

AC Decision Support Framework

What is the Decision Support Framework?

A structured guide to deepen understanding, broaden perspectives, and foster strategic alignment in decision-making. This framework is meant to strengthen culture and decision-making capacity, not create more paperwork.

Use it to guide what matters—and make your thinking transparent. It supports the county in the development of a thinking discipline to guide and shape comprehensive discussions when decisions are needed. This is a lens, not a scorecard.

Purpose

This framework helps Arapahoe County institutionalize values-based, transparent decision-making. It is intended to assess strategies, initiatives, or decisions based on the County's Mission, Vision, and six strategic lenses (Sustainability, Data Informed, Community Engagement, Collaboration, Financial Implications, and Equity). In particular it intends to:

- Strengthen County operations and decision-making alignment with County strategic plan.
- Foster thoughtful discussion.
- Improve consistency and clarity in board-facing proposals.
- Serve as a thinking tool, not a mandatory pass/fail checklist.
- Cultivate analysis habits, not be a burdensome exercise.

When to Use the Framework

This tool is not required for every operational decision. It will be used:

- When preparing Board Summary Reports.
 - Not for drop-ins or third party presentations.
- When presenting initiatives, policy shifts, capital investments, or new programs for BOCC consideration.
- As a training tool for strategic thinking across leadership.

How to Use the Framework

Review the statements in each section (6 strategic lenses + mission/vision). Hover over links for additional guidance and/or definitions.

Mark alignment*:

High – Strong alignment with criteria

Medium – Moderate alignment

Low – Weak alignment

No – Misaligned

N/A – Not applicable-provide justification in notes

Use the Notes section for short explanations (2-3 sentences maximum), if necessary. (Examples: "One-time cost from ARPA," "Limited engagement due to timeline.") Notes should be used to explain how or why it aligns, or doesn't align.

**Do not overthink alignment. Honest responses (including "low" or "no") are valuable to the discussion. Tradeoffs and imperfection are part of the process. The Notes are where the insight lives.*

Name and Title

Jason Reynolds, Planning Division Manager

Department, Office, and/or Division

Public Works and Development

Issue/Initiative for Discussion

2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code

Short Description of Issue/Initiative

Adoption of the 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code for unincorporated areas outside of fire protection districts.

Tips:

Hover your mouse over the links for more information.

Use the Notes field to describe the “why”—even if it seems obvious.

There are 6 categories, each with multiple questions.

Note there is a "Save and Continue Later" option at the bottom right of each page.

Mission & Vision Alignment

Vision: Initiative enhances quality of life through exceptional, responsible public service.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

Adopting the Wildfire Resiliency Code fulfills a state mandate.

Mission: Initiative contributes to a diverse and vibrant county where everyone can thrive.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria			X		

Notes

Provides additional state-mandated fire protection measures for new construction. This is rated low because of the limited area affected by County adoption of the code.

Sustainability

We analyze county activities through the lens of human, environmental, social, and economic sustainability, so our decisions lead the county toward meeting the needs of today while empowering current and future generations to thrive.

Hollistic. Initiative promotes long-term financial (including one-time and ongoing cost considerations), human, environmental, and social sustainability.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Given the limited areas affected, Arapahoe County's adoption of the statewide wildfire resiliency code should have little impact on one-time and ongoing costs. The Wildfire Resiliency Code promotes both environmental and human sustainability by requiring additional protective measures on construction in wildfire risk areas.

Enduring. The initiative builds lasting, resilient [systems](#) rather than offering temporary fixes.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

The Wildfire Resiliency Code Board will review the Wildfire Resiliency Code every three years and update or supplement the code as the Code Board deems necessary.

Established. The systems and infrastructure are in place to support sustainability [over time](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

Should Arapahoe County receive building permits or development applications in the areas affected by this code adoption, staff is prepared to review building permits in those areas.

Established. The people and culture are in place to support sustainability over time.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

Should Arapahoe County receive building permits or development applications in the areas affected by this code adoption, staff is prepared to review building permits in those areas.

[Data Informed](#)

We use varied data informed and [evidence-based best and promising practice](#) tools to inform how best to utilize resources to address challenges.

Quality. Initiative is supported by accurate, relevant, and timely [data](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

The state maintains the statewide Wildfire Resiliency Code map and there are provisions allowing local jurisdictions to propose data-supported changes to the map.

Accuracy. Data is [interpreted and validated](#) by appropriately [qualified professionals](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

PWD staff are appropriately qualified to administer the code in affected areas.

