



CAST Summer Stress Relief Community Survey April 2022

1. **As CAST communities our workforce, residents and businesses experienced an inordinate amount of stress in the Summer of 2021 due to increased visitor numbers, lack of workforce, lack of workforce housing and related issues.**

Agree

Jackson, WY
Crested Butte, CO
Eagle County, CO
Breckenridge, CO

Basalt, CO
Steamboat Springs, CO
Granby, CO
Aspen, CO

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2. **Our community implemented the following measures in 2021 to provide workforce and/or community stress relief:**

Jackson, WY - A group of nonprofits, our hospital, and therapists worked together to provide up to six sessions of therapy for community members. This is no longer going on, but a resulting behavioral health group is meeting to work on determining longer-term programs that can be implemented.

Last summer our town organization provided wellness activities for its employees including personal massage, workspace ergonomic assessments, stretching classes, and some personal training.

Eagle County, CO - On a community-wide level, our community ramped up partnerships and messaging campaigns with our behavioral health providers. We continue to look at how to make our mental health resources more accessible and well known. For the longer-term, we continue to discuss mental health as a priority, along with attainable housing and childcare solutions to support our workforce. There are no quick and easy solutions, as we all know.

Breckenridge, CO - The Town through the Breckenridge Tourism Office has stopped marketing to the front range. We do not know how impactful this change has been. The Breckenridge Creative Arts provided free and discounted classes and shows for local workers.

Basalt, CO - We used Tobacco Tax funds to support a full-time counselor in the elementary school. We also provided a three-year grant to the Aspen Hope Center to provide Counseling services, including crisis response in schools and the community. In addition, we provided \$10,000 grants to Basalt-serving non-profits that focus on child and adult services.

Steamboat Springs, CO –

- Initiated two workforce housing projects
- Coordinated with CDOT on highway projects and closures
- Put out positive PR messages encouraging patience and gratitude
- Initiated STR moratorium (vacation home rentals only) while we review regulatory options

Granby, CO -

- Worked with Headwaters Trails Alliance on helping tourists to spread out to different public lands, and not just the most popular sites
- No housing measures were taken

Aspen, CO -

- Additional destination management messaging in partnership with local chamber
- Increased traffic management

Crested Butte, CO -

- 12-month Moratorium on issuance of new vacation rental licenses to allow time to collect data on impacts and engage community on where the community wants to head.
- 12-month Moratorium on building permits for new heated and plumbed accessory structures without accessory dwellings in response to sharp drop-off in number of accessory dwelling units. Accessory dwellings must be occupied by a working local. Considering making ADU's requirement of heated/plumbed accessory buildings on residential parcels.
- Implemented camping on private property with simple, free permit to be signed by camper and property owner (had only one person take advantage of program)
- Held large community meeting to give voice to community stress over housing, being overworked, etc.
- Marketing district stopped all traditional marketing mid-summer and began campaign to raise awareness of long lines at restaurants, lack of employees and asking for grace and kindness towards service sector employees.
- Funded several mental health and food security programs with use of nicotine tax revenues.

3. Our community implemented the following measures over the past 9 months to provide long-term solutions to the workforce and/or community stresses of 2021 and recent summers:

Jackson, WY - Our local counseling center is offering Mental Health First Aid Training, a public education program that helps the public identify, understand, and response to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorder. Those who take the 8-hour course to certify as Mental Health First Aiders learn a 5-step action plan encompassing skills, resources and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

Breckenridge, CO - See #4 response.

Basalt, CO - We have continued to support programs with our Tobacco Tax as defined above.

Steamboat Springs, CO –

- Continued with workforce housing projects (seasonal and long-term rentals)
- Collaborated with other governments and business community
- Continued STR moratorium (vacation home rentals only) while we review regulatory options

Granby, CO -

- We are working on a 267-unit workforce housing neighborhood which includes traditional single family homes, duplex units, townhome units, and apartments
 - Town has undertaken engineering for a sewer line, purchased a parcel for access off the highway, and is working with a design firm on the proper layout
- Town has recently signed an IGA for a regional housing authority with Winter Park, Fraser, and Grand County.

