

The Boulder County Family Resource Network

Dear Neighbor,

As service providers in our communities, we are seeing increasing stress and disruption for families and individuals during this extended federal government shutdown. Many we serve are enrolled in federally-funded programs that help meet their basic needs, including food assistance (SNAP, WIC, school meals and after school nutrition programs), housing (Housing Choice Vouchers), financial assistance (TANF), and child care assistance (CCAP).

As program funding is suspended, these important supports for families and children, individuals, seniors, and our workforce will disappear. This is especially true for SNAP, WIC, and Housing Choice Vouchers, which collectively serve tens of thousands of people across Boulder County. In addition, federal employees in our community are seeing the need for assistance –many for the first time in their lives- as their pay is suspended due to furloughs. We are here to help *all* of our neighbors through the effects of this partial federal government shutdown.

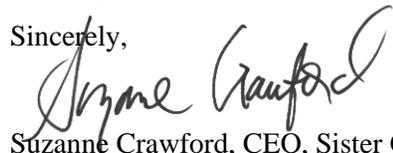
As part of a broader Boulder County Family Resource Network, which is composed of twenty organizations including our local school districts, community-based non-profits, and county and city governments, four Family Resource Centers (FRCs)— Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) in Boulder, Outreach United Resource (OUR) Center in Longmont, Sister Carmen Community Center in Lafayette, and the Peak to Peak Alliance in our mountain communities—offer a wide range of integrated supports and services. As we do during other times of stress such as disasters, funding shortages, and economic challenges, the FRCs are working closely with our Boulder County partners to communicate with our community about deadlines for the disruption of federal program funding, and we are also collaborating to help address gaps in critical supports during this time.

- **EFAA:** Food assistance/walk-in food bank; financial assistance for utilities, rent or mortgage, and medical bills; hotel vouchers; case management to find the right community resources; and access to temporary family housing and transition housing. www.EFAA.org
- **Sister Carmen Community Center:** Food assistance/walk-in food bank; financial assistance for utilities, rent or mortgage, prescriptions and eyeglasses, and transportation; resource referrals for employment services, housing programs, senior resources, dental care, and domestic violence support; behavioral health counseling; and enrollment in public benefits program (federal funding dependent). www.SisterCarmen.org
- **OUR Center:** Food assistance and walk-in food pantry; hot breakfast and lunch; financial assistance for utilities and rent; resource referrals for employment services, housing programs, family law, health care access; substance abuse and mental health services; job training and education; and parenting supports. www.OURCenter.org
- **Peak to Peak Alliance:** Food assistance via food pantries in Nederland, Ward, Lyons, and Allenspark; financial assistance for rent or mortgage; mental health services; and other support, services and referrals with help from the Mountain Resource Liaisons. www.p2phhs.org
- **Boulder County:** The Boulder County Department of [Housing and Human Services](#), the Boulder County Department of [Community Services](#), and Boulder County [Public Health](#) collaborate through the Family Resource Network to provide supports and services and make referrals and connections to FRCs and other resources. For information about the federal government shutdown and additional resources available, visit <https://bit.ly/ShutdownHelpBoCo>.

Within the Boulder County Family Resource Network, there are many other food banks, faith-based organizations, and non-profits working to help ensure all our community members have the help they need when they need it. For a current list of available resources, visit <https://bit.ly/ShutdownHelpBoCo>.

On behalf of all of us in the Family Resource Network, I want to emphasize that we are fortunate to live in a community where people care about each other and neighbors help neighbors. We understand that *all* our neighbors deserve to have both hope and help, and we will continue to work together to ensure it.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Crawford, CEO, Sister Carmen Community Center
Family Resource Network Regional Council Chair