37 because of its smaller subscriber base, voted to voluntarily seek 3% of their energy from renewable sources. They will revisit this level in 2009 to consider increases. They also offer a voluntary green pricing program to city residents who wish to increase the percentage of their electricity gained from renewable sources.

Beyond major providers like Xcel shifting to wind-energy production, residential and commercial adoption of solar power is an important slice of environmental stewardship. The Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 created tax credits for those homes and businesses that install individual solar systems. All of these factors have meant a significant growth in solar companies stationed in Boulder County. It is an industry expected to gain strong momentum.

Water is certainly of great concern to environmentalists and county planners who must balance agricultural needs with residential and commercial needs. Though a significant increase in per-capita use over the past decade has not been seen, the demand for water has gone up due to population gains. Studies suggest that outdoor irrigation accounts for up to 58% of residential water use, lending significance to home landscaping choices. The remaining residential use goes to toilets, washing machines, and showers as the biggest users. Though municipalities have adequate supplies from reservoirs, farmers must adjust annually depending on temperature shifts and natural rain and snowfall changes. Boulder County’s water quality is affected by geology, urban runoff, wastewater, and water diversions.
To restrict pollutants from entering our watershed, we must keep a watchful eye on where our trash ends up. The nonprofit organization Eco-Cycle serves as Boulder County’s recycling processor and operates the county-owned Boulder County Recycling Center.

2006 saw 44,000 tons of recyclable materials processed and marketed, from glass to newspaper, to scrap metal, and beyond. This represents a growth in recycling levels over the previous year and an astounding effort in community outreach, but our waste production has not slowed.

County residents, businesses, and institutions create an estimated 300,000 tons of waste each year, nearly seven times what we recycle. Approximately 75% of this un-recycled waste makes its way to landfills in neighboring Weld County. Landfills are known to seep toxins into groundwater, contribute methane to our greenhouse gases, and release carcinogens into ambient air pollution.

In response to these concerns, Eco-Cycle promotes a zero waste policy (see side bar.) Boulder County government, the city of Boulder, 14 area schools, and 10 community businesses have made the commitment to zero waste programs. In addition three Boulder County organizations have adopted the Extended Producer Responsibility program to make healthy environmental choices for their products from design to production to discard. These organizations join a growing number of governments, businesses, and schools already participating in recycling and composting programs with Eco-Cycle. The Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) program also encourages and recognizes governments and businesses with sound environmental practices.

The number of PACE-certified businesses in the county continues to grow each year, with a current membership of 218, a 5% increase over the previous year and nearly double the number in 2000.
The city of Boulder is home to more than 300 miles of bike paths, lanes, and routes. Though the number of registered vehicles in Boulder County continues to increase slowly, year after year, overall we’ve seen only a 2.2% increase since 2000. However, vehicle miles traveled in Boulder County is now well above 16.2 million per year. Current projections show that number growing 37% by 2030, with largest percentage growth coming in from Denver, Jefferson, and Arapahoe Counties. Census data does not reflect much significant change in Boulder County residents’ transportation to and from work since 2000. The majority of workers continue to drive alone on most days (69.3%), carpoolers made up 9% of commuters, and about 7% of our workforce walked or rode their bikes. The percentage using public transportation has hovered right around 5% for the past several years, despite growing programs to encourage using the bus. Continued growth in technology and high-speed internet at home and in public places has also enabled people to conduct business remotely. Nearly 10% of workers reported working from home in the most recent census collection, up from 6.4% just five years ago. The Eco Pass program, an employer-based bus pass for all RTD services, had 61,000 employees enrolled as riders in 2006. They also estimate that less than half of those businesses eligible enroll, most of those within the city of Boulder.

Approximately 25,000 college students receive a pass for RTD, as well. Providing free access to public transportation and actively encouraging its use is one important way businesses can help their employees contribute to a cleaner environment.

In July 2007 Boulder County had 2,756 registered hybrid vehicles. That figure is growing, but still represents LESS THAN 1% of all registered vehicles.
Open Space

Boulder County’s historic leadership in preserving Open Space continues to make this a desirable place to live both for its scenic beauty and for its access to nearly 90 miles of trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

Boulder County has close to 90,000 acres of preserved Open Space. An additional 38,000 acres have been preserved from development through conservation easements, though still privately owned. Add to that 24,000 acres of leased agricultural land, 27,000 acres within Rocky Mountain National Park, and 137,000 acres of US Forest Service, and 65% of the land in Boulder County is publicly held.

Boulder and Lafayette are currently the only cities in the county to have permanent sales taxes to support the purchase and maintenance of Open Space, though both rely on temporary sales tax to supplement their needs. In addition to outright purchase, the county also acquires Open Space land through donation, development dedications, annexation agreements, and occasional condemnations. Longmont, Louisville, and Superior have all passed temporary taxes to acquire and maintain Open Space, while Nederland, Erie, and Lyons have included Open Space in their master plans for development, without dedicating an Open Space department.

Boulder County’s environmental beauty is what attracts many people to live in this community; however its very popularity presents challenges in maintaining its high quality. By continuing our strong commitment to conservation policy in collaboration with a supportive infrastructure and economic incentives to reduce waste, we can preserve a healthy environment for generations to come.

