

## RECOVERY ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 2026 EDITION

News-Resources & More



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



## MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

As we share the April 2026 Edition of the Recovery Roundtable, we want to extend our sincere appreciation to all our partners for their continued commitment to California's recovery efforts. This edition underscores the strength of our interagency collaboration, from the ongoing leadership and strategic alignment fostered through the California Recovery Support Functions Leadership Group (CRSFLG), to the critical support made possible through multiple SBA Physical Disaster Declarations that are helping communities begin rebuilding after recent storms, flooding, and wildfire events. As we continue to navigate our new normal, it's going to take a "whole of government" approach, now more than ever to meet the needs of those impacted by disasters across the state. Your engagement across these initiatives continues to accelerate recovery, enhance coordination, and ensure that impacted households and communities receive the assistance they need to move forward with resilience.

-IRC Leadership

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## RECOVERY HIGHLIGHTS



### 2025 Late December Storms

San Bernardino and Shasta counties were both significantly impacted by the 2025 Late December Storms.

In San Bernardino County, the storms affected substantial portions of Lytle Creek, Wrightwood, Phelan/Piñon Hills, and Hesperia. Working collaboratively, the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Management, the San Bernardino Fire Department, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) conducted field assessments that confirmed the county sustained more extensive damage than initially reported, including major damage to 28 homes. As a result, San Bernardino County received an SBA Physical Disaster Declaration covering the counties of Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Los Angeles, Modoc, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.



### 2026 Early January Storm, Tidal Flooding and King Tides

Humboldt and Marin counties were both simultaneously affected by the 2026 Early January Storms system and the King Tides event from December 31, 2025, through January 5, 2026, resulting in widespread tidal flooding across multiple communities.

In Humboldt County, flooding severely impacted the Town of King Salmon, where 38 homes were confirmed to have sustained major damage, leading to an SBA Physical Disaster Declaration that also covers the contiguous counties of Contra Costa, Del Norte, Marin, Mendocino, San

Shasta County experienced similar effects from the same storm system, which caused widespread flooding across the City of Redding and unincorporated areas of the county. Initial assessments identified extensive property damage to 49 homes, leading to an SBA Physical Disaster Declaration that also includes the contiguous counties of Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Los Angeles, Modoc, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.

Francisco, Siskiyou, Sonoma, and Trinity.

Marin County experienced similarly significant impacts, with substantial flooding in the Cities of Corte Madera, Larkspur, Sausalito, and Santa Velencia, where 81 homes and 11 businesses sustained major damage. As a result, Marin County also received an SBA Physical Disaster Declaration, which includes the contiguous counties of Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, San Francisco, Siskiyou, Sonoma, and Trinity.



### **Oakland Apartment Fire**

On Monday, January 19, 2026, an apartment building fire in Downtown Oakland occurred and resulted in the displacement of dozens of renters and impacted multiple surrounding businesses. The entire apartment building was deemed no longer safe, and Alameda County Sheriff's Office reached out to Cal OES for assistance for displaced residents and businesses.

Through strong collaboration and joint PDA efforts, 40 rental units, including surrounding businesses, were confirmed to have sustained major damage.

As a result, Alameda County received an SBA Physical Disaster Declaration which includes the contiguous counties of Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus.

FEMA's new Individual Assistance (IA) reforms, currently under review for potential inclusion in the Code of Federal Regulations, are being applied provisionally for DR-4856, Los Angeles Wildfires.

These reforms introduced significant improvements that expanded access to assistance and strengthened FEMA's ability to meet survivors' immediate and ongoing recovery needs. Among the most impactful changes were the introduction of Serious Needs Assistance and Displacement Assistance, which provide faster, more flexible support to eligible survivors facing urgent post-disaster needs. Together, these new forms of assistance help households address critical expenses, stabilize their living situations, and begin recovery more quickly in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

The reforms also strengthened FEMA's housing assistance framework by enhancing support for survivors with temporary housing needs. This improved approach, combined with strong survivor outreach and education efforts, helped households better understand available resources and navigate the recovery process more effectively. As a result, the disaster has generated 1,183 approvals and \$24.3 million in Continued Temporary Housing Assistance (CTHA) as of April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, the highest number of CTHA approvals in California disaster history.

