EL POMAR FOUNDATION

September 2026 Regional Grant Announcements

The following document is a collection of nine press releases sent by El Pomar Foundation to media outlets in rural regions across Colorado in November 2026. The press releases highlight grants approved at El Pomar's September 2026 Trustee meeting.

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general purpose grant making throughout the state of Colorado. The competitive process remains the Foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding, which accepts applications on a rolling basis. Additionally, over the last 89 years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the stewardship of a number of other funds, as well as presenting Trustee merit grants. Since 2003, El Pomar's Regional Partnerships program has also provided invaluable support to 11 regions encompassing the entire state of Colorado, representing all 64 counties, led by more than 70 community leaders on regional councils, in an effort to increase impact and establish connections throughout the state.

For more information about El Pomar's grant making, please visit our website or contact Erin Hannan, Vice President of Communications, with specific questions about these announcements at ehannan@elpomar.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Erin Hannan, Senior Vice President of Communications
719–577–5750 or ehannan@elpomar.org

El Pomar Foundation approves $70,000 to organizations in the Central Peaks region

Colorado Springs, Colo. — November 10, 2026 — El Pomar Trustees approved $70,000 allocated to nine nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the Central Peaks region at the Foundation's most recent Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Chaffee County Early Childhood Council, Inc. (Salida) – $15,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Chaffee County Economic Development Charitable Corporation (Salida) – $2,500 for Chaffee County general operating support; regional merit
- Envision, Inc. (Salida) – $10,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Park County School District RE-2 (Fairplay) – $10,000 for South Park Ski & Snowboard Club; regional merit
- Rocky Mountain Land Library (Denver) – $10,000 for historic cookhouse rehabilitation; competitive
- Trust for Public Land (Denver) – $7,500 for Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park Counties general operating support; regional merit
- Wet Mountain Broadcasting Corp. (Westcliffe) – $5,000 for youth radio program; competitive
- Wet Mountain Fire Protection District (Westcliffe) – $5,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Wetmore Volunteer Fire Department – $5,000 for general operating support; regional merit

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The Central Peaks Regional Council recommends grants in Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Park Counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities.

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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 more than $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.

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El Pomar Foundation approves $113,000 to organizations in the High Country region

Colorado Springs, Colo. — November 10, 2026 — El Pomar Trustees approved $113,000 allocated to nine nonprofit organizations in the High Country region at the Foundation's most recent Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Colorado Learning Connections (Frisco) – $15,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Colorado Outward Bound School (Leadville) – $500 for general operating support; staff merit
- Friends of Charlie's Place (Dumont) – $5,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Habitat for Humanity Vail Valley (Avon) – $50,000 for duplex home lot purchase at Haymeadow Development; competitive
- Lake County Build a Generation (Leadville) – $10,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Loaves & Fishes (Idaho Springs) – $5,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Music Associates of Aspen, Inc. – $2,500 for education and community programs; competitive
- Response: Help for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Basalt) – $15,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Walking Mountains (Avon) – $10,000 for school field science program; competitive

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The High Country Regional Council recommends grants in Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake, Pitkin, and Summit Counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities.

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El Pomar Foundation approves $147,500 to organizations in the North region

Colorado Springs, Colo. — November 10, 2026 — El Pomar Trustees approved $147,500 allocated to 12 nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the North region at the Foundation's most recent Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County (Fort Collins) – $20,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Coal Creek Meals on Wheels (Lafayette) – $10,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Colorado Humanities (Denver) – $15,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Estes Chamber Foundation (Estes Park) – $7,500 for Estes Nonprofit Network; regional council
- Estes Park Senior Citizens Center, Inc. – $7,500 for general operating support; regional council
- Front Line Farming (Denver) – $15,000 for Project Protect Food Systems Workers in Boulder, Larimer, and Weld Counties; regional council
- Front Range Freedom Rescue, Inc. (Boulder) – $2,500 for life-saving program in Colorado; Freda Hambrick Fund
- Harvest of Hope Pantry (Boulder) – $15,000 for general operating support; competitive
- The Humane Society of Boulder Valley, Inc. – $20,000 for adoption services; Freda Hambrick Fund
- Loveland Youth Gardeners – $5,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Poudre River Public Library District (Fort Collins) – $25,000 for new library at Southeast Community Center; competitive
- YMCA of the Rockies (Estes Park) – $5,000 for Beverly K. Booe Early Childhood Education Center; competitive

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The North Regional Council recommends grants in Boulder, Larimer, and Weld Counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities.

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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.

