



STAKEHOLDER REPORT — SPRING 2022



# Climate Justice Collaborative of Boulder County

The Climate Justice Collaborative of Boulder County (CJC) was formed in March 2021 when a group of community members, leaders of community-based organizations, local government staff, and foundation staff members united to collectively apply for the Partners for Places grant of The Funders Network. A purpose for the group emerged that states:

**The Climate Justice Collaborative is a frontline community member-led collaborative that creates and applies a racial equity framework, shifting power structures and enacting just solutions to climate change.**

As a result of the collaborative grant writing process, matched funds were garnered by the City of Boulder, City of Longmont, Boulder County and Philanthropiece Foundation.

These funds in conjunction with dedicated commitment of frontline community members marked the launch of the CJC. This report serves to provide information on the collaborative's trajectory, desired outcomes, and progress to date. We anticipate this being a bi-annual (two times per year) report).



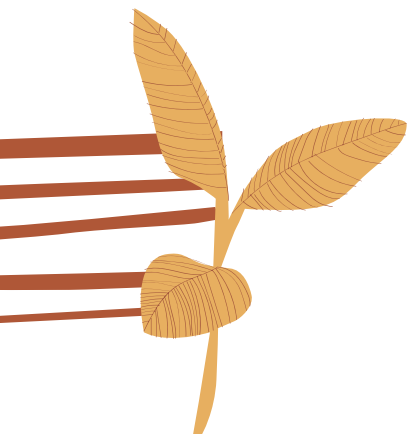
# Value Proposition

The CJC fosters a potential to organize climate action across Boulder County on a greater scale, incorporating top scientists and government work with grassroots movements and community members who are historically underrepresented in thought leadership and decision making. The collaborative effort will afford the ability to identify areas of concern in a more efficient and direct manner than accomplished through traditional community outreach methods. Inherent in the approach of the CJC is the promotion and development of leaders within our community to increase the county's overall working knowledge base in relation to equitable climate action.

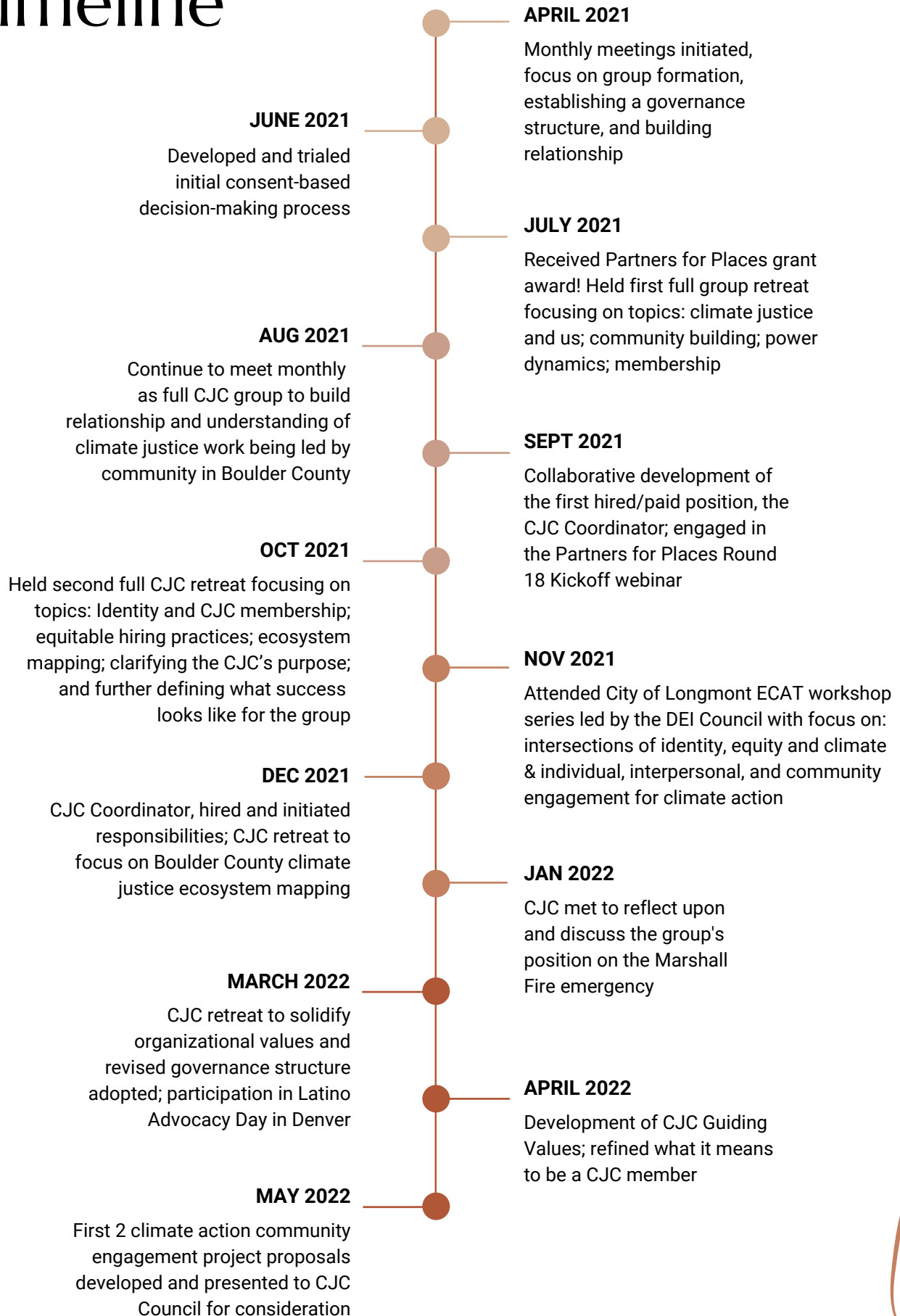
**Perhaps most importantly, the CJC presents an opportunity to advance the way the entire county analyzes, develops, and implements solutions to climate change in a way that continues to keep Boulder County at the leading edge in climate action.**