In addition, the reforms expanded eligibility in ways that better support underinsured survivors and those with complex recovery circumstances. For example, home-based businesses may now qualify for Other Needs Assistance (ONA) for eligible business equipment losses. Under this disaster, that policy change contributed to California issuing its first-ever ONA maximum awards, helping ensure survivors with partial or limited insurance coverage can still access the support necessary to restore stability.

Taken together, these reforms represent an important modernization of FEMA's Individual Assistance programs. By broadening eligibility, introducing new forms of direct support, and improving survivor understanding of available resources, they are helping drive more effective and equitable long-term recovery outcomes.

Ongoing collaboration among federal, state, county, tribal, and community partners continues to advance housing solutions and expand access to recovery resources. Through coordinated outreach and multiple joint programs, survivors have benefited from significant levels of support, including the following (per FEMA as of April 21, 2026):

### **Registrations**

- Valid Registrations: 265,616

### **Financial Assistance Approved**

- Total IHP Approved: \$174,578,633.09
- Housing Assistance (HA): \$73,965,479.62
- Other Needs Assistance (ONA): \$100,613,153.47

### **Financial Assistance Disbursed**

- Total IHP Disbursed: \$179,029,401.26
- HA Disbursed: \$75,331,735.81
- ONA Disbursed: \$103,697,665.45

### **Maximum Awards**

- HA Max Awards: 494 (Totaling \$21,538,400.00)

- ONA Max Awards: 5 (Totaling \$218,000.00)

### Specific Assistance Categories

- Clean & Sanitize Assistance: \$815,700
- Serious Needs Assistance: \$23,501,920
- Displacement Assistance: \$35,799,496

These combined efforts ensure survivors receive the financial assistance, information, and services needed to progress through recovery with informed decision-making and improved program access.

### State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) and Long-Term Recovery

The State VAL continues to work alongside Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs), Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs), and nonprofit partners that are driving recovery efforts across the state.

Over the past quarter, partner organizations provided vital support to flood-impacted communities, including volunteer assistance for debris and tree removal, access to AirBnb stays, distribution of clean-up supplies, and case management services.

For DR-4856, voluntary rebuilding and smoke-remediation partners expanded outreach and delivered presentations to DCMs and LTRGs. Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN), Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS), Samaritan's Purse, Habitat for Humanity Greater San Gabriel Valley, and Habitat for Humanity LA equipped case managers with information to help households qualify for their programs.

The Eaton Fire Collaborative (EFC) continues to show progress. Under the guidance of National VOAD partner, Disaster Leadership Team, The EFC LTRG held their first Disaster Case Manager (DCM) and Unmet Needs committee meetings in March. They are on track to bring the first vetted client cases to this group for funding in April.

[Visit our IA Webpage](#)



### California Recovery Support Functions Leadership Group (CRSFLG)

On February 26, 2026, the Recovery Support Functions (RSF) Team convened its quarterly California Recovery Support Functions Leadership Group (CRSFLG) meeting. This executive-level interagency forum brings together senior leaders from the RSFs' primary coordinating state agencies to strengthen alignment for future disasters,

share updates and program impacts, and identify gaps, emerging issues, and recovery priorities.

The RSF Team extends its appreciation to all participating primary and supporting agencies and looks forward to continuing to build and strengthen these critical partnerships.



## Housing CA 2026 Conference – Sacramento, CA

The Housing California 2026 Conference held March 19-20, 2026, highlighted key challenges and shifts shaping housing recovery across the state. Discussions focused on rising construction costs, insurance instability in wildfire-prone areas, and the increasing risk of displacement for low- and moderate-income households. A major theme was the need to better align recovery efforts with long-term housing resilience, including rebuilding in the Wildland-Urban Interface and addressing gaps in available and affordable rental housing. The conference also emphasized upcoming structural changes at the state level, including the transition of housing functions within the HCD and the development of a new statewide homeless agency. Overall, the conference reinforced the need for stronger coordination, faster rebuilding pathways, and more adaptive housing strategies to support disaster impacted communities.

