

The Nez Family's New Beginning

Basic Needs - How EFAA Helped

- The Nez family worked with a resource navigator who assessed their initial situation and made a plan for them, channeled them to our Housing Resource Navigator to be waitlisted for housing support, provided some hoteling in the meantime and connected them to other community resources.
- The Nez family transitioned from our housing program to home ownership. In this case, EFAA helped with the first month of mortgage assistance for their mobile home.

Basic Needs - A Deeper Look

Financial Assistance

EFAA offers financial assistance for critical necessities to help stabilize households and prevent homelessness. Direct financial assistance is available to qualifying households helping to cover things like:

- Deposits or rental/mortgage payments for housing
- Mobile home taxes or liens
- Upcoming minor medical, dental or vision expenses
- Upcoming minor car repairs
- ID cards or birth certificates
- Bus tickets
- Hotel vouchers for short-term stays for families experiencing homelessness

EFAA may also help participants connect with other organizations and resources for needs outside of EFAA's services. This can include things like childcare, job training, home repair, healthcare and financial guidance. Learn more at <https://www.efaa.org/get-help/financial-assistance/>

EFAA also connects participants to partner's resources: Energy-based utility bill assistance through Energy Outreach Colorado. <https://energyoutreach.org/>

Housing Stabilization Program in partnership with the county <https://www.efaa.org/get-help/family-housing/>

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Economic Empowerment - How EFAA helped

- EFAA helped Sam get the funds to buy the tools and training to start his landscaping business, while he continued in the minimum wage job.
- Nella received funding to find a place to cook to start her catering business.
- Sam and Nella went to computer and finance classes at EFAA to learn practical tips to save for their future



Economic Empowerment - A Deeper Look

EFAA's Economic Empowerment program increases asset-building opportunities for families by boosting their financial knowledge and providing access to safe financial resources and products.

Classes and Support

We offer classes to increase knowledge about financial health, building technology skills, and increase credit/reduce debit. EFAA may also help participants connect with other organizations for things like filing taxes and accessing tax rebates, job training, and financial coaching

<https://www.efaa.org/get-help/economic-empowerment/>

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Food Bank - How EFAA Helped

The Nez Family used the food bank during their stay in housing which helped them continue saving for their goal. Every saving got them closer to being able to buy their own mobile home. Saving them over \$250 per month in grocery bills helped them take the pressure off of wondering how to feed their family. They were able to visit the food bank up to 2 times a month, and they had access to fresh produce, protein, dairy and more.

Food Bank - A Deeper Look

EFAA's food bank helps families, older adults, and people with disabilities access healthy and nutritious foods. EFAA distributes more food than any other food bank:

- Last year EFAA distributed 1.3M meals. That is an average of 600lbs of food per household at a value of \$1,182. 88% of EFAA Participants said the Food Bank helped them save money and eat healthy.
- Every month, over 1,700 households come to EFAA for food assistance
- Average 67 lbs of food per visit = 55 meals and \$132 of savings on grocery costs
- Over 150 volunteers are needed every week
- 80% of food is donated to EFAA, 20% is purchased by EFAA
- We are open every day Monday through Friday for donations and distribution
- Participants self-shop in our food bank similar to a small grocery store. This allows participants to choose the foods they would like in a dignified way
- We also offer home delivery for participants that have a medical need
- We also offer grocery pick-up for participants who can't shop during our normal hours
- EFAA offers Healthy choices, fresh produce, and culturally relevant products

<https://www.efaa.org/get-help/food-bank/>

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Housing Stabilization and Family Strengthening - How EFAA Helped

- They qualified for EFAA's short term housing for 4 months and then were able to move to the 2 year transitional housing. (*This program changed in 2025 to 11 month total assistance).
- EFAA provided childcare support for the youngest son and paid for summer camps for the older kids to allow their parents to work.
- EFAA's family strengthening navigator was able to give continued support to the Nez Family and the older kids were able to stay at their school and they are thriving.
- The Nez family graduated in October 2025 when they bought their own mobile home.

Housing Stabilization and Family Empowerment - A Deeper Look

EFAA's Housing Program supports families with children under the age of 18 who are experiencing homelessness. We also have limited housing for older adults, 60+, living in the mountain communities. EFAA strives to help as many families as possible, but assistance is dependent on the number of units available. <https://www.efaa.org/get-help/family-housing/>

Family Strengthening Program

All EFAA participants have access to a child-focused case manager who specializes in children's resources and programming to help families navigate challenges and support their child's growth. Families meet with the family strengthening navigator in a monthly basis, setting goals for the family. The navigator can refer the parents to parenting classes, find support for extracurricular courses with partners, and monitor with their school principal.

Learn more at [efaa.org](https://www.efaa.org)



The Nez Family's New Beginning

The Nez Family was evicted in 2022, EFAA helped them get into transitional housing, they were able to access the Food bank, live in EFAA's housing sites for over 2 years, take financial literacy classes, get support for their children and receive financial assistance to buy their business tools and training. They launched their own business. The Nez family graduated in October 2025 when they bought their own mobile home. They continue visiting the food bank from time to time and they are working hard to thrive in this community.

You walked in Sam and Nella's shoes today, what would you do if you lost your home and only had 72 hours to find shelter for your family?

You can see the impact EFAA had in not only supporting the Nez Family but helping them to get back on their feet and THRIVE. Check out all the ways you can Take Action and help neighbors like the Nez Family.