

# Morgan County COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Morgan County COVID-19 Response Fund announces first round of grants**

*Awards \$26,908 to local nonprofits*

Fort Morgan, Colo. – The Eastern Colorado Community Fund, the United Way of Morgan County, and the Morgan County branches of the Bank of Colorado established the Morgan County COVID-19 Response Fund and proudly announce it has provided grants totaling \$26,908 to five organizations that support Morgan County residents who face the greatest need.

"Morgan County has been hit hard by COVID-19 reporting the highest cases in Eastern Colorado," said Cameron Armagost, Fort Morgan branch president Bank of Colorado. "Bank of Colorado is proud to partner with the United Way of Morgan County and the Eastern Colorado Community Fund to give back to help our neighbors through the Morgan County COVID-19 Response Fund."

Organizations receiving funding from the initial round include and how the funds will be used:

Baby Bear Hugs – \$2,688

To meet the immediate needs of eligible families and caregivers, prenatally and with children 0-3, through ongoing visits to provide parenting education with a focus on mental health support;

Center for Healing and Trauma and Attachment, Inc. – \$6,720

To provide mental health counseling and adjunct services to individuals in Morgan County affected by the pandemic;

Morgan Community College Foundation – \$2,500

To provide financial assistance for basic needs, such as food and housing, that may prevent students from being able to continue their education;

Morgan County Family Center – \$10,000

To provide rental and utility payment assistance to those in most need;

Rising Up – \$5,000

To assist with the provision of groceries to needy families and to supply personal protection equipment for the staff.

“We continue to be appreciative for the many individuals and foundations that have stepped up to fill such critical gaps in our community as we respond to our current pandemic,” said Mary Gross, executive director, Morgan County Family Center. “Thank you for your support of Morgan County families and our agency.”

“The ECCF and the United Way of Morgan County would like to thank the donors who have supported this wonderful endeavor. Every donation counts,” said John Chapdelaine, director of the ECCF. “We’d especially like to recognize the Bank of Colorado for their corporate sponsorship and Cargill for their pledge of \$15,000. This money is being put to use right away by the local nonprofits to help those disproportionately affected by the pandemic.”

Nonprofits directly responding to assist those impacted by the novel coronavirus can review criteria and apply for a grant at [nocofoundation.org/morgancovid-19#apply](https://www.nocofoundation.org/morgancovid-19#apply). The deadline to apply is May 27, 2020. The goal is to move resources quickly and adapt to evolving needs.

To assist in this critical work, you may donate to the Morgan County Fund through the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado: Donate online at [www.coloradogives.org/MorganCountyCOVID-19](https://www.coloradogives.org/MorganCountyCOVID-19). Checks may be made payable to the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, 4745 Wheaton Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80525, with Morgan County in the memo line. Visit <https://www.nocofoundation.org/MorganCOVID-19> for additional information.

The Community Foundation and the United Way are both 501(c)(3) public charities so gifts to our funds provide donors with the maximum tax deductions allowed by law. Neither United Way nor the ECCF will charge an administrative fee for this fund.

#### **About the Eastern Colorado Community Fund**

*The Eastern Colorado Community Fund is a component fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, which is a nonprofit, public foundation working for the benefit of charitable causes and organizations in Northern Colorado. It manages almost 550 individual charitable funds and over \$120 million in assets, and it serves a unique leadership role by bringing people and resources together around important local issues. Over 75 local nonprofit organizations have their endowments housed with the Community Foundation, and many individuals and businesses have established donor advised funds.*

#### **About the United Way of Morgan County:**

*United Way of Morgan County (UWMC) is a one-stop resource for generosity in our community, ensuring that gifts of time, talent and treasure address today's greatest needs - and reduce tomorrow's. UWMC encourages nimble and innovative human services and strengthens our community by supporting youth & education, financial stability, community engagement, and nonprofit excellence in Morgan County.*

**About the Bank of Colorado:**

*The Bank of Colorado is family owned and community focused. It serves communities throughout the Eastern Plains, the Front Range, the Western Slope, and the Four Corners Region. Although it has grown, the staff still greets you by name and answer calls in person. It even makes the latest conveniences available, like online and mobile banking. Their mission is: Helping customers meet their financial goals.*