

LGBTQ Direct Aid Round 3 Report

In response to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Out Boulder County conducted a third round of LGBTQ Direct Aid with funding from the City of Boulder and Boulder County. The program was open to LGBTQ community members or individuals with LGBTQ dependents who reside in Boulder County and have not previously received funding through the first two rounds of Direct Aid. Funding was restricted to Boulder County residents, with half allocated to City of Boulder residents. The limit for Round 1 was \$800 per person, and the limit for both Round 2 and 3 was \$1,000 per person. Round 1 applicants were eligible to apply for Round 2; 19 individuals received funding in both Round 1 and Round 2. **In Round 3, we distributed \$30,000 for 55 individuals.**

To date, Out Boulder County has granted \$105,000 directly to 151 LGBTQ community members.

Period	Total Funding	Individuals Funded
May 2020	\$25,000.00	45
October 2020	\$50,000.00	70
March 2021	\$30,000.00	55
Total	\$105,000.00	151

The program format has remained consistent through all three rounds of funding. The application was bilingual in English and Spanish and could be completed online or over the phone. Applicants were interviewed by one of two staff members. The anonymous application information and interview notes were then reviewed by a subcommittee comprised of the two staff members and two community members. The subcommittee was 50% people of color and 50% transgender; the subcommittee was the same for all three funding rounds. The community members were paid stipends for their labor. The subcommittee allocated funding based on need, access to external resources, and each applicant's unique situation. Recipients of funding are required to complete a follow up form after receiving their funds to validate use of funds and provide feedback. Our Community Advocate follows up with each individual to identify other needs, offer support, and help connect them to additional community resources.

The following data reflects our Round 3 recipients.

Recipient Demographic Data

City/Town of Residence	#	%
City of Boulder	28	50.9%
Longmont	17	30.9%
Lafayette	4	7.3%
Louisville	2	3.6%
Lyons	1	1.8%
Nederland	1	1.8%
Superior	1	1.8%
unincorporated Boulder County	1	1.8%
Erie	0	0.0%
Jamestown	0	0.0%
Ward	0	0.0%
total	55	100.0%

Race/Ethnicity	#	%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Black/African American	2	3.6%
Hispanic/Latino	19	34.5%
Native American	0	0.0%
White/Caucasian (Non-Latino)	20	36.4%
Multiracial	14	25.5%
Unknown	0	0.0%
total	55	100.0%

35 individuals, 63.6% of all recipients, identify as Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, or Multiracial.

Age	#	%
under 18	1	1.8%
18-29	32	58.2%
30-39	10	18.2%
40-49	7	12.7%
50-69	3	5.5%
70+	1	1.8%
unknown	1	1.8%
total	55	100.0%

Gender Identity	#	%
Cisgender woman	16	29.1%
Cisgender man	8	14.5%
Trans woman or trans feminine	5	9.1%
Trans man or trans masculine	4	7.3%
Non-binary, trans	15	27.3%
Genderqueer	7	12.7%
Agender	0	0.0%
total	55	100.0%

31 individuals, or 56.4% of all recipients, identify as transgender, non-binary, or genderqueer.

Sexual Orientation	#	%
Lesbian	5	9.1%
Gay	18	32.7%
Bisexual	7	12.7%
Pansexual	9	16.4%
Queer	11	20.0%
Straight/heterosexual	5	9.1%
Asexual	0	0.0%
total	55	100.0%

50 individuals, or 90.9% of all recipients, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, or queer.

LGBTQ or LGBTQ dependents	#	%
I identify as part of the LGBTQ community	46	83.6%
One or more of my dependents identify as LGBTQ	4	7.3%
Both	5	9.1%
total	55	100.0%

Are you intersex?	#	%
Yes	1	1.8%
No	54	98.2%
total	55	100.0%

Recipient Impact Data

These questions reveal how the pandemic has affected our recipients. Totals exceed 100% as more than one answer may describe a recipient's experience.

How has your employment been affected by the community response to the COVID-19 virus?	#	%
I have lost significant hours, clients, and/or income due to the virus response	30	54.5%
I have lost my job(s) due to the virus response	17	30.9%
I have been furloughed (temporarily laid off) due to the virus response	9	16.4%
My workplace has closed	7	12.7%
My income has not been greatly affected by the virus response	7	12.7%
No change to my employment/income	4	7.3%
I have closed my small business	1	1.8%

Written-in responses include:

- "I have significant fee charges from moving home during COVID, my income is low and restricted because I am a grad student."

- “My employment has not changed but my son's needs during COVID have affected our income.”
- “My mortgage co-pay lost ALL her income due Covid so I face foreclosure.”
- “I have not been able to find a job, or access childcare.”

Part of our follow up with recipients is to help connect them to other existing resources. We also asked applicants which external resources they have already utilized.

What other financial assistance have you applied for and/or received?	#	%
IRS COVID stimulus check	22	40.0%
EBT/SNAP benefits ('food stamps')	19	34.5%
Unemployment Insurance	12	21.8%
food assistance	9	16.4%
rental assistance	7	12.7%
WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)	3	5.5%
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	2	3.6%
Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)	1	1.8%

Written-in responses include:

- CU emergency grant
- Scholarships through school
- Personal fundraiser

How will the money be used?	#	%
Rent/Mortgage payment	30	54.5%
Food/groceries	29	52.7%
Utilities (electricity, gas, etc.)	21	38.2%
Gas for car/transportation	20	36.4%
Mental health care expenses	18	32.7%
Medical expenses	17	30.9%
Cell/phone payment	16	29.1%
Car payment	8	14.5%
Childcare expenses	1	1.8%

Written-in responses include:

- Car maintenance
- School fees & textbooks
- Diapers, clothes for baby, pregnancy clothes
- Need new glasses

Direct Aid Award Information

Applicants could request any amount between \$25-\$1,000.