### BOULDER COUNTY OPEN SPACE, ACRES

<table>
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<th></th>
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<td>County Conservation Easements</td>
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<td>3,163</td>
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<td>City of Boulder Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Municipal Open Space/Conservation Easements</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

65% of the land in Boulder County is **publicly held**.
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Turn your business into a **ZERO-WASTE** organization.

Try **RIDING YOUR BIKE**, taking the bus, or carpooling at least once a week.

Buy **RECYCLED** materials.

Support environmentally progressive **LEGISLATION**.

Use **ENERGY SAVING** light bulbs in your home and office or opt for renewable energy sources.


**TAKE A HIKE!**

Sources:

WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL?

Boulder County continues to display leadership in environmental policy.

We enjoy remarkable open space access and stewardship.

Our community is home to many leading climate change and environmental impact researchers.

The number of Zero-Waste and PACE certified businesses is rising each year.

We benefit from excellent access to bike paths, hiking trails, and bus service.

Boulder County is home to a growing sector of renewable energy businesses.

WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE?

Almost 70% of commuters continue to drive alone on most days.

Electricity use is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions through coal-powered production.

Boulder County still produces an estimated 300,000 tons of waste each year.

We continue to use large amounts of water on landscaping.

Per Capita Water Usage was obtained through:
Boulder Public works
Town of Superior
Lafayette Public Works
Niwot (left hand water district)
Louisville Public Works
Longmont Public Works
Our Arts & Culture

We dance. We sing. We act.

83,000 visitors enjoyed a cultural event in Boulder County last year, but performances are rarely sold out, and many artists cannot afford to live in the cities where they perform.

Boulder County is home to a number of fantastic community facilities (like The Dairy Center for the Arts in Boulder, The Old Firehouse Art Center in Longmont, The Rocky Mountain Center for the Musical Arts in Lafayette, Chautauqua, Macky Auditorium on CU Boulder’s campus, and our public libraries county-wide, among others). We also boast several events that bring art out into our community, such as Open Studios, East Boulder County Artists, the Boulder International Film Festival, Dia de Los Muertos in Longmont, and the Boulder Asian Festival, to name a few. Offering diverse settings for residents to interact through artistic expression and participation is another great way to build community and increase the quality of life for all.
The number of artists and organizations residing in Boulder County is difficult to quantify. The Boulder Arts Resource had 1229 registered artists and organizations countywide in 2006. Over 1,100 of those registered were individual artists, including those in the visual, theater, dance, literary, music, and film arts. Funding sources for these run an equally diverse gamut, though it is difficult to track this information.

The Science and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) granted $1,038,257 to 56 arts organizations in Boulder County in 2005. This amounted to nearly 20% of contributed income to those organizations, which also received funding from individuals; corporations; foundations; and federal, state, and local funding bodies.

The other essential source of revenue for Boulder County arts organizations is income earned through the programming they provide. Over half (57%) of the money brought in by arts organizations receiving SCFD funding is reported as earned, including admissions, memberships, tuition, and other programming offered to the community.

Total attendance at these 56 organizations topped 651,300 in one year, providing an outlet for entertainment, expression, education, and more.

### Funding Sources for Boulder County Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Individual/Private</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCFD</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
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### Science and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)

In 1988, voters in the Denver metro area created the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) to provide a consistent source of unrestricted funding to scientific and cultural organizations. Since then, the SCFD has funded over 300 organizations via the 0.1% retail sales and use tax (one penny on every $10).

The SCFD is a special, regional tax district that has physical boundaries contiguous with county boundaries for Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties. The towns of Castle Rock and Larkspur are not included in the district at this time, but would have the option to enter the district at a future date.

According to the Colorado statute, the SCFD distributes over $38 million to local organizations on an annual basis. These organizations must provide for the enlightenment and entertainment of the public through the production, presentation, exhibition, advancement or preservation of art, music, theater, dance, zoology, botany, natural history or cultural history.

Source: www.scfd.org/about.shtml.

### Operating Income Sources of Boulder County Arts Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>$7,931,714</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Economic Contributions of the Arts

The arts make important economic contributions to our community, in addition to the cultural and social benefits.

**Nearly 83,000 visitors came from outside Boulder County to enjoy a cultural event in the past year.**

Economists estimate that outside visitors often purchase food and drink, pay for parking, and may even stay overnight at a local hotel. The dollars spent on the specific cultural event multiply into even greater contributions to Boulder County and its businesses.

**SCFD arts recipients in Boulder County spent $13.3 million in 2005, employing over 1,000 people**

Most of these employees also live in our community. Four thousand eight hundred (4,800) volunteers were engaged with these groups giving over 200,100 hours of service in 2005.

Though the majority of income for these organizations was earned, local arts groups also donated a significant level of free and reduced price programming as a community benefit.

**Of the total visits to cultural events in 2005, over half of these were unpaid by students, low-income families, volunteers, and others.** Offering free and reduced programming increases access to underserved communities and may spark a lifelong interest and outlet for creativity from participants.

**ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL EVENTS FROM OUTSIDE BOULDER COUNTY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas County</td>
<td>6,809</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>9,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Colorado</td>
<td>9,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Denver Metro</td>
<td>14,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broomfield</td>
<td>17,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>23,144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Circle of Care**

Circle of Care began in June of 2004 with a commitment to change the consciousness around how we treat our aging populations. The organization seeks to unite community resources to those in need of a connection by providing cultural and creative opportunities for the homebound elder, their caregivers, senior facility residents and those with cognitive, physical and financial challenges. Transportation, tickets, and a volunteer companion are provided at no charge to performances and events like the Colorado Music Festival, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, CU concerts, opera, events at the Dairy Center, and more. The arts organizations donate the tickets. Circle of Care also has a partnership with the CU Senior Audit Program to promote lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit www.circleofcareproject.org.
The Cost of Culture

The strength of our cultural community does not discount the significant challenges facing it. The cost of physical space, especially large enough to meet the audience needs in addition to office and administration requirements, in Boulder County is expensive. Arts organizations continue to seek opportunities to outreach to new audiences and inform both residents and visitors alike about ongoing performances, exhibits, and events. Currently, there is no outlet for cultural nonprofits to list their programs in Boulder County.

Schools, facing increasing pressure to perform well on statewide testing that focuses on reading and math skills, find less time for art and music activities. And yet, the arts have been shown as some of the most effective outlets for at-risk youth in helping to improve academic performance; reduce school truancy; and increase communication skills, conflict resolution, and teamwork. With Boulder County’s aging population, we are already seeing an increasing demand from older adults for cultural events, and therefore, a rise in alternative transportation needs.

And though the economic contribution of the arts in Boulder County is significant, the average wage in the arts and entertainment industry ($15,250 per year) makes our community’s increasing cost of living a real challenge for these workers. Many arts organizations and independently employed artists struggle to pay for health care and other benefits.

Keeping arts engagement opportunities available to people at all income levels is a community value worth supporting. Whether through a classical music concert, an after school drama class, or a weekend film festival, the arts bring together communities to entertain, teach, and expand our horizons.
WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL?
Boulder County is nationally recognized for our vibrant arts community.
We enjoy outstanding facilities and programming to engage individuals and families countywide.
Artists and organizations have formed innovative partnerships and collaborations to increase attendance and decrease operating costs.
The arts make strong economic contributions to our local economy.

WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE?
We lack enough affordable space for the many artists and musicians who call Boulder County home.
Average income for those in the arts and entertainment sector is well below cost-of-living.
Increased pressure on testing has meant less time for art programs in our public schools.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
ATTEND a local cultural event in the community
DISPLAY a local artist’s work in your home or business.
Support PUBLIC FUNDING of the arts and music.
Encourage ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION in your child’s school.
Attend SCHOOL PROGRAMS that feature student music, theatre, and arts

Sources:
Science and Cultural Facilities District
Many thanks to the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts www.cbca.org
Boulder County Arts Alliance
YouthARTS Development Project, Juvenile Justice Bulletin, U.S. Department of Justice, May 2001, in partnership with the NEA

SmARTS
Established in 2004, the Smart Arts Partnership (SmARTS) is a unique collaborative marketing effort between the Colorado Music Festival, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra reflective of Boulder County’s entrepreneurial spirit. SmARTS was developed as a “hybrid sponsorship” – to offer a level of benefits similar to traditional sponsorships – yet uniquely designed for small- to medium-sized companies who want to reach a larger audience. The sponsor is provided exposure to audiences of all three cultural organizations, and the three arts nonprofits diversify their base of corporate support to receive dollars to finance their performance seasons and educational programs.

Sources:
Science and Cultural Facilities District
Many thanks to the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts www.cbca.org
Boulder County Arts Alliance
YouthARTS Development Project, Juvenile Justice Bulletin, U.S. Department of Justice, May 2001, in partnership with the NEA

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YouthARTS Development Project, Juvenile Justice Bulletin, U.S. Department of Justice, May 2001, in partnership with the NEA
Our Civic Participation & Giving

We vote. We volunteer. We shovel snow.
56% of us worked with neighbors to improve our communities last year. Do you know your neighbors?

How do YOU build community? What does it mean to be “civically engaged?” How do you measure your “sense of community?” These are hard questions to answer, but they are at the heart of The Community Foundation’s mission to improve the quality of life in Boulder County and to build a culture of giving. Traditionally engagement was measured by voter turnout and membership in faith communities or civic organizations such as Rotary. Today voting is still an important venue to express your voice and participate in creating change, but it is by no means the only measure of civic contribution. Volunteering for a nonprofit organization, mentoring a grandchild, and helping a neighbor shovel snow are everyday examples of building community.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

- Voter turnout
- Latino representation in government
- Giving rates
- Volunteer participation
- Attendance at public meetings
- Corporate giving
- Internet access
When looking at the most recent elections, the City of Lafayette turned out the highest percentage of voters, at 71.9% of all those registered. The overall county turnout rate was 66.3% in the 2006 elections, just slightly below the rate of the last mid-term election in 2002.

Early voting and absentee ballots continued to gain popularity, comprising 48.3% of the votes cast, up from 43.8% in 2004. Consistent with most voting trends nationally, Boulder County’s turnout spiked during the last presidential election (91% in 2004).

CU Boulder students were the source of the largest increase in participation rates during the 2006 election. Nearly 1,000 students voted in the mid-term elections, an incredible increase over the 292 who voted in 2002.

With an aggressive voter registration drive, student organizer have used cell phone popularity to institute text-message and phone call reminders on Election Day. The surge in student participation at CU Boulder mirrors the larger trend nationwide of a strengthening youth vote.

