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**EL POMAR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION COLORADO ASSISTANCE FUND TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19**

**Colorado Springs, Colo. – March 11, 2020** — El Pomar Foundation announced today the establishment of the Colorado Assistance Fund (CAF). CAF is a \$1 million fund offering immediate aid to nonprofit organizations supporting Colorado communities, organizations and individuals affected by the recent outbreak of COVID-19.

Grants from the fund will be distributed to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or government entities supporting access to appropriate healthcare and meeting basic human needs such as food access, rent and utilities assistance, and emergency services for individuals and communities impacted by the virus.

“We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact particularly in the state of Colorado, and we hope the Colorado Assistance Fund will provide some relief to those individuals and organizations most affected,” said Kyle Hybl, President & CEO of El Pomar Foundation. “Since 1937, El Pomar’s mission has been to enhance and promote the well-being of the people of Colorado, and the Trustees’ establishment of this fund in this time of need is emblematic of that commitment.”

El Pomar staff will determine need through three primary avenues. In addition to coordinating with county public health departments and nonprofit organizations around the state, the Foundation will rely on input from several advisory councils of local leaders to identify the specific needs within Colorado’s rural communities. These regional councils are part of El Pomar’s Regional Partnerships program and regularly provide grant recommendations to El Pomar Trustees.

“We feel very fortunate to have a strong network of advisers, nonprofit organizations and public health organizations throughout the state,” Hybl said. “Their expertise and local knowledge will enable us to get these funds in the hands of those people and organizations which will make an immediate difference in communities across Colorado.”

This is the sixth time El Pomar Foundation has dedicated a Colorado Assistance Fund. 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.

*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. To learn more about El Pomar Foundation please go to [www.elpomar.org](http://www.elpomar.org).*

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