Total amount requested: \$47,333.56

Total amount available to award: \$30,000

Average amount requested: \$860.61

Average amount rewarded: \$545.45

4 individuals received the amount they requested (7.3%).

9 individuals received more than the amount they requested (16.4%).

42 individuals received less than the amount they requested (76.4%).

Recipient Feedback

These financial awards offer relief to community members who are struggling with the impacts of the pandemic, helping them to extend other resources and address gaps. This program is intended to be supplemental support for recipients, as well as an avenue through which they can connect with OBC and have support connecting to other available resources. To greater understand the impact of this financial aid, we ask recipients to complete a follow up form. 32 of the 55 recipients completed the form. About half have connected with other support programs or services since applying for our Direct Aid program, including EBT/food stamps, EFFA, and support through their university or college.

We asked a couple of open-ended questions; here are a few excerpts from recipients in their own words.

“How did this financial support help you? What kind of impact did this have in your life?”

- It offered a huge sigh of relief for a whole month.
- I have been under financial stress, worrying about how to pay for services, and this funded several of my trans son’s therapy sessions.
- The financial support helped me afford about a month worth of nutritious groceries and helped pay for an Uber to and from urgent care. This eased some of the financial stress in my life and allowed me to take care of myself without being worried about the financial consequences. I was able to have food and keep my cell phone on while I have been recovering from surgery and lost my job.



- It gave me peace of mind knowing I could pay some of my bills and afford food for the month which can be hard for me
- It was the step I needed in order to actually obtain my job. I used the money to get insurance for my car which allowed me to actually start making money again.
- I was able to pay rent and have money left over for groceries and transportation, which otherwise wouldn't have been possible.
- Mucho pues fue un alivio porque no sabía cómo le aria para pagar el alquiler

Anything else you would like to share with us about this Direct Aid program, your experience, or anything else? Anything you'd like us, our funders, and/or community partners to know?

- Just that the aid was incredibly helpful and I'm thankful for your help!
- As well as a material rescue, it's spiritually uplifting.
- Thank you for your contributions to help LGBTQ+ folks in Boulder County. It makes a huge difference in queer lives.
- This aid came at a time when I was depressed and scared because I had no idea how to come up with the money to even start my job. I was stuck between a rock and a hard place and this help a lot.
- I'm just very thankful for your aide, it literally came at time where I was beginning to sink deep. Thank you for all you [do] for our community.
- I greatly appreciated this...I had enough to pay rent when I otherwise wouldn't have, so the money was extremely helpful.
- Thank you, this helped us so much during these extra stressful times.
- It's great to know that Boulder has a program like OBC to support and be there for many in the LGBTQ+ community
- Thank you for this help and the work you're doing!
- Keep doing what you're doing! We appreciate you!
- I want to thank you for the work you have put in in disbursing aid. It means a lot!
- Thank you, this helped out so much!
- I am just really grateful for the help that you were able to provide me. It means so much!
- Estoy agradecid@ por la ayuda me sirvió mucho y siento que no estoy solo
- Muchas gracias por la ayuda que brindan a las personas que dios los bendiga

Insights

In addition to the insights highlighted in the previous two reports, we see that rental assistance and mental health continue to be leading causes of stress for applicants. Access to food is also a challenge for many recipients. While many may receive EBT, formerly known as food stamps, this benefit may be insufficient support for some, some may not be eligible but still in need of support, and others experience barriers to applying for the benefit. Challenges with applying for benefits and navigating these systems are a barrier for many. Additionally, several of these safety net systems are being taxed



by the increase in need during the pandemic and are unable to keep up with the demand. This has resulted in applicants suffering with long response times, finding themselves stuck in system delays.

A preexisting need that has been greatly exacerbated by the pandemic is the need for more mental health support. Again the supply is not keeping up with the demand. Many community members experience serious challenges initiating the connection to mental health services, and if they are able to initiate the process, they are often subjected to very long wait periods. The need for LGBTQ-competent providers is greater than the supply which often creates even longer delays for LGBTQ individuals seeking mental health support.

We see many community members sacrificing their mental health services for other needs, such as housing and food, due to limited financial resources. While we know this one-time funding cannot solve this systemic issue, we are glad that many recipients were able to continue their mental health therapy thanks to this financial support.

The pandemic is highlighting inequities and needs that have always been present, and are now being exacerbated. Like many organizations, Out Boulder County is working to not only respond to immediate needs, but is also incorporating these insights into long-term visioning for the organization's future priorities.

For more information on our first two rounds of LGBTQ Direct Aid, please read the reports available here:

1. <https://www.outboulder.org/blog/direct-aid-round-2-report-n6lkb?rq=direct%20aid%20analysis>
2. <https://www.outboulder.org/blog/direct-aid-round-2-report?rq=round%20%20direct%20aid>

For questions related to this or other Out Boulder County programs, reach out to Michal Duffy (they/them), Education & Program Manager, at mduffy@outboulder.org.

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