However, voting only reflects the voices of those able to participate. Statistically voters are more likely to have higher levels of education and income and characterize an older age bracket. These demographics may be overrepresented (as compared to ratios in the general population) in elected and appointed positions and may risk discounting the concerns of less active voters. Increasing access to voting and encouragement from employers to participate may aid participation.
Emerging Leadership

Currently Latinos make up 12.8% of Boulder County’s population, but at the time of this report (summer 2007) there is only one Latino holding office out of 93 elected officials. Representation on our boards and commissions also does not accurately reflect our changing demographics, with approximately 4.6% of these seats being held by Latinos.* These public positions make policies that affect all of our community members, and engaging diverse voices and opinions is essential in building effective and representative governance.

The Latino Task Force released a 2001 study about Boulder County’s Latino community. The study focused on both identifying the values and contributions of Boulder County Latinos, as well as the needs specific to Latino residents, in order to improve quality of life. In response to this initiative, the city of Longmont adopted a community-created Multicultural Strategic Plan in 2003 that outlines objectives, including engaging Latino community members in civic activities and identifying and addressing barriers to Latino participation in local politics.

In Lafayette in 2006, the Latino Advisory Board began to offer guidance to the City to improve programs for Latino families. At The Community Foundation, the Expanding Leadership Initiative also seeks to increase support to nonprofit organizations on their path to being comprehensively inclusive and representative of the communities they serve. Government programs and nonprofit groups must consider how to most effectively fulfill their missions. Diverse voices enrich decision making, and inclusive program design increases the likelihood of constituency support and ultimately success.

*This research was done by Pete Salas, Diversity Coordinator for Boulder County. It does not include the Policy Advisory Board for the Boulder County Head Start Program, which is mandated to have parent participation (8 members) and has 7 Latinos.

Junior Philanthropy at The Community Foundation

Everyone in a community has the ability to create impact! When children and youth learn about people and organizations in their own community, they begin to understand that they too can make a difference. The Community Foundation’s Culture of Giving Movement has developed a Junior Philanthropy Program, sponsored by Philanthropiece Foundation, Inc. The Junior Philanthropy Program serves to engage, educate, and support youth in being active and giving members of their community. For more information on our activities, see www.commfound.org.

Latino Advisory Board

In August of 2007, a city council in Lafayette, Colorado took a big step towards promoting Latino involvement in policy-making by creating a seven-member Latino Advisory Board to advise city government.

Within a few months, the new board submitted a preliminary list of recommendations for consideration, including the renaming a city park to honor a Latina, Dr. Ofelia Miramontes, for her significant contributions in the field of education. This was approved and the Latino Advisory Board continues to develop and promote additional recommendations while working to involve more Latinos in the process.
Building a Culture of Giving

Engaging in community encompasses many activities beyond voting and serving on boards and commissions. Giving resources of money, in-kind goods, time, and expertise to Boulder County nonprofit organizations, schools, friends and neighbors all serve in building community and addressing need.

The Culture of Giving Movement at The Community Foundation has been tracking local philanthropy since 2002. In a 2003 study done by the Chronicle of Philanthropy that looked at IRS records of Americans earning $50,000 or more and who itemized their deductions, Boulder County's average charitable donation was less than half of Denver’s ($2,964 compared to $6,094). The same study showed that Boulder County's itemizers gave only 6% of their discretionary income to nonprofit organizations, noticeably less than the 10% given by Denver residents.

The most recent 2007 survey found that 63% of individuals polled reported financial support of a Boulder County nonprofit organization in the previous year. Slightly more people reported giving to a nonprofit organization outside of Boulder County but estimated that more of their dollars went to local organizations. The 63% rate of giving is down from 72% just two years prior, and down from 69% in 2002. Even though the percent reporting financial support of nonprofit organizations is down, more people reported higher levels of giving. Fifty-five percent (55%) reported total giving at more than $500, compared to 46% in 2005.

Forty-six percent (46%) reported volunteering for a nonprofit organization, faith community, or government entity in Boulder County, and 79% reported some sort of informal volunteering to help a relative, neighbor, or friend.

The “Volunteering in America” study done nationwide by the Corporation for National and Community Service found that Colorado’s state rate of volunteering was at 32%, significantly below Boulder County’s reported rate. The same report showed the national rate of volunteering at 27%.

Boulder County outshone Colorado’s state rate across several measurements of civic engagement: Over 47% of Boulder County residents surveyed reported attending a public meeting in the previous year, compared to a state rate of 11%. Fifty-six percent (56%) worked with neighbors to improve their community and 66% of registered voters participated in the mid-term elections, compared to the state rate of 7% and 44%, respectively.

Louisville reported the highest rates of giving to and volunteering for Boulder County organizations, while Nederland respondents most often cited working with neighbors to improve the community. Boulder and Louisville also reported higher rates of informal volunteer work outside an organizational setting than any other municipality in the county.

When asked why they did not give more or give at all, participants most often cited that they felt they just couldn’t afford to give (63%, down slightly from 66% in 2005 and down significantly from 74% in 2002 during Boulder County’s economic downturn). Fifty-nine percent (59%) of respondents replied that they volunteer their time in lieu of giving more, and 54% say they think the administrative costs of nonprofit organizations are too high.