### **Building Data Partnerships to Inform Equitable Disaster Recovery**

The Economic Recovery Support Function (RSF) and coordinating state agency, GO-Biz, have launched a project to strengthen intergovernmental data-sharing for disaster recovery. This work improves access to and alignment of economic, workforce, housing, and business data to support evidence-based strategies. A key milestone is a data-sharing agreement with the Employment Development Department (EDD) to provide access to pre- and disaster-period data to better assess impacts and drive recovery planning. Discussions are also underway with the California

### **Accelerating Small Business Recovery Through Digital Capacity Building**

In coordination with LA County's wildfire recovery work, the Economic Recovery Support Function (RSF), GO-Biz, and the Office of Private Sector/NGO are advancing a pilot to help wildfire-impacted small businesses strengthen their digital and social media capacity. LA County outreach found many neighborhood businesses need help rebuilding their customer base after losing foot traffic. As a first step, LA County's Department of Economic Opportunity (LADEO) launched the Business Labs Series—free,

Department of Tax & Fee Administration (CDTFA), and UCLA's Latino Policy & Politics Institute (LPPI) to identify data to support recovery efforts—particularly in communities facing disproportionate disaster impacts. Together, this work is strengthening coordination and data-driven disaster recovery.

in-person tech training and digital marketing workshops. LA County is also partnering with community colleges and universities to match 100 students one-on-one with businesses to build online platforms, manage social media, develop content, and expand customer outreach.

[Visit our RSF Webpage](#)

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## QCM Compliance Review Findings

Cal OES conducts compliance assessments of Subrecipient projects throughout the State. Those projects found to have compliance deficiencies are issued a detailed report of findings along with supporting citations. QCM staff work directly with subrecipients and the program to assist with a corrective action planning to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of their awards.

Since 2019, Compliance assessment metrics have been recorded in detail capturing subrecipient compliance deficiencies based on Title 2 CFR 200 requirements. These identified compliance deficiencies provide QCM data-based measures while they continue to work with Recovery programs and subrecipients to find innovative ways to provide technical assistance.

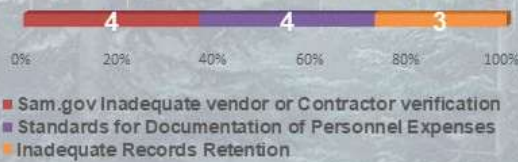
A consistent deficiency measured by QCM is inadequate vendor or Contractor verification. Between 2020-2025 it was in the top 5 findings for each year and in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026. What does the measure tell us? That subrecipients are unclear on documentation standards and that "Responsible" or "not being suspended or debarred" is not a measure of CA State Licensing. It is a measure of Sam.gov verification. It is also a measured deficiency that can result in de-obligation for subrecipients if it is found they did business with a suspended or debarred party. QCM works directly with Recovery programs and subrecipients to provide technical assistance to reduce the occurrence of this deficiency over time.



### Top 5 findings 2020-2025:

- Missing Contract Provisions 40%
- Inadequate Vendor or Contractor Verification 19%
- Inadequate Procurement and/or Procurement Policy 15%
- Inadequate documentation of personnel Expenses 9%
- Inadequate Internal Controls 4%

### 1st Quarter Compliance Review Findings 2026



## Compliance Review Advisories

Compliance advisories are advisories issued during compliance reviews reports on project area documentation or on the topics of Subrecipient Internal Controls to provide technical assistance to mitigate a potential future problem noted during a compliance review project. The most common advisory is to update the records retention policy of organization. Advisories do not require follow-up action but do a lot to provide compliance assistance before something becomes a problem.



[RecoveryQCM@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:RecoveryQCM@caloes.ca.gov)

Cal OES Recovery QCM Team 2026

## RECOVERY RESOURCES



## Infrastructure Systems & Natural and Cultural Resources

The [INF/NCR Bi-Monthly Bulletin](#) goes out to partners to highlight funding opportunities, technical assistance resources, feature relevant news items, and socialize upcoming events.

