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El Pomar Foundation distributes \$1,000,000 in COVID-19 aid to nonprofits in Colorado

Colorado Springs, Colo.—June 4, 2020—Since March, 175 organizations in Colorado received grants totaling \$1,000,000 from El Pomar Foundation’s Colorado Assistance Fund. The fund was established by the Foundation’s Trustees on March 9, within a week of Colorado’s first confirmed case of COVID-19 and provided immediate aid to nonprofit organizations and government entities meeting basic human needs and supporting access to appropriate healthcare for individuals and communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

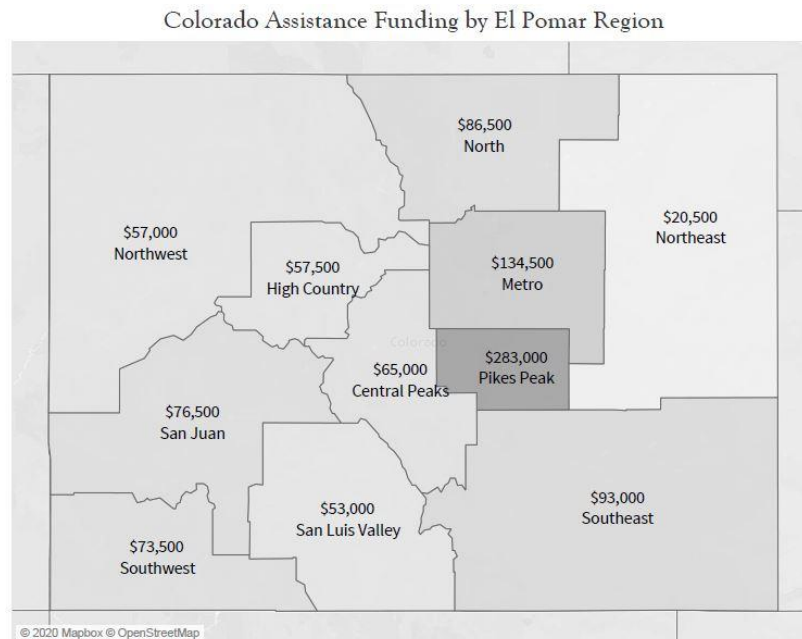


Figure 1: Colorado Assistance Fund dollars distributed per region through June 2

Of the \$1 million fund, \$917,500 was distributed in grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 and supporting a variety of emergency services such as food banks, rent and utility assistance, and medical supplies.

“The quick and early support of El Pomar Foundation made an important difference in the ability of our organization and staff to support the needs of the local community. We are grateful for El Pomar’s expediency and support in a time when we are experiencing an unprecedented increase in demand for Care and Share’s services,” said Lynne Telford, CEO of Care and Share Food Bank.

“We are grateful for the nonprofit organizations and their staffs who have selflessly stepped up to support individuals and communities in need during this pandemic,” said Kyle Hybl, El Pomar Foundation President

& CEO. “In establishing the Colorado Assistance Fund, El Pomar Foundation’s Trustees aimed to deliver funds as quickly as possible to support critical needs.”

Organizations were nominated for funding by public health departments or members of El Pomar Foundation’s regional councils. Part of El Pomar’s Regional Partnerships Program, regional councils regularly provide grant recommendations to El Pomar Trustees. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Colorado, regional council members have been in regular contact with El Pomar staff and Trustees to provide first-hand insight regarding their communities’ most critical and emergent needs.

“Colorado Assistance Fund is an extraordinary example of what El Pomar Foundation does best: recognizing need, acting quickly, and relying on local experts to inform strategy. The Foundation’s approach in response to COVID-19 has been, and continues to be, tremendous, especially in rural Colorado communities.” said Melanie Bravo, Program Director with Caring for Colorado Foundation and Southeast Regional Council member.

As communities begin to shift their focus from crisis response to recovery, El Pomar’s Trustees closed the \$1 million Colorado Assistance Fund with an \$82,500 grant to Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to fund summer work opportunities for youth in the Pikes Peak region.

As continued support for Colorado communities, El Pomar Trustees also approved an additional \$1.1 million for a second phase of the Colorado Assistance Fund (CAF II) with a focus on longer-range recovery efforts to encourage the eventual return of healthy, functioning communities across Colorado as they emerge from the current COVID-19 crisis. Each of El Pomar’s 11 regional councils will recommend a strategy for the allocation of \$100,000 in their multi-county region of Colorado.

El Pomar’s Trustees also dedicated \$100,000 from the Foundation’s Freda Hambrick Fund to support pet food banks, or to support veterinary clinics in covering costs of pet food or veterinarian expenses for families that have been impacted by COVID-19 and are unable to afford those expenses.

The approval of CAF II marks the seventh time El Pomar Foundation has dedicated a Colorado Assistance Fund. Prior to the phase established in March for COVID-19 immediate aid, the five previous funds were established during and in the immediate aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and distributed more than \$5 million between 2008 and 2012.

To view a full listing of El Pomar’s funds and grant making areas, please visit our website at <https://www.elpomar.org/grant-making/>.

El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$22 million annually through grants and Community Stewardship programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations involved in health, human services, education, arts and humanities, and civic and community initiatives. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937.

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