

From: [Cal OES Recovery](#)
To: Jake_Shirley@CalOES
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May 2024



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

RECOVERY ROUNDTABLE
NEWS · RESOURCES · MORE

Greetings from the Cal OES Recovery Directorate!

Here we are, already approaching the end of the fiscal year, and we're happy to share the third edition of the Cal OES Recovery Roundtable. As we enter the summer months and prepare for whatever this next season has in store for California, we'd like to continue to share updates and resources we hope you find useful. While active disasters continue to keep us busy year-round (the San Diego Joint Field Office finally closed on May 14th!), we'll continue to prioritize stakeholder engagement and resource sharing because it takes all of us to help keep California prepared and resilient.

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed, please send those to ircbranchsupport@caloes.ca.gov and don't forget to click the "Subscribe" link in the bulletin so you don't miss out on future editions. Thank you for all you do for California and we appreciate your partnership!

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Cal OES Holds Housing Workshops With Local Partners



In a concerted effort to enhance delivery of disaster sheltering and housing, the **Recovery Support Functions (RSF)** orchestrated a comprehensive housing training, executive session, and subsequent workshop with state partners. The workshop aimed to foster collaboration, refine strategy, and establish robust data-sharing mechanisms to bolster sheltering and housing programs post-disaster.

The centerpiece of the workshop was the MGT-477 course on "**Roles for State, Tribal, and Territorial Governments in the Implementation of Disaster Housing Programs,**" delivered by the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University. The in-person training garnered significant interest, with 59 registrations indicating a strong commitment to advancing disaster housing initiatives.

Following the training session, the **California Recovery Support Function Leadership Group (CRSFLG)** convened top executives from various state agencies and served as a platform to receive critical disaster updates and align collaborative efforts to ensure a streamlined response framework.

The Housing workshop had over 25 attendees and featured insightful presentations from key entities such as Cal OES Recovery, the Office of Private Sector and NGO Coordination, the State Voluntary Agency Liaison, California Department of Social Services, and the Department of Housing and Community Development. Discussions in the workshop revolved around identifying challenges and bridging gaps in sheltering and housing programs. Participants engaged in discussions on resource alignment, and effective communication strategies.

The workshop marked a significant step towards fostering synergy among stakeholders and a robust exchange of ideas and shared commitment to collaboration.



Resource Highlights

Reform to FEMA's Individual Assistance Program Helps Survivors Recover Faster

FEMA has introduced reforms to its Individual Assistance program, effective for disasters declared on or after March 22, 2024. The changes aim to simplify processes, broaden eligibility, and deliver quicker aid to those in need. The reforms focus on simplifying the application process to expedite access to services, reducing bureaucratic hurdles for survivors, providing new direct cash assistance benefits and reducing red tape and expanding eligibility.

These updates stem from direct feedback from survivors, governmental staff, and stakeholders. FEMA has collaborated with stakeholders to improve direct housing processes, enhancing the overall responsiveness of its assistance program. **Learn more about the reform [here](#).**



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Recovery Resources



Infrastructure Recovery Resources

\$41 billion in [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) funding has been announced and is headed to California with over 1,689 specific projects identified for funding. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



Housing Recovery Resources

The goal of **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)** is to combat housing discrimination, eliminate racial bias, undo historic patterns of segregation, and lift barriers that restrict access to foster

passed, approximately \$29.9 billion has been announced for transportation – to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports – and roughly \$3 billion has been announced for clean water and water infrastructure. California received \$3.7 billion to connect everyone in the state to reliable high-speed. Specifically for transportation infrastructure, there are numerous NOFOs coming out or currently accepting grant apps that cover a lot of current infrastructure recovery projects: [Key Notices of Funding Opportunity | US Department of Transportation](#)

inclusive communities and achieve racial equity, fair housing choice, and opportunity for all Californians. [Click here to access the AFFH Mapping Tool.](#)

The [Defense Community Infrastructure Program](#) is designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure, supportive of a military installation, to enhance military value, support the training of cadets at “covered educational institutions,” installation resilience, and/or military family quality of life.

Community Planning and Capacity Building

In honor of Earth Day, FEMA is releasing the “[Climate Adaptation Planning: Guidance for Emergency Managers](#).” The guide helps emergency managers incorporate climate adaptation into planning efforts and the structure is designed to walk state, local, tribal, and territorial partners through the Six Step Planning Process, as identified in “[Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101: Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans](#).”



The guide identifies emergency manager responsibilities and resources in climate adaptation planning, by highlighting:

- Climate impacts by community lifeline and recovery support function.
- Existing climate mapping tools.
- Potential funding resources; and
- Climate trainings.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Grant Program is authorized by the [California Urban Forestry Act of 1978](#).

Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and administered through CAL FIRE UCF Program. The USDA Forest Service UCF Program is a covered program under President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), established through [Executive Order 13985](#).

RSF Team Introduces Alternate Funding Request Form

The **Infrastructure (INF) Recovery Support Function (RSF)** Team provides grant funding and research to support local infrastructure recovery.

If you have experienced a natural disaster and have unmet infrastructure recovery needs, complete the [Alternate Funding Research Form](#) so their team can gauge how they can best provide assistance!

Hungry for More Resources?

The Cal OES Recovery Support Functions Unit produces recovery resource guides containing funding and technical assistance opportunities that can assist local communities with common disaster recovery challenges.



[Recovery Resources Guides](#)



Milestones and Deadlines



Veoci: A New Automated Storage Solution

The **SAP team** has soft-launched the new **Veoci** platform, serving as the program's upgraded database storage solution. This transition streamlines administrative tasks and enhance overall program automation and user experience. Alongside improved data management tools, Veoci introduces several additional features:

- **New SAP Digital ID:** This feature replaces hard copy badges and introduces dynamic IDs that can be activated during disasters. By ensuring access is restricted to credentialed and verified personnel, it enhances security within disaster theaters.
- **Support Category:** A new addition to the program, the Support category has the potential to effectively double SAP forces during disasters. Support roles will primarily involve assisting evaluators with logistical support and safety monitoring.
- **SAP Activation Notifications:** This tool empowers the SAP team to swiftly contact