# Water District

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

## Funding Opportunities STATE GRANTS & LOANS

**CA State Water Resources Control Board:**

- Division of Financial Assistance (DFA)** provides loans and grant funding for construction of drinking water treatment and distribution systems.
- CAA Urgent Drinking Water Need Project** utilizes funds to address urgent drinking water needs due to drought, contamination, or other eligible emergencies. Eligibility includes Public Agencies, Community Water Systems and Nonprofits serving in DAC.
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)** provides funding assistance to a wide range of water infrastructure projects. States are responsible for operation of their CWSRF, project selection, and type of assistance awarded. The program can finance projects from \$1 - 100 million. Projects must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and applicable federal environmental laws to receive funding from the State Water Board.

**CA Infrastructure & Economic Development Bank (iBank):**

- Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF)** provides low-cost, direct loans to local governments and nonprofits sponsored by public agencies for a wide variety of public infrastructure and economic expansion projects (excluding housing) that improve and sustain communities.

For more funding opportunities, visit [California Grants Portal](#)

### NCR RSF MISSION

The mission of the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF with Cal OES is to integrate subject matter experts, assets, and capabilities to support local and tribal governments and communities to address natural and cultural resource recovery and mitigate unavoidable adverse effects. For questions, please email [LongTermRecovery@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:LongTermRecovery@caloes.ca.gov)

## Additional Funding Needs

The INF/NCR RSF continues to respond to multiple requests from local entities seeking alternative funding for continuing needs. This entails researching grant and loan options then coordinating follow-up meetings with partners and experts and delivering tailored resource packages to meet the need. Some recent requests have included a medical facility's urgent need for a power generator, a water agency depleted by the 2025 Eaton Fire requiring repairs, and a rural school rebuilding after total fire loss. Recently, we were able to bring our partners from SBA and USDA together to blend some creative funding opportunities together for a water district in need.

While some efforts may not yield the funding desired, the technical support and coordination with state and federal partners is appreciated.

For any additional funding needs, we encourage you to submit an [Alternate Funding Research Request Form](#).

## Recovery Unit

Center for Preparedness and Response



**Who we are:**

We are a dedicated team within CDPH committed to leading and coordinating public health recovery efforts through planning, training, technical assistance, interagency collaboration, and deployment to ensure effective preparedness, response, and resilience.

**Our expertise is:**

Public Health, Emergency Management, Social Determinants of Health, Partnerships, Equity, Inclusion, Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Recovery Support Function (RSF) Health and Social Services.

**We work with:**

State (e.g. Emergency Medical Services Authority [EMSA] and California Office of Emergency Services [CALOES]), federal (e.g. Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response [ASPR-CDC] and Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA]), local, and tribal governments.

**Our Activities:**

- Our Grant Funding:**  
Future of Public Health (FoPH), Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)
  - Public health recovery framework
  - Concept of operations within the Medical Health Coordination Center (MHCC)
  - Training for med/health partners
  - Recovery toolkit for assistance
  - Proactive engagement with Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs)
- Technical Assistance:**  
Trainings, Consultations, Guidance
  - Overview of health and social services recovery and support functions
  - Conducting recovery needs assessments trainings
  - Support LHJs with recovery planning
- Partnerships:**  
Outreach, Collaboration, Increase Resilience
  - Regular partner meetings
  - Support LHJ recovery capability and capacity
  - Strengthen knowledge around long term recovery about Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs)

[CPR\\_RecoveryUnit@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CPR_RecoveryUnit@cdph.ca.gov)

The Recovery Unit at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in the Center for Preparedness and Response (CPR) is a dedicated team committed to leading and coordinating public health recovery efforts through planning, training, technical assistance, interagency collaboration, and deployment to ensure effective preparedness, response, and resilience. Activities include aligning recovery priorities with existing grants- Future of Public Health (FoPH), Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), and Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), Technical Assistance, and Partnerships

### SAP OPERATIONS

As the biggest natural disaster of 2025, the Los Angeles January wildfires (combined) were a devastating event. The CalOES SAP team was deployed to support various recovery operations. Although the local region did not require an SAP mission due to their internal resources, CalOES SAP supported the Watershed Task Force. Special thanks to Caltrans for providing 30 SAP engineers to support the Watershed program. Without the support of our SAP partners these critical operations would have been severely impacted.