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El Pomar Foundation approves $147,500 to organizations in the Northeast region

Colorado Springs, Colo. — November 10, 2026 — El Pomar Trustees approved $147,500 allocated to 17 nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the Northeast region at the Foundation's most recent Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Break The Silence, Inc. (Fort Morgan) – $1,000 for general operating support; staff merit
- Centennial Mental Health Center, Inc. (Sterling) – $500 for general operating support; staff merit
- Cheyenne County Ambulance Service (Cheyenne Wells) – $5,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- CKLECC (Limon) – $5,000 for Northeast Region counties support; regional council
- Community Foundation of Northern Colorado (Fort Collins) – $10,000 for Northeast Colorado Recreation Revitalization Initiative; regional council
- Early Childhood Council for Yuma, Washington, and Kit Carson Counties – $15,000 for Family Friend Neighbor Program; regional council
- Grassroots Foundation, Inc. (Joes) – $5,000 for general operating support; Trustee regional merit
- Kit Carson Volunteer Fire Department – $5,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Ogallala Commons, Inc. (Springfield) – $15,000 for internship programs in the Northeast Region counties; regional council
- Prairie Family Center (Burlington) – $10,000 for general operating support; regional council
- Regional Home Visitation Program (Yuma) – $11,000 for Touchpoints programs in the Northeast Region counties; regional council
- S.A.R.A., Inc. (Fort Morgan) – $20,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Sedgwick County (Julesburg) – $10,000 for Sedgwick County Learning Center; regional council
- Snyder Community Council, Inc. – $10,000 for Synder Community Center renovation; regional merit
- Stratton Area Foundation 2, Inc. – $10,000 for Stratton Childcare Center general operating support; competitive
- Wray Area Foundation, Inc. – $5,000 for The Space, Inc. general operating support; Trustee regional merit
- Yuma Children's Academy – $10,000 for general operating support; regional council

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The Northeast Regional Council recommends grants in Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Philips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma Counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities.

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El Pomar Foundation approves $152,500 to organizations in the Northwest region

Colorado Springs, Colo. — November 10, 2026 — El Pomar Trustees approved $152,500 allocated to 14 nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the Northwest region at the Foundation's most recent Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- The Buddy Program, Inc. (Aspen) – $10,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Courageous Colorado (Denver) – $50,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Gateway-Unaweep Fire Department, Inc. – $10,500 for wildland PPE and shelters; Wildland Fire Fund
- GJ Blackout (Grand Junction) – $10,000 for youth basketball; Bill and Kathy Hybl Fund
- Grand County Rural Health Network, Inc. (Hot Sulphur Springs) – $10,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Housing Resources of Western Colorado (Grand Junction) – $10,000 for housing counseling and education program; competitive
- Memorial Hospital of Craig Foundation, Inc. – $500 for general operating support; staff merit
- Riding Institute for Disabled Equestrians (Silt) – $5,000 for direct care of equines; Sally Beck Fund
- Roaring Fork Schools Foundation (Carbondale) – $500 for Roaring Fork Precollegiate program; staff merit
- Smiling Goat Ranch, Inc. (Carbondale) – $5,000 for direct care of equines; Sally Beck Fund
- Sozo Youth Sanctuary Foundation (Grand Junction) – $5,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Toilet Equity (Grand Junction) – $1,000 for general operating support; staff merit
- Western Colorado Business Development Corporation (Grand Junction) – $20,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Western Colorado Center for the Arts, Inc. (Grand Junction) – $15,000 for building renovations; competitive

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The Wildland Fire Fund assists with immediate emergency needs of volunteer firefighting agencies and first responders throughout the state of Colorado.

The Bill and Kathy Hybl Fund supports Olympic, Paralympic, and youth sports. Bill Hybl, a lifetime public servant, has long been dedicated to amateur sport. Currently chairman of the United States Olympic Endowment, he believes the ideals of excellence, fair play, and hard work through sport are important for athletes as well as children.

The Sally Beck Fund supports organizations providing direct care to equines, therapeutic riding programs, equine education programs, and equine-related disaster response programs.

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El Pomar Foundation approves $33,500 to organizations in the San Juan region

Colorado Springs, Colo. — November 10, 2026 — El Pomar Trustees approved $33,500 allocated to five nonprofit organizations in the San Juan region at the Foundation's most recent Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Crested Butte Film Festival – $1,000 for general operating support; staff merit
- San Miguel Resource Center (Telluride) – $10,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Second Chance Humane Society, Inc. (Ridgway) – $10,000 for Community Veterinary Medical Assistance program; Freda Hambrick Fund
- Surface Creek Animal Shelter (Cedaredge) – $7,500 for direct care of animals; Freda Hambrick Fund
- True North Youth Program (Telluride) – $5,000 for general operating support; Trustee regional merit

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The San Juan Regional Council recommends grants in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities.

