

Planning for Disaster Recovery

November 2023

Disaster recovery is a coordinated effort that leverages an entire community's capacity to envision a more resilient future and execute recovery strategies. While response and short-term recovery is more linear, long-term recovery is a collaborative process that requires coordination among all local government, non-profit and private sector entities with ample input from residents and community organizations. Effective long-term recovery can be realized with a Disaster Recovery Framework and a Long-Term Recovery Plan.



Disaster Recovery Framework

Disaster Recovery Frameworks define the organizational structure for recovery and outline anticipated agency and departmental roles and responsibilities. The framework aligns local agencies and organizations with recovery functions (i.e. infrastructure, economic, housing) and documents coordination processes for integrating state and federal support. Stakeholder engagement is integral to the development of the framework.

- [CA Disaster Recovery Framework](#)
- [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#)

Long-Term Recovery Plan

Long-Term Recovery Plans leverage the relationships outlined in the Disaster Recovery Framework to synthesize projects into an overarching recovery strategy that identifies project champions and partners. This plan outlines disaster impacts, anticipated challenges, and recovery projects. Community residents, organizations, and leaders are critical to plan development and community engagement is a foundational piece of this plan.

- [CalOES Post-Disaster Recovery Plan Template](#)
- [CalOES Post-Disaster Recovery Plan Guide](#)

COMING SOON

Plan Alignment and Integration

Recovery plans should align with existing local plans, policies, and projects outlined in Hazard Mitigation Plans, General Plans, Climate Adaptation/Resiliency Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Coastal Programs/Plans, etc. The California Disaster Recovery Framework, California State Hazard Mitigation Plan, and other state and federal plans and policies can also be leveraged to inform recovery plans. Alignment with state and federal priorities may strengthen applications for state and federal funding.

- [ResilientCA Plan Alignment Tool](#)



Case Studies and Funding

Sacramento County

In 2020, Sacramento County developed a recovery framework that outlines a concept of operations, assigns responsibilities to county agencies, and establishes direction and control of recovery activities. This framework aligns with the county Emergency Operations Plan, California Disaster Recovery Framework and National Disaster Recovery Framework.

[Sacramento County Recovery Plan](#)

Town of Paradise

Following the 2017 Camp Fire, the Town of Paradise produced a long-term recovery plan that includes a list of prioritized recovery projects, community engagement strategies and resulting feedback, and recovery initiatives undertaken by partners. This plan clearly specified the community's vision for rebuilding - welcoming, safer, stronger, better and greener.

[Paradise Long-Term Recovery Plan](#)

Ventura County

In 2019, Ventura County developed a recovery framework that outlines recovery task forces, recovery checklists, and federal assistance programs. This framework provides an overview of emergency management processes, such as disaster declarations, damage assessments, and after action reviews.

[Ventura County Disaster Recovery Plan](#)

Sonoma County

Following the 2017 wildfires, Sonoma County created a long-term recovery plan to identify strategic areas of recovery and resiliency. The plan established specific goals and action items based on extensive community engagement. Progress is monitored and reported by the newly created Sonoma County Office of Recovery and Resiliency.

[Sonoma Recovery and Resiliency Framework](#)

Disaster Recovery Planning Funding Sources

To fund a Disaster Recovery Framework, review annual preparedness funding allocations such as the [FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant](#), [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants](#), and [HCD Community Development Block Grant](#) program.

To fund a Long-Term Recovery Plan, review disaster-specific funding allocations such as the [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#), [HCD Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery \(CDBG-DR\)](#), and [US Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental](#) funding appropriation.

Visit the [CalOES Recovery Support Function website](#) to access:

- Technical assistance for Disaster Recovery Frameworks or Long-Term Recovery Plans
- Upcoming trainings and grant opportunities
- Guiding documents and resource guides
- Recovery Support Function resources and contact information