Application. Data is used to guide decisions rather than simply [justify them](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria					X

Notes

n/a – adoption of the Wildfire Resiliency Code is a state mandate

Community Engagement

We want to understand and respond to [community values](#) in decision-making, meeting people where they are.

Inclusive. Specific communities affected by the initiative have been engaged, as appropriate, and in accessible ways.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Arapahoe County staff highlighted the upcoming changes in Homebuilder Association quarterly meetings.

Open. We are transparent in sharing what we’re doing and why, in a meaningful way.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

This is a state mandate and staff has communicated the County's obligations and the limited areas affected by County adoption of the code.

Responsive. Community input and feedback has been considered and reflected, where appropriate, based on genuine understanding.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

The HBA communicated their concerns about the Wildfire Resiliency Code and they are working with partners, including the Colorado Municipal League, to propose changes to the legislation. The statute has a deadline of April 1, 2026 for local adoption, and Arapahoe County is required to adopt the code by then.

Collaboration

We work within and across the county to implement outcomes, engaging key [internal and external partners](#) to maximize benefits and increase efficiency.

Strategic. Key partners have been identified and intentionally engaged in a [timely manner](#) to maximize benefit and increase efficiency.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Office of Emergency Management has been communicating with fire districts about the Wildfire Resiliency Code. Those districts are responsible for adopting the code in unincorporated areas within their district. Public Works and Development highlighted the Wildfire Resiliency Code at quarterly meetings with the HBA in the Fall of 2025 and January 2026.

Participatory. Collaboration is transparent, inclusive, and responsive to both internal and external [stakeholders](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Arapahoe County has been open about the state's requirements, as well as the limited area affected by Arapahoe County adoption of the code.

Defined. County's role is clearly defined as lead, support, or defer.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

Statute requires Arapahoe County to adopt the Wildfire Resiliency code in affected areas by April 1, 2026.

Financial Implications

We consider long-term and holistic financial implications in decision-making, prioritizing best overall value, responsible use of public funds, and sustainable financial health.

Prudent. Short- and long-term costs are understood, affordable, and balanced with current available resources (including non-monetary assets like equipment or facilities.)

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

Existing staff can review building and development permits within the affected areas.

Efficient. The initiative includes cost-saving measures, external funding, or partnerships where appropriate, and prioritizes best overall value.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria					X

Notes

No external funding or cost-saving measures were involved. As noted in the Board Summary Report, fiscal impact should be minimal.

Accountable. Public funds are used responsibly, with trade-offs and [non-monetary impacts](#) clearly considered.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Due to the limited affected areas outside of fire protection districts, non-monetary impacts are minimal.

Disciplined. One-time and ongoing financial commitments are identified, justified, and planned for in alignment with long-term fiscal health.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria					X

Notes

For most of the county, fire districts will review applications for compliance with the code; Arapahoe County staff impact should be minimal.

Equity

We work with communities impacted by county policies, behaviors, beliefs, practices, and decisions. We seek their voice, consider historical context, and understand intersectional impacts. We anticipate potential obstacles, consider unintended consequences, and work to remove barriers for the betterment of all.

Precautionary. Benefits, challenges, and impacts are understood and addressed, with care taken to avoid unintended harm.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Given the small unincorporated area affected by Arapahoe County's adoption of the Wildfire Resiliency Code, the potential for unintended harm is minimized.

Equitable. The initiative acknowledges and addresses both historical and current [inequities](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria					X

Notes

Not applicable for areas affected by Arapahoe County's adoption of the Wildfire Resiliency Code.

Adaptive. The approach is [flexible](#) and inclusive, removing barriers and meeting diverse needs.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria					X

Notes

Not applicable for areas affected by Arapahoe County's adoption of the Wildfire Resiliency Code.

Please Review Your Responses.

You're almost done!

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You will be emailed a copy of your responses to attach to your BSR. Emails being sent from *noreply@alchemer.com* may get caught in the Outlook Mimecast spam filter and take up to a day to be delivered. (After you "permit" the email in Mimecast, delivery time should be quicker for future submissions.)

If you need a copy of your PDF responses *immediately*, click the Back button below and look for the Download PDF Version link at the bottom of the page.

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The email will also contain an Edit Link if you need to edit your responses or if you need to forward to others for final review/editing.

Enter your email address below and click Submit.

Email Address

jreynolds@arapahoegov.com

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Decision Support Framework survey.

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