



Emergency
Family
Assistance
Association

NOVEMBER 2023

EFAA NEWSLETTER

From Participants For Participants -

EFAA 1575 Yarmouth Avenue, Boulder CO 80304 303.442.3042 www.efaa.org

Welcome to our first ever Participant Newsletter!

In 2018, EFAA created the **Participant Advisory Committee (PAC)** in its commitment to better serve the needs and elevate the voices of EFAA participants. We are a group of 11 participant volunteers who meet monthly to provide critical feedback on EFAA's programs and policies. We represent diverse backgrounds and experiences, and two of our members are elected each year to represent the goals and needs for our community on EFAA's Board.

Meet EFAA's Participant Advisory Committee members!

Joined PAC in 2022:

Indira Kumari was born in India and raised in Nepal. She has lived in Boulder for 13 years. "I work within the Nepali community, and my goal is to help bring communities together and help them access EFAA".

Patti Molina was born in Mexico and has lived in Boulder for over twenty years. "I want my community to know about EFAA's programs and resources."

Chelse Coleman was born in California and has lived in Boulder for three years. Chelse stepped away from the PAC in October for personal reasons. We will miss you, Chelse!

Joined PAC in 2023:

Jean Caris was born in Iowa and has lived in Boulder for 19 years. She raised her twin daughters and a son here as a single parent. "Hopefully, my time, talents, lived experience and efforts will be helpful in some small way."

Pete Kirby was born in Mount Kisco, NY and moved to Boulder in 1990. "I want to give back to the community and help other people."

Susan Bebout was born in Germany, raised in Okinawa and moved to Boulder in 1990. "I fell in love with Boulder the first time I saw it. I believe it is important to serve my community."

Renee Sante was born in Nebraska and first moved to Boulder in 1963. "My goal with EFAA is community building."

Wendy Abreu was born in Venezuela and has lived in Boulder for 9 months. "I feel proud to be on the EFAA PAC and contribute to the community."

Susan Gillespie was born in Denver and moved to the Boulder area 2 years ago. "My goal on PAC is to help make a difference for people's lives and health."

Kathleen Gilligan Smith was born in Kalamazoo, MI. She moved to Colorado in 2008 and then to Boulder in 2019.

"I was taught that wherever you go in life, make sure you become a good contributor to the community."

Victor Lemus was born in Mexico City and has lived in Boulder for 20 years. "I want to learn, help and spread information about EFAA to those that need help".

EFAA Staff liaison:

Ana Fernandez Frank is EFAA's Public Policy & Community Outreach Coordinator. She is from Buenos Aires, Argentina and has lived in Boulder for 10 years with her family. She was an EFAA volunteer for five years before starting her current position in May 2021.



Left to right: Susan G., Wendy, Kathleen, Susan B., Patti, Indira, Jean, Ana & Victor.
Not pictured here: Renee, Chelse & Pete.

We are excited to bring you PAC's first newsletter written for EFAA participants by EFAA participants.
We hope you find it useful! Have feedback? Email ana@efaa.org

Holiday gifts and foods available from EFAA this December!

Gift Room for Children and Youth

Every December, EFAA opens a Holiday Gift Room for EFAA families to choose gifts for their children.

Who? Families with children who have received services from EFAA between Jan. 1, 2023 thru Dec. 11, 2023

Where? 2850 Iris Ave/Diagonal Plaza, Boulder, CO

When? December 12 to 16th, 2023

How? No appointment needed. Only one member per household (no children).

More information: www.efaa.org/get-help/gift-room/

Hours of Operation

- Tuesday Dec 12: 9:30am – 12pm & 1:30 – 4pm
- Wednesday Dec 13: 9:30am – 12pm & 1:30 – 4pm
- Thursday Dec 14: 9:30am – 12pm & 1:30 – 4pm & 5 -7pm
- Friday Dec 15: 9:30am – 12pm & 1:30 – 4pm
- Saturday Dec 16: 9:30am – 12pm



Special foods for the holidays

The holidays are special time at EFAA's Food Bank! From **December 11 to 21**, EFAA will be distributing:

- **\$10 King Sooper gift cards** so families can buy their holiday favorites. Households with 1-2 members get 1 gift card (\$10), 3-5 members get 2 (\$20 total), and 6+ members get 3 (\$30 total).

- **Tamale ingredients** (corn husks, dried chilis and masa) available in the Food Bank. Other holiday foods may be offered depending on availability.



Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

Keeping everyone warm this winter...

October is full of trees with changing color leaves, which is the first sign the seasons are getting colder. Along with the cooler seasons comes the ever-increasing heating bill.

If you need help paying your energy bills, read on!

EFAA works with [Energy Outreach Colorado \(EOC\)](#) through the Bill Payment Assistance program, providing emergency financial assistance with past-due energy bills for income-qualified Colorado residents throughout the year. We can assist with utilities - gas and electric, as well as propane and firewood. At this time, participants needing help with gas and electric (typically Xcel) must have a disconnect notice to schedule an appointment at EFAA. Once you have an appointment, we recommend that you call your provider to let them know that you are waiting to get financial assistance. If you need firewood or propane, EFAA can assist if your bulk fuel is under 30%.

Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

Will begin accepting applications for the 2023-24 LEAP season on **November 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024**. EFAA will have applications available (in English and Spanish) in our lobby. In addition to completing the application, you will need other documentation such as proof of income, legal residency, social security number and birthdates, copy of your most recent heating bill, etc. For more information: cdhs.colorado.gov/leap or call 1-866-432-8435

Colorado's Affordable Residential Energy (CARE) program

provides income-qualified Coloradans in participating counties with free home energy efficiency upgrades for homeowners and renters.

www.energyoutreach.org/care/

Community Solar Program connects limited-income renters and homeowners in Colorado whose homes are not suitable for rooftop solar with free access to the cost savings of solar energy. Currently only available for Xcel Electric and Black Hills Electric customers.

www.energyoutreach.org/community-solar/



Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) provides critical emergency heating system repairs or replacements at no cost for income-qualified Colorado households that are approved for LEAP. Services include repair of failed furnaces or boilers and replacement of failed heating systems. www.energyoutreach.org/cip/

If you have both Medicare and Medicaid, you may qualify for Dual Special Needs Plans (DSNP) -also known as Dual Eligible- which are HMO type Medicare plans. Some of these plans offer additional incentives such as an Over the Counter (OTC) card that can be used to pay for utilities and food. Check with your current insurance to see if you are getting all the benefits that you are entitled to.

Important: These OTC/Utilities/Food cards are NOT part of Medicare, and a person can only qualify if they are Dual Eligible (Medicare and Medicaid). Insurance companies sell DSNP plans with incentives to get consumers to switch to their plan. We encourage people to not switch their Medical plan *only* for the "extra benefits" and check if your doctors are in the network, before choosing the best plan for you.



Did you know?

The waiting area for the Food Bank moved inside to the main lobby. Also, you can now make advance appointments for shopping. Reservations are not required but are highly encouraged

form.jotform.com/231226169903152



Scan QR code to make a reservation

THANK YOU to our PAC Editorial Team!

- Susan Bebout
- Kathleen Gilligan Smith
- Renee Sante



Ideas or Suggestions?

Do you have an idea for a story or suggestions on how the EFAA Participant Newsletter could be even better? If so, please send it to ana@efaa.org