## Agreements & Structure

- we** **commit** to learning about and applying the deep traditional knowledge and relationship to environmental cycles that Indigenous communities hold, knowing that they have a vital role in developing climate resilience solutions.
- we** **seek** to build relationships, with acknowledgement that the ability to gather at specific times and places holds a specific privilege.
- we** **acknowledge** that the group holds various levels of understanding and of power.
- we** **practice** individual responsibility, while attending to the collective and to call for "time in" as needed to address micro and macro aggressions.
- we** **agree** to listen with intent to understand, to practice good listening and dialogue.
- we** **offer** to make space and take space.



# Timeline



# Coordinating Structure

## CJC Steering Committee

Five CJC members; establish meeting and retreat agendas, preview proposals, and work to integrate the activities of the group. Weekly meetings.

## CJC Member Council

All CJC Members (anticipated 20-25 people in 2022); provide oversight and direction of the collaborative. Monthly meetings.

## CJC Working Groups

3-5 CJC members per working group; meet to discuss, research, design and make recommendations on a specific subject of interest to the full Council. Meetings vary.

## CJC Coordinator

Paid role to support the logistics, administration, and research of the CJC. Currently contracted for 10-20 hours/week.

## SINCE FORMING IN APRIL 2021, THE KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE CJC INCLUDE:

- Integrated 22 individuals as active members of the collaborative.
- Incorporated the perspectives of four local government organizations, 13 community-based organizations, and one place-based foundation:
  - Boulder County, City of Boulder, City of Erie, City of Longmont
  - 9to5, Boulder.earth, Boulder Food Rescue, Boulder Housing Partners, Climate Hive, CU Environmental Center, EforAll, ELPASO Movement, Equitable Climate Action Team (City of Longmont), FLOWS, Latino Chamber of Commerce, Practice Greenhealth, Thorne Nature Experience/Nature For All
  - Philanthropiece Foundation
- Held 20 virtual meetings, gathering for 15 consecutive months; average 16 participants/meeting.
- Offered 9 in-person “Climate Justice Cafecitos” to promote relationship building and knowledge sharing.
- Participated in a two-series equity training with the DEI Council of Boulder.
- Held 4 seasonal half-day retreats.
- Established governance structure that includes a Steering Committee and Working Groups.
- Defined two Working Groups to explore and refine themes of Guiding Values and Membership.
- Piloted two partnerships to advance understanding and collaboration in the climate justice space: with The Hive @ boulder.earth and 9to5.
- Established participatory agenda-setting and retreat design practices.
- Completed two cycles of 1v1 conversations and analysis with CJC members on sense of belonging and group priorities.
- Gained funding from Partners for Places program, with matching contributions from local organizations.
- Supported the City of Longmont’s Equitable Climate Action Team initiative, (six new members added).
- Collectively developed the CJC Coordinator role, engaged in outreach, hiring and onboarding.
- Created various spaces for relationship building, sharing of cultures and identities, and building shared understanding of climate justice.

# CJC Activities

The first year of the CJC (2021) focused on the first two facets of this integration, setting the slate to create the emerging framework that will drive and inform the development of frontline community-led initiatives for equitable solutions to climate change.