These answers are consistent with those given in 2005, though those reporting they feel administrative costs are too high have dropped from 73% in 2002, when several national stories broke on the misuse of funds post-9/11. The continuing significance of this response, however, may reveal a greater need for charitable transparency and a better explanation of what most nonprofit administrators feel are already lean budgets.

The Boulder Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey of members in early 2006 to find that 90% of respondents considered their company involved in some form of community service. The two most common forms of support listed were in-kind services or company products (67%) followed by direct monetary donations (60%). Other forms of support included board participation, employee volunteer programs,
and pro-bono work. Most respondents (79%) cited the nonprofit organization’s mission as the most influential factor in determining why the company chose to offer support, but many also acknowledged the business incentives for community involvement (60%).

Though Colorado was recently ranked 29th on a study of charitable giving relative to household income, adjusted for cost of living (Center on Wealth and Philanthropy Charitable Giving Indices, 2006), our state also found itself among the highest ranking for online giving (Network for Good, 2006). According to the ePhilanthropy Foundation, online giving in 2000 totaled $250 million. In 2005, that number reached $4.5 billion, following growth trends in online shopping and banking.

**Colorado ranked 3rd in average donation size made online and 7th in per capita online giving in the Network for Good’s 2006 report.** This may reflect Colorado’s high concentration of high-tech workers. The same report claimed online givers are often younger than offline givers, and the average size of donations made online tend to be larger than those made offline. Most online givers are not new to charitable giving, but as more and more nonprofit organizations establish venues for giving online the practice is becoming more popular. The number one reason cited in the report for giving online was convenience.

Funding to Boulder County nonprofit organizations from County and City governments, Foothills United Way, and

### Restoring the Soul

Restoring the Soul: Faith and Community Partnerships supports the effective engagement of diverse faith communities in meeting human needs through:

- Education and capacity building, and also by assisting them in establishing sustainable partnerships with human service organizations. The means by which Restoring the Soul accomplishes this work include:
  - Hosting monthly brown bag discussions on crucial community issues
  - Informing and encouraging congregation volunteers
  - Managing a free communications service for agencies and congregations
  - Offering free capacity building assistance
  - Providing study guides written specifically for Christian, Jewish, and Buddhist congregants to inspire new volunteering and support already active volunteers in the various congregations

[www.restoringthesoul.org](http://www.restoringthesoul.org)

The Community Foundation tops $15 million annually. These dollars are acquired through public earmarking, voter-approved tax initiatives, and individual and corporate philanthropy.

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### Funding to Boulder County Nonprofits

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<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Arts</th>
<th>HHS</th>
<th>Civic</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Education</th>
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<td>$23,000</td>
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<td>$2,784,343</td>
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<td>$1,196,752</td>
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*City of Boulder arts funding includes support for individual artists

**Sales and use tax to fund one-time capital projects of health and human services agencies in Boulder County.*
Connecting Community

The growth of technology has increased opportunities for people to connect 'virtually,' through websites, blogs, and email to services, information, and each other. Internet access allows for real-time participation and feedback, even to those who cannot leave their homes. Equity must be addressed as we move into an age of continual upgrades and systems development, innovations that can require significant capital investment and time to learn.

In a Boulder County Community Survey conducted in May of 2006, 81% of respondents cited access to the Internet at work or school. 72% reported high-speed Internet available at home and 78% claimed to use the Internet or email daily.

The same survey revealed that only 54% of respondents aged 55 or older had high-speed access in their homes, and 47% at work or school. Latinos also cited lower rates of high-speed access at home with 62% vs. 73% of non-Latino respondents.

Bridging the “digital divide” requires improved technology and addressing prohibitive costs. Longmont became the first city on the Front Range to build a wireless community in January of 2007. The internet can now be accessed from any library, city park, or home with a subscription. A computer with wireless capabilities, however, is much more expensive. The cities of Boulder, Louisville, Superior, and Lafayette have joined a larger collaboration along the Front Range that is currently seeking to establish community-wide wireless access. Additional resources will be needed to help those who have been previously disconnected from the online world acquire the technical assistance to navigate the internet.

Engagement can take many forms - from speaking at a public hearing to participating in a community garden. Our community challenge is to build ongoing opportunities that allow people of all ages, abilities, languages, ethnicities, and more to connect to each other and to those resources that shape community. In some cases that may mean bringing those opportunities out to them, rather than expecting them to arrive at the established locations.

The Volunteer Connection and The Community Foundation’s Culture of Giving Movement (www.cultureofgiving.org) offer searchable databases to help you connect to Boulder County nonprofit organizations. From children to teens to working adults to retired seniors, each has a role to play in giving back to the community in which we live.
**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

**REGISTER** to vote.

**VOTE.**

**ATTEND** a public meeting.

**ENCOURAGE** and **SUPPORT** people of color in political and nonprofit leadership roles.

**VOLUNTEER** through your work, with your family, or with your faith community.

**DONATE** money to a local nonprofit organization.

**SUPPORT** businesses that are philanthropically involved.

**TALK** to your family, friends, and neighbors about issues that are important to you.

Encourage **INTER-GENERATIONAL INTERACTIONS** and mentoring.

Talk to your kids about what it means to be part of a **COMMUNITY.**

**KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS.**

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**WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL?**

There are many ongoing community dialogues and forums with opportunities for public participation.

