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El Pomar Foundation Mobilizes Emergency and Assistance Funds to Support Immediate Needs in Colorado

Colorado Springs, CO – July 28, 2026 – In response to the significant challenges facing Colorado communities, from catastrophic wildfires to ongoing economic hardship, El Pomar Foundation has activated multiple funds to address immediate needs and provide disaster relief across the state.

Wildfires continue to devastate large areas of Colorado, impacting families, and livelihoods. In light of this crisis, El Pomar recently activated both its Wildland Fire and Freda Hambrick Funds, providing \$215,000 in grants to support agencies and organizations on the front lines of wildfire response. These resources are helping to provide relief for displaced families and animals, as well as supplies and support for first responders, volunteers, and firefighters who are working tirelessly at nonprofit and volunteer agencies to protect lives and homes.

"Our thoughts remain with all who are directly impacted by the current wildfires across Colorado, as well as the first responders working to safeguard communities," said Kyle Hybl, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Trustee of El Pomar Foundation. "El Pomar is honored to join other Colorado foundations and organizations in delivering this critical assistance, and we know there is still need to be addressed."

In addition to emergency wildfire response, El Pomar has also activated its Colorado Assistance Fund (CAF) to meet additional human service needs statewide. Through this fund, \$1 million was distributed across Colorado to organizations addressing some of the most pressing challenges faced by vulnerable individuals and families.

CAF grant priorities include:

- Direct human service needs for families in crisis
- Food security and nutrition programs, including food banks and pantries
- Housing assistance
- Behavioral and mental health care services
- Family and community resource centers that provide wraparound and emergency support
- Emergency assistance for youth and seniors

These grants reflect El Pomar's continued commitment to supporting Colorado's communities.

"From natural disasters to economic uncertainty, many Coloradans are facing challenging circumstances. Activating these resources allows us to partner with local organizations that are delivering essential services where they are most needed," said Erica Oakley-Courage, Vice President of Grants.

Firefighting, crisis response, animal relocation and support, and emergency resource agencies seeking urgent support for PPE replenishment, supplies, and other critical emergency management needs can find

information about El Pomar's Wildland Fire and Freda Hambrick Funds at <https://www.elpomar.org/grant-making/el-pomars-funds/>. El Pomar's Grants Office can also be reached for questions at Grants@ElPomar.org.

"This has been an incredibly difficult time for our community," said YMCA of Pueblo President & CEO, Janelle Andrews. "While we're grieving with our supporting staff, volunteers, and families who have lost so much, we've also been inspired by the incredible generosity and compassion we've seen from people across Colorado. It has been a reminder of the strength of community during the hardest moments. This emergency support allows us to respond quickly and meet immediate needs while we begin thinking about the long road ahead."

About El Pomar Foundation

El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$30 million annually through grants in the areas of arts and culture, civic and community initiatives, education, health, and human services, as well as community engagement and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations. In addition, the Foundation owns and operates three historic properties: Penrose Heritage Museum, Penrose House Conference Center, and Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage, and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.

About Wildland Fire Fund

The Wildland Fire Fund assists with the immediate emergency needs of volunteer fire fighting agencies and first responders throughout the state of Colorado. The Fund was created in rapid response to Colorado's devastating wildfire season of 2002, providing front line volunteer Colorado fire agencies with funding for various supplies, including personal firefighting equipment, radios, hoses, and pumps. Since the Fund's inception, El Pomar has awarded over \$7 million in grants and addressed emergency needs for volunteer firefighters and first responders across the state.

About Freda Hambrick Fund

The Freda Hambrick Fund supports nonprofit organizations that prevent cruelty to animals, provide direct care and medical assistance, and offer educational programs for the proper care of and attention to animals within the state of Colorado. The Fund seeks to continue the charitable intent of Ms. Freda Hambrick, who dedicated much time and energy to support animal welfare organizations and issues throughout Colorado.

About Colorado Assistance Fund

The Colorado Assistance Fund (CAF) is El Pomar Foundation's emergency grant making mechanism designed to provide rapid relief to nonprofits serving communities during times of crisis. Established in 2008, CAF enables the Foundation to respond swiftly to urgent needs across Colorado, ensuring critical resources reach those most affected by emergencies. Guided by input from El Pomar's regional council members and community partners, CAF has supported organizations addressing essential needs such as food security, housing, and health care during economic downturns, natural disasters, and public health crises. Since its inception, CAF has distributed nearly \$12 million to strengthen Colorado nonprofits when it matters most.

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