Aspen, CO –

- Implemented moratoria for short term rental new permits and for residential development
- Increased training for mental health first responder
- Designing and going for land use approvals for 280 new work force housing units
- Updating our affordable housing mitigation study and in turn, I expect fee increases
- Working to increase childcare capacity – short term through partnership with Colorado Mountain College and for the long term for construction of a new child care facility on city owned land

Crested Butte, CO -

- Created Housing Director position and hired staff person
- Selected developer for new 75-80 unit deed restricted project in town including mix of rental & for-sale product with range of income targets
- Maintaining summer outdoor dining for restaurants on Elk Ave. In part to allow increased capacity at those restaurants that are open and have kitchen & staffing capacity.
- Town adopted and funded the ‘GoodDeed’ program (our version of Vail’s InDeed) in collaboration with Mt. Crested Butte and the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority

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- 4. We are planning to take the following steps in advance of the summer season to alleviate the amplified pressures caused due to increased visitor numbers, lack of workforce, lack of workforce housing and related issues:**

Jackson, WY - Our local counseling center is offering Mental Health First Aid Training, a public education program that helps the public identify, understand, and response to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorder. Those who take the 8-hour course to certify as Mental Health First Aiders learn a 5-step action plan encompassing skills, resources and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

Astoria Park Conservancy, our local hot springs is supporting local mental health during Mental Health Awareness Month by offering discounted soaks at the hot springs through May 31st

Monday-Thursday. A soothing soak in Astoria Hot Springs can help counteract stress, increase relaxation, and help with anxiety. Astoria Park Conservancy is dedicated to supporting our community to improve health, livability, and wellbeing!

[Breckenridge, CO](#) - We know that affordable housing is one of the biggest issues impacting our workforce. The Town put a cap on Short Term Rental licenses and began charging a higher fee for each license renewal. The fee supports administration, compliance, and enforcement, as well as providing a significant influx of funding for housing. The Town is in the process of building two affordable, workforce apartment complexes (an 80 unit LIHTC complex and a 27 unit complex) that will come online this fall. We are also in the process of building another 175-unit apartment complex that will come online fall 2023. Further, we are using tax and fee revenue to buy market units, deed restrict them, and re-sell them at a lower cost to local workforce.

The Town is contracting with RRC to analyze available local (parking, transit, lodging, etc.) and mobility data to better understand visitation and its impacts. RRC will create an analytics dashboard we can use to develop responses.

[Basalt, CO](#) - We do not have anything additional that we plan to implement.

[Steamboat Springs, CO](#) - Continue efforts listed above.

[Granby, CO](#) - None at this time but will continue to work with HTA and Grand Places 2050 on permanent long-term solutions

[Aspen, CO](#) -

- Will remain under moratoria for summer of 2022
- Operating a pilot pedestrian improvement in the downtown area for increased safety
- Increasing frequency of bus services more than previous years
- Preparing for a pilot program called CopeNotes for mental well being

[Crested Butte, CO](#) -

- 12-month moratorium on issuance of new vacation rental licenses likely to be extended for six months to allow time complete Comp Plan and to collect data on impacts and engage community on where the community wants to head.
- 12-month moratorium on building permits for new heated and plumbed accessory structures without accessory dwellings likely to be extended for six months to allow time to complete Comp Plan so that it can inform direction on this matter.
- Continued program to allow summer camping on private property with simple, free permit to be signed by camper and property owner
- Planning additional outreach to service industry employers to garner insight into the issues behind the stress and anxiety and what steps can be taken (in addition to housing...)
- Confirmed local hotel/spa is accessible by day, week or month for workers who are camping and helping businesses be aware.
- Marketing district is not undertaking any traditional marketing of summer.
- Continuing to fund several mental health and food security programs with grants from general fund and through use of nicotine tax revenues. These include free or reduced

counseling opportunities for the public, PTA support of teachers (massages, gift cards, etc), food bank, local food program for people in need and for preschools both scholarships and funding to reward and incentivize teachers/staff.

- Partnering with Chamber to create new campaign around stewardship of both public lands and humans in the community

5. Other comments, words of wisdom or ideas to share with CAST members?

[Jackson, WY](#) - We have not 'cracked this nut' as a community, we have a number of one-off programs but nothing that has been long-term or comprehensive. It will be good to read how other tourist-based communities have tackled the high levels of stress associated with the summer months.

[Steamboat Springs, CO](#) - As leaders, demonstrate respect, patience, and kindness.