The movement toward building wireless communities countywide offers new opportunities for people to connect.

Our voting, volunteering, and attendance at public meetings continues to be higher than the state rate.

Our county and city governments provide considerable funding support to nonprofit organizations.

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**WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE?**

People of color are under-represented on boards, commissions, and in elected positions.

We lack leadership development opportunities for under-represented constituents.

There are limitations in public participation for people with disabilities, transportation needs, child care needs, or who are juggling multiple time commitments.

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**Sources:**

Boulder County Clerk and Recorder’s Office, Elections Division, [www.co.boulder.co.us/clerk/elections/index.htm](http://www.co.boulder.co.us/clerk/elections/index.htm).

Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, [www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org).

Salas, Peter, Diversity Coordinator, Boulder County


Latino Task Force of Boulder County, *Community Assessment.* (2001)


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**John Tayer can’t help but love his job at Roche Colorado.**

Roche is committed to supporting the institutions – cultural, social and environmental – that are the foundation of a healthy and sustainable community. Like so many who live in Boulder County, John loves this place for its landscape, culture, and people.

*It has been my great fortune to represent Roche on community issues and to partner with The Community Foundation staff to develop creative methods for supporting individual organizations and the local nonprofit sector.*

John and Roche’s work supports all facets of the community, and being a long-term resident, John is personally dedicated to helping Boulder County continue to thrive.
Transforming Community

There are four avenues through which The Community Foundation is building programs and engaging residents to provide transformational leadership and support within Boulder County.

1. **Community-driven Grantmaking:** The Community Foundation is unique because county residents serve on committees (Arts, Civic Engagement, Health & Human Services, Education, and the Environment) to review proposals from local nonprofit organizations, make site visits, and finally recommend grants to the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. This process not only engages the voices of numerous community members, but also educates them about trends of need, while introducing many of the cutting-edge programs nonprofits provide right here in our community.

2. **Culture of Giving Movement:** The Culture of Giving is a movement to increase philanthropy and volunteerism in Boulder County by exposing citizens to the work of local nonprofit organizations and making involvement easy. It shares its message through the media, community events, and two school-based Junior Philanthropy programs. www.cultureofgiving.org

3. **Expanding Leadership Initiative:** The Expanding Leadership Initiative is the newest program of The Community Foundation and seeks to increase the level of diversity and inclusiveness in Boulder County nonprofits through leadership development.

4. **The Boulder County Civic Forum:** The Boulder County Civic Forum is the research arm of The Community Foundation that informs, educates, and advocates for a healthy community. The Civic Forum produces this biennial Community Indicators Report about quality of life in Boulder County and engages community conversations.

The Civic Forum has been tracking trends and indicators of a healthy community for over 10 years. Nationally and locally there is an increasing need for opportunities to engage in informed discourse on issues affecting quality of life. A study recently published by Duke University and the University of Arizona found that the percentage of people who say they only talk to family members about important matters has risen from 57 percent to nearly 80 percent in the last several years. This Community Indicators Report is meant to be a tool to initiate conversations between friends, families, neighbors, and colleagues, on how we all play a role in building community.

To learn more about The Community Foundation and to view this report online, please visit www.commfound.org.
Guiding Your Philanthropy

Your gift is as individual as you are. That’s why The Community Foundation makes it simple to manage your giving with insight and compassion, while making a difference in the ways that matter most to you.

Our donor advocates encourage strategic philanthropy to improve the quality of life in Boulder County and beyond. Gifts of any size are welcome and more than 230 individuals, families and businesses have set up Donor-Advised Funds that work much like private foundations – but offer distinct benefits.

COMMUNITY EXPERTISE Draw on our years of experience and our intimate knowledge about the needs and trends of Boulder County, and the work of local non-profits.

BROAD CONNECTIONS Rely on our networks locally and nationally – and even internationally – to learn about wise and strategic philanthropy.

FREEDOM Let our professional staff handle the administrative tasks and due diligence of your grantmaking, and provide you with simple year-end statements to accompany your tax returns.

CONFIDENCE Depend on solid investment strategies, governance, and oversight. Our investment managers have averaged 12.5% over the past ten years (net of fees) on our assets under management.

PERSONALIZED SERVICE Work with our philanthropic advisors to devise a plan suited to your personal areas of interest, with thought given to long term, short term; local, national, or international; capacity building or urgent direct action.

ESTABLISH A DONOR-ADvised FUND AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Join with the Foundation and other donors in supporting an issue you care about. There are a number of options for leveraging collective impact.

Make grants to local organizations working to build a healthier community. Pre-screened proposals can be found at www.commfound.org/grants/donors.html.

Contact your donor advocate to learn more about organizations working in your area of interest (perhaps scheduling a site visit); ask questions about the findings of this report to strategize your giving.

Contribute to one of the Foundations’ main Field of Interest Funds: Arts Trust, Basic Needs Trust, Civic Trust, Doorways for the Disabled Fund, Education Trust, or the Health and Human Services Trust. These collective funds will support organizations and projects using effective strategies to create positive, lasting changes in our community.

Dedicate a portion of your giving to the Foundation’s Community Trust, broadly supporting non-profits serving Boulder County – regardless of issue area. Grants are awarded to a wide array of applicants, based on recommendations made by volunteer review committees.