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El Pomar Foundation approves $167,000 to organizations in the San Luis Valley region

Colorado Springs, Colo. — November 10, 2026 — El Pomar Trustees approved $167,000 allocated to nine nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the San Luis Valley region at the Foundation's most recent Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Adams State University Foundation, Inc. (Alamosa) – $24,000 for CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program); regional council
- Adams State University Foundation, Inc. (Alamosa) – $15,000 for Adams State University campus water audit; regional council
- Alamosa County Public Health Department – $45,000 for San Luis Valley Home Health general operating support; regional council
- Creede Repertory Theatre, Inc. – $500 for general operating support; staff merit
- First Southwest Community Fund (Alamosa) – $15,000 for general operating support; competitive
- Hope and Home (Colorado Springs) – $10,000 for Alamosa general operating support; regional merit
- Saguache County – $10,000 for Saguache Senior Center meal services; regional council
- San Luis Valley Development Resources Group (Alamosa) – $30,000 for San Luis Valley Geographic Information System infrastructure; regional council
- Sierra Grande High School Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (Fort Garland) – $10,000 for general operating support; regional council
- Sustainable Environmental & Economic Development Park (Alamosa) – $7,500 for Monte Vista Railroad Depot restoration; competitive

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The San Luis Valley Regional Council recommends grants in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities.

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El Pomar Foundation approves $145,000 to organizations in the Southeast region

Colorado Springs, Colo. — November 10, 2026 — El Pomar Trustees approved $145,000 allocated to nine nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the Southeast region at the Foundation's most recent Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Catholic Charities of Southern Colorado (Pueblo) – $10,000 for fatherhood program; regional council
- Center for American Values, Inc. (Pueblo) – $45,000 for museum operations; competitive
- The HadaNõu Collective (Denver) – $5,000 for Pueblo Food Project operations; competitive
- Main Street Live, Ltd. (Trinidad) – $5,000 for youth programming; regional merit
- Mt. Carmel Wellness and Community Center (Trinidad) – $5,000 for youth programming; regional merit
- Parents Challenge (Colorado Springs) – $20,000 for expansion of services to Pueblo; regional council
- Prowers County Department of Human Services (Lamar) – $15,000 for Promoting Responsible Fatherhood program; regional council
- Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation – $15,000 for general operating support; regional council
- Pueblo Zoological Society – $25,000 for general operating support; regional council

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The Southeast Regional Council recommends grants in Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, and Pueblo Counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities.

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El Pomar Foundation approves $155,800 to organizations in the Southwest region

Colorado Springs, Colo. — November 10, 2026 — El Pomar Trustees approved $155,800 allocated to 19 nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the Southwest region at the Foundation's most recent Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Colorado (Durango) – $15,000 for general operating support; competitive
- The Community Treehouse (Bayfield) – $15,000 for general operating support; regional council
- Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (Cortez) – $1,000 for general operating support; staff merit
- Dolores County Public Library (Dove Creek) – $8,000 for DC Excel After School program; regional council
- Dove's Nest (Dove Creek) – $10,000 for general operating support; regional council
- Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Inc. – $5,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Durango Nordic Ski Club, Inc. – $5,000 for youth programs in Colorado; Bill and Kathy Hybl Fund
- DUST2 (Pagosa Springs) – $5,000 for youth cycling opportunities; Bill and Kathy Hybl Fund
- Early Childhood Council of Archuleta County (Pagosa Springs) – $4,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Explorers Early Childhood Education, Inc. (Durango) – $15,000 for general operating support; regional council
- Montezuma County Public Health (Cortez) – $1,800 for RISE suicide walk and related mental health programming; regional council
- Pagosa Community Initiative (Pagosa Springs) – $10,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Painted Sky Dental (Bayfield) – $6,000 for Archuleta County youth and senior dental services; regional merit
- Rico Trails Alliance – $10,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Silverton Family Learning Center, Inc. – $7,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Silverton Public Library – $3,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- Southern Colorado Community Action Agency, Inc. (Ignacio) – $15,000 for Project Venture program; competitive
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Ignacio) – $5,000 for Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe general operating support; regional merit
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Ignacio) – $5,000 for Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Torch Club program; regional merit
- Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (Pagosa Springs) – $10,000 for Wildfire Ready Action Plan; competitive

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