Relationship building for collective action

Cooperative and individual learning and data capture

Community outreach, projects and advocacy

## Partnership Highlights



### **The Hive @ boulder.earth**

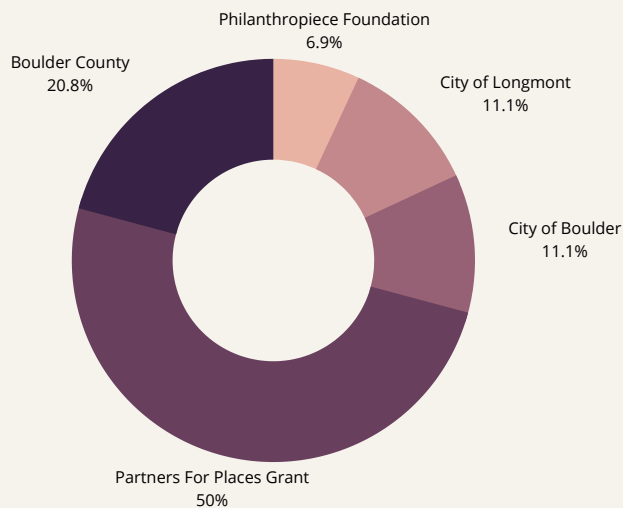
The CJC informed the beta version of an ecosystem mapping tool that helps to show who's doing what, how and where in the climate justice space in Boulder County; the tool will coordinate and assist collaboration and encourage systemic community engagement.



### **9to5**

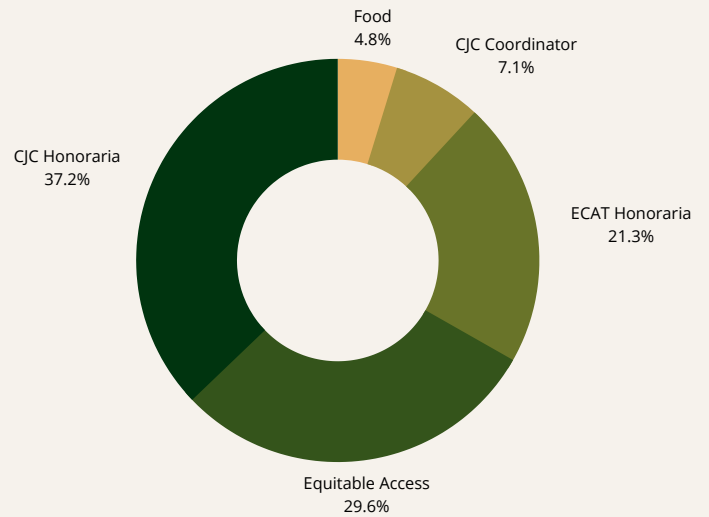
The CJC provided feedback in developing, and is currently supporting in dissemination of, the Colorado Climate Justice Survey that will collect information about how people and communities have been impacted by the climate crisis and what they think 9to5 (and allied organizations) should do to build power for climate justice in our state.

# Investment



**Total CJC funds: \$216,000**

*(Includes second P4P disbursement, anticipated July 2022)*



**Expenses Apr 2021—Mar 2022: \$41,501.22**

*(19% invested; 81% remain)*

Anticipated expenses for 2022 include those listed above, and additional investment in climate action projects that are sponsored/recognized by the CJC.

**Budgetary:** as has been provided initially and will be needed moving forward with additional projects

**Time:** in the form of dedicated staff liaisons and organizers within the government systems

**Organizational:** such as help with information and connections to networks of known leaders

## Current Needs

Organizations with such broad reaching goals require years to get established; we have determined that at least seven years of continued support is required. In this time we need the continued support of stakeholders.

# Desired Outcomes 2022-2023



- Increased community member participation by 25-50%.
- Increased diversity/representation and sustained trust.
- Development and use of collaborative decision making model.
- Opportunities for group members to provide mentorship to one another and outside groups.
- Creation of a racial equity framework in addressing impacts of climate change.
- Evidence of shifting power from local government to community, specifically with those most impacted by climate change and environmental impacts.
- Continued support of the City of Longmont's Equitable Climate Action Team (ECAT).
- Engaged support (including financial contribution) of community-led model projects to advance equitable climate action.
- Use of climate adaptation/mitigation and justice indicators to assess impact of CJC approach and model projects.
- Development of an online tool to map resources/assets and facilitate communication and collaboration.
- Elevate the CJC's visibility within local government organizations and the broader community.

At this time, we are on track to address each of these desired outcomes. An upcoming priority is to develop a system for tracking the progress of these, knowing that we will use the CJC guiding values to do so. That is, the collaborative will co-create a participatory, inclusive approach to evaluation that employs various ways of knowing, is grounded in community, and used to actively reflect and inform next steps.

## With deep appreciation...

The Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Ute and other Indigenous Tribes that all call what is now Boulder County their home and who hold deep traditional knowledge of - and relationship to - environmental cycles and the land itself.

All community members and organizations past and present who have focused on climate justice and on whose shoulders we stand, including (but certainly not limited to): Resiliency for All; FLOWS; Just Transition Collaborative; Climate Justice Leaders; Cultural Brokers Resilience Program; The Community-Driven Climate Justice & Resilience Group; and The Equitable Climate Action Team of the City of Longmont.

Boulder County  
City of Boulder and City of Longmont  
Philanthropiece Foundation  
The Funders Network  
Partners for Places Consultants, Desiree Williams-Rajee and Julia Parzen  
Community Language Cooperative  
Silvana Munro, CJC Council Member & Report Translator  
Jeanne Mitchell, Report Designer