SAP NEWSLETTER EXERPT

## Safety Assessment Program Newsletter

The Safety Assessment Program (SAP) began releasing a bi-annual SAP Newsletter for our SAP Evaluators. The newsletter is used to engage our evaluators by providing recent program updates and any future SAP

trainings, exercises, or events that are upcoming. In our January 2026 release, the SAP Newsletter provided information on the SAP team's operational role in the 2025 Los Angeles January Wildfires, the SAP 2025 Exercise, the CalOES SAP hosted trainings in January 2026, and future goals of the program.

The next release of the SAP Newsletter is planned for July 2026. Prior issues can be found on the [SAP Webpage](#).

### **Safety Assessment Program Quarterly Q/A**

The Safety Assessment Program (SAP) has begun a quarterly Q&A session for our SAP Evaluators and Partner Organizations. During these sessions attendees can ask questions about the program and trainings and get real-time responses from the SAP team. The 1st session occurred on February 5th, 2026, and included questions from local jurisdictions on SAP processes and procedures.

The SAP team's next Q&A session is scheduled for May 14th, 2026, from 3-4pm PST. Please visit the [SAP Webpage](#) for the meeting link and information.



[Visit our SAP Webpage](#)

### **The CalAssist Mortgage Fund Program**

The CalAssist Mortgage Fund Program has expanded significantly, and funding is still available for California counties that received a state or federal disaster declaration between January 1, 2023, and January 8, 2025. The program covers up to 12 months of mortgage payments with a maximum assistance amount of \$100,000, a substantial increase from the original three months and \$20,000 cap. Homeowners who previously received the initial three months of assistance are also eligible for additional funding. Income limits have also been raised for Los Angeles County now set at \$281,000 and Butte County at \$255,000, allowing more households to qualify for this program. CalAssist staff has been proactive and in the community presenting information and answering questions about the program on Long-Term Recovery Group meetings for DR-4856 and at a senior survivor event in the Palisades.

As of March 26, 2026, the Cal Assist program has approved 887 households for a total of \$29.5 million in grants. Of these funds, 79% have supported homeowners affected by the Eaton Fire, 17% by the Palisades Fire, and 4% by other California disasters.

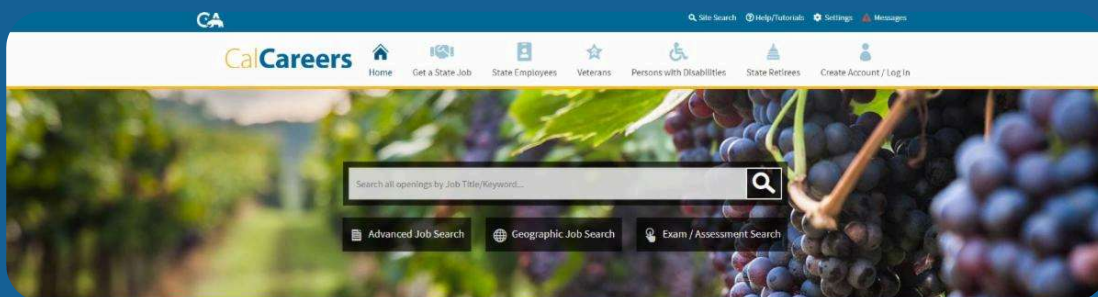
## LA Wildfires: One-Year Insurance Recovery Insights from United Policyholders

United Policyholders, a nonprofit organization that advocates for and educates consumers on insurance matters, has released its *LA Wildfires – Year One Survey Report*. This survey provides important insights into survivor insurance claims, along with the progress and challenges observed one year into the recovery process. Survivors, partners, and recovery providers can access the full report and summary findings at [www.uphelp.org/surveyresults](http://www.uphelp.org/surveyresults).

## MILESTONES & DEADLINES

July 9, 2026  
DR-4856 period of assistance deadline.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



## Are you looking for an exciting and fast-paced career?

Join the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and be part of an organization that serves as a leader in emergency management and homeland security through dedicated service to all. We are looking for

enthusiastic and motivated individuals to join our team. If you are interested in a challenging opportunity in a high-energy, team-oriented environment, you are encouraged to apply.

[Job Openings](#)

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