Ensure that your caring support of the community continues into the future. Become a member of the Legacy Society by naming The Community Foundation in your will.

I grew up with philanthropy. It was very much a part of my family. Both my parents worked in nonprofits. Also, my grandparents were involved. The dinner table conversation always revolved around board development or strategic planning. Before I even knew what they were talking about, it was part of the lexicon.

— Helen Gemmill
Stick with it Keep an eye on the ultimate goal you are working to achieve. Positive movement toward that goal often comes in a series of small steps. For example, if your goal is to close the achievement gap in middle and high schools, you can choose to support early care and education opportunities for low-income families or programs that engage parents in schools, among other efforts that help build toward your desired outcome.

Think Outside the Box The best solution to a problem may lie outside the parameters people typically discuss. For instance, one way to help improve birth status might be to fund oral health programs for pregnant women, because women without gum disease have fewer low-birth weight babies. And while you may start out working on one issue, a strong solution may end up having positive effects that carry over to other areas. For example, a youth arts program may not only provide supervised out-of-school experiences for a child, but also improve that child’s self-esteem and school attendance.

Determine at What Level You Want to Make an Impact As a donor or volunteer, you may want to help individuals in need or improve the lives of a certain group of people. You may want to strengthen the programs and institutions serving the community. Perhaps you want to change the social environment through policies that affect the community more broadly by focusing on issues such as greenhouse gas reduction or culturally inclusive programming. Many donors work at multiple levels simultaneously.

Helen Gemmill
Living and working in Boulder, Helen said, “I see other young people who are thinking about the needs of the world in a way that’s really meaningful. They are thinking beyond their own lives and their own material success to the interdependence of all of us.”

When Helen writes a check to an organization, she looks for what she calls “pivot points.” What that means, she explained, is to find an organization that uses its resources to invest in a greater outcome, such as an organization that would use her donation to bring in more young donors and volunteers, whose energy could be harnessed. She also likes to support organizations trying to build their own capacity, so that they can do more and better work.

Giving, she said, is just part of who she is.

Strategic Choices
Donors and Volunteers Making an Impact
Regardless of your experience with giving or volunteering, you want your contributions to make a difference. Data can help identify needs and opportunities, but personal investment in the outcomes is the key to a sense of satisfaction. Starting with the issues you care about most and knowing what you want to achieve makes giving meaningful. Once you’ve determined what you want to focus on, the following tips can maximize the effectiveness of your giving.
Find a Solution and Fund It  Commit your support to an effective solution or a new approach to a problem you care about – ideally one backed up by research and outcome evaluation. You could take this idea and run with it in a couple of ways. You could support its replication in other places. Or you could support other organizations that are implementing it.

Consider Nonprofit Infrastructure and Administrative Needs  While it is important to keep a sharp eye on administrative expenses, investing in a nonprofit’s infrastructure – from technology and staff training to planning, research, program development and evaluation – provides the strong foundation necessary for getting results.

Work Together  Many individual givers find satisfaction in working and learning with others and in pooling resources for increased impact. The Community Trust and Social Venture Partners are examples of opportunities The Community Foundation offers for leveraging resources. Ask Questions  Very few of society’s tough challenges have simple solutions. Most persistent issues are the result of a long and complex set of factors and circumstances. Asking questions about the root causes of issues, as well as about a given organization’s approach, can provide critical insight into a problem and its potential solutions.

Support People Helping People  One of the most valuable attributes of a vibrant community is people’s willingness to join together for the common good. With a modest amount of support, a small group of committed community members can clean up open space, increase safety in a neighborhood, or improve their children’s school. Some innovative programs have harnessed the power of trusted family, friend and neighbor relationships and used them to reach disenfranchised populations, ease cultural transitions, and build collective action. They also connect through networks to coordinate their activities, enhance cooperation and smooth the way for collective action to solve complex problems and create community resources.

Support the Nonprofit Sector  Grants to specific organizations and programs can make an immediate impact on the community. Less recognized and equally important to long-term health are investments in organizations that strengthen nonprofits and allow them to do their work. Intermediary organizations, such as The Community Foundation, play a host of invaluable roles in helping groups of nonprofits with related missions build linkages, develop partnerships, increase advocacy and undertake joint planning. These groups also provide training, management assistance and technology support.
Knowing What Works

The Community Foundation uses a range of criteria to identify effective programs and organizations. Donors and volunteers may wish to use the same standards for their own evaluations, or they can view proposals vetted by our grant committees. The Community Foundation grant committees are made up of volunteer readers from all over Boulder County. Though the Foundation staff offers guidance and expertise, the committees read proposals, go on site visits, and eventually make recommendations to our trustees for funding. We are truly a foundation by the community for the community. www.commfound.org.

WE BELIEVE EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS:

- Address an identified community need within the Community Indicators framework.
- Use a methodology that makes sense and takes into account accepted or best practices in the field.
- Build on a thoughtful, practical plan that outlines specific outcomes.
- Explore innovative approaches, participants and partnerships.
- Are delivered by an organization that is knowledgeable about the issue and the people it serves.
- Engage the skills, abilities and experiences of community members in creating effective change together.
- Take advantage of opportunities for coordination with other programs and avoid duplication.
- Are organizationally inclusive and are working toward leaders, staff, and volunteers that reflect the community they serve.
- Are responsive to the people they serve and respectful of communities’ dignity and need for hope.
- Are delivered in user-friendly ways and locations that overcome barriers to participation.
- Respond to the diverse needs of constituents and offer resources or referrals to other programs when needed.
- Foster civic engagement.

