



Black Forest Together News Flash #81 April 10, 2015

New help is available for fire-affected businesses

New grant funding is available to help businesses and non-profits that were impacted by the Black Forest Fire, or by the floods of September 2013.

The Recover Colorado Business Grant and Loan program has received a second round of funding to meet needs that have not been addressed through other sources of public and private assistance (such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration).

Applications for this program are now available. The application deadline is July 31, 2015.

If business owners were not able to qualify for earlier help from this program, they may qualify now.

Two important changes and process improvements have been made for the second round of Recover Colorado Grants and Loans:

- The minimum annual revenue eligibility requirement has been lowered to \$15,000 per year for all businesses. This lower requirement will be retroactively applied to all applicants, including existing applicants from the first round.
- The requirement that businesses have applied for other forms of assistance before applying for CDBG-DR funds has been eliminated. The elimination of this requirement will be retroactively applied to all applicants, including existing applicants still being processed from the first round.

The Colorado Springs Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is providing free services to help business owners take advantage of this opportunity. SBDC staff will work one-on-one with business owners to confirm if they are eligible, and assist with the application process and follow-up documentation.

There are several ways for interested business owners to get more information about this program:

- Visit <http://dola.colorado.gov/cdbg-dr/content/recover-colorado-business-grant-and-loan-program>
- Contact Liz Hershberger, SBDC Disaster Relief Program Coordinator, at 719-667-3803, 719-667-3812 or disasterrelief@cssbdc.org
- Attend a public meeting to discuss the state's action plan for allocating this additional funding, to be held 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm this Monday, April 13, at Manitou Springs Memorial Hall, 606 Manitou Ave. SBDC staff will present information about the grant program, and will be available to answer questions.

April 17-18 auction will benefit Black Forest recovery and restoration

Black Forest Together has received a generous donation of new items, which will be auctioned to raise funds to support fire recovery and forest restoration work.

The items to be auctioned were recovered by the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) during an investigation and subsequent prosecution of a large retail theft ring. The items were stolen from retail stores and are in new condition.

Safeway, through the efforts of Nathan Bandaries, Senior Investigator for Safeway's Organized Retail Crime Division, supplied and paid for a semitrailer to store the items as well as a commercial driver to move the trailer from location to location. An exhaustive inventory of the items was completed by CSPD Evidence Technician Shirley Milligan.

When it was clear that the remaining items could not be returned to the retail centers, officials of the 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office in cooperation with the defense attorneys, thought of a solution that would benefit the community. They donated the entire lot to Black Forest Together, Inc., to raise funds to support the Black Forest community's ongoing recovery from the wildfire of 2013.

These items will be included in the regular weekly auctions at [Ross Auction](#), at 815 S. Sierra Madre (downtown). The Friday, April 17 auction begins at noon; the Saturday, April 18 auction begins at 10:00 am. On both days, items can be inspected beginning at 8:30 am.

Plan to attend the Slash/Mulch Program annual meeting: Saturday, April 25

No matter how long you've lived in Black Forest, plan to attend the annual meeting of the Black Forest Slash-Mulch Program. This fun, FREE, educational event will be held 9:00-11:00 am Saturday, April 25 at the Black Forest Community Hall, on the northwest corner of Black Forest and Shoup Roads. You'll get good information to help you manage your land and reduce your wildfire risk. You'll also have a chance to win some great door prizes - even a chainsaw!

The slash/mulch site will open for the 2015 season at 7:00 am Saturday, May 2. [Click here to get the site schedule, and the details](#) about what you may bring to the slash/mulch site.

Grant funds can cut your mitigation cost in half

You have a rare opportunity to reduce the cost of wildfire mitigation by 50%, through a grant that Black Forest Together has received from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. [Click here to get more details on our web site](#), or contact Scott MacDonald, our Program Director for Forest Recovery and Restoration, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday-Friday: (719) 495-2630, (719) 321-2359 or scottmacd.bft@gmail.com

Lutheran Family Services Disaster Response is winding down Black Forest Fire case management

The Lutheran Family Services Disaster Response office has been grateful to serve the survivors of the Black Forest Fire. After 18 months of providing individual case management support, including financial assistance, **LFS Disaster Response will be closing on Friday, May 1, 2015.** The last day for new client appointments was Monday, March 1, 2015. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact Denise Dawson at 719-495-2554 or denise.dawson@lfsrm.org as soon as possible.

Need help? Want information? Contact the Resource Center:

Resource Center Hours

Mon - Fri: 9 am - 1 pm

1st and 3rd Saturdays:

By appointment

Appointments must be made by the preceding Thursday at noon. To make an appointment, call 495-2445 or [send us an email](#).

Weather Delays or Closures:

The Resource Center will follow [School District 20's delay or closure policies](#).

Case Management for Unmet Needs

The [Lutheran Family Services Disaster Response Program](#) continues to provide professional and confidential services to meet the uninsured needs of Black Forest fire survivors. If you have needs that have not been met by insurance, [send email to Denise Dawson](#) or call her at the Resource Center: 719-495-2554.

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Black Forest Together Resource Center

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In the Forest Center, just west of Subway - [\[MAP\]](#)

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Black Forest Together is a 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt charitable organization.

Mission Statement

To help the people of the Black Forest region to recover, rebuild and restore their lives, protect the Forest's water quality and ecological health with an emphasis placed on community values, economic stability and the richness of our natural environment today and in the future.