



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EFAA EXPANDS PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PARENTS TO BUILD JOB SKILLS,
IMPROVE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY AND END GENERATIONAL POVERTY**

*Success Creates Blueprint for Similar Poverty-Reduction Programs Statewide and
Engages EFAA in The Women's Foundation of Colorado WAGES Cohort*

February 13, 2018, BOULDER, CO – Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) announced today it will expand *Job Uptake for Motivated Parents* (JUMP), its work-training program for low-income parents in collaboration with Workforce Boulder County. EFAA's innovative JUMP program is also inspiring and informing other statewide poverty-reduction efforts.

“A critical poverty trap for many parents is that there are not enough hours in the day to add intensive job-training on top of full-time low-wage work and parenting,” says Julie Van Domelen, EFAA's Executive Director. “The JUMP program provides families the support they need to transition from a poverty-wage job into a professional career with income mobility. JUMP is a short-term investment that can change a family's financial future and end the cycle of poverty for generations to come.”

Success of the pilot program, including a 240% increase in monthly income for graduates working to support their families, has inspired Workforce Colorado to use the JUMP model as a blueprint for other similar employment programs outside of Boulder County. JUMP's success also led The Women's Foundation of Colorado, a major seed funder of the JUMP program, to include EFAA in their WAGES (Women Achieving Greater Economic Security) Cohort. The 23 Women's Foundation grantees in the WAGES Cohort will share insights and ideas to create services and policy that propel women and their children to economic security.

(more)

With EFAA's expansion of JUMP, program participants selected by EFAA can choose between a wider array of job skills training available through Workforce Boulder County, including internships, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, resume writing and interview training. EFAA also provides intensive case management and increased basic needs support to remove barriers to program completion and help participants sustain gainful employment. This can include direct financial assistance for rent, food, child care and transportation during the 12-month-long program.

ABOUT EMERGENCY FAMILY ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION

For 100 years EFAA has been dedicated to empowering families to thrive. Since 1918, EFAA has been Boulder County's community safety net for families, seniors and people with disabilities to meet their basic needs. As Boulder's official Family Resource Center, EFAA operates 53 emergency and transitional shelter units, provides food, rent assistance, utilities assistance, and supports clients' efforts toward financial stability and self-sufficiency through long-term and short-term casework, education and advocacy. For more information please visit www.efaa.org or connect with EFAA Boulder on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLORADO

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is the only statewide community foundation dedicated to creating more pathways to prosperity for Colorado women through the power of community, philanthropy, and impact. Since 1987, WFCO has served as an essential partner, resource, voice, and catalyst in strengthening Colorado's families, communities, and economy through the power of women. In its 30-year history, WFCO has funded more than 30 research reports that identify the systemic barriers that keep women from earning a livable wage, helped pass nearly 40 pieces of legislation that have created economic opportunities, and granted more than \$17 million to nonprofits that work with women and families in communities statewide.

ABOUT WORKFORCE BOULDER COUNTY

Workforce Boulder County is a resource for both job seekers and businesses seeking employees and has been in Boulder for more than 30 years. To learn more visit www.wfbc.org.

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