John and Jackie Geister are graduates of the University of Colorado at Boulder and have made Boulder County their home since 1957. They have always felt strongly that their dollars do something for the community.
Updates from the 2005 Report

Declining Middle Class: As discussed in “Our Economy and Housing,” the middle class in Boulder County continues to lose ground. Although the percentage of households earning less than $25,000 has declined slightly since the last report, household incomes between $25,000 and $75,000 have declined, as well, with increases in households earning $150,000+. This reflects a national trend of the wealthiest 10% of Americans receiving the largest share of national income in 2005 since before the Depression, with the other 90% seeing decreases in their average income. On a positive note, Boulder County’s overall employment has increased annually since the economic downturn experienced between 2001 and 2003, bringing us nearly back to pre-downturn levels.

Housing Affordability: Housing prices have not declined since the last report, despite growing concerns about the housing market nationwide. Within Boulder County nearly every city and town has experienced annual increases in the median price of a single family home. Over 84% of housing countywide is valued at more than $200,000, leaving home ownership out of reach for many of our residents. More than half of renters spend over a third of their monthly income on housing. Though the Consortium of Cities is approaching affordable housing planning as a regional issue, it is not an easy fix.

Traffic and Commuting: If you’ve recently tried to drive across downtown Boulder or Longmont during lunchtime hours, you are already well aware that this picture has not improved. With nearly 70% of our workforce commuting alone to work to another part of the county, it’s no wonder that our roadways are crowded. Certainly a noticeable change since the last report is the change in gasoline prices. In July 2005 the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline in Colorado was $2.25. In July 2007, the average price is $3.06. Despite the increasing cost and vehicle miles traveled, still only 9% of Boulder County workers reported carpooling and 5% reported public transportation use on most days.

Access to Health Care: Since the last report, the rate of people with health insurance in Boulder County has not changed significantly. We continue to see about 10% of our residents go without any form of health insurance—public or private. That’s nearly 30,000 people without access to preventative care and early screenings. What has changed is the cost to provide even basic health insurance. Coloradans have experienced a 93% increase in the price of premiums since 1997. Employers are feeling the squeeze and many are passing the cost onto employees. Under-insurance becomes a real threat to community wellness when a service either isn’t covered by insurance or the deductible is so high it deters the patient from seeking care.

Youth Risks and Behaviors: A bright spot among updates from the last report, youth risks and behaviors have declined slightly thanks to a coordinated effort by schools, parents, nonprofit and government programs, and the youth themselves. This is not to say we are free from concern nor can we relax our vigilance in promoting effective programming that supports healthy behavior among young people. Rather this serves as a reminder of the difference we can make as a community when we bring together multiple levels of support and determination.

To download past Community Indicators Reports, visit www.commfound.org.
Thanks for the support and wisdom of:
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Boulder County Aging Services
Circle of Care
Colorado Youth Program
Eco–Cyle
El Centro Amistad
Family Learning Center
Growing Gardens
Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley
Intercambio de Comunidades
Peanut Butter Players
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers
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Photographs contributed by:
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Rusty Ralston
Patti Roper, Wildberry Photography
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*Members of the Civic Forum Advisory Committee
The Boulder County Civic Forum was launched in 1995 as the Boulder County Healthy Communities Initiative “to promote healthy decision-making that will sustain the environmental quality, livability and economic vitality of the Boulder County region.” More than 400 community members came together to identify four visions for a healthy community, including a vision for the people, for the environment, for the economy, and for culture and society. The 50 indicators selected to measure these visions are still used today, more than 10 years later.

The Civic Forum is non-partisan and non-governmental, supported by businesses, government, foundations, individuals and The Community Foundation, of which it has been a program since 1999. A detailed description of each indicator, copies of the 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2005 quality of life reports, and in-depth research papers are available through The Community Foundation’s website: www.commfound.org/programs.

THE CIVIC FORUM’S GOALS ARE TO:

• Articulate a vision for healthy Boulder County communities
• Measure progress toward that vision through a biennial Community Indicators Report and an updated website
• Inform and educate the public and decision makers about issues of interest and concern
• Identify community assets and opportunities for strategic action
• Convene strategies and partnerships to address key issues through collaboration
• Advocate for systemic community change to create lasting solutions
• Assess the impact of these actions

Barrie Hartman, Journalist
Josie Heath, President, The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County
Katherine Kramer, Executive Director, Sand Creek Greenway Partnership
Ron Secrist, President, Boulder Community Hospital Foundation
Chuck Stout, Executive Director, Boulder County Public Health
John Tayer, Community Relations Manager, Roche Colorado Corporation
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The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving.

SPONSORS OF BOULDER COUNTY TRENDS
The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators

John S. and James L.  
Knight Foundation

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Education: Boulder County’s Growing Achievement Gap

How Green Do You Think We Are?

Boulder County’s Getting Older
Our Aging Population

How Strong Is Our Safety Net?

Over 70 WAYS TO GAUGE what we are doing well where we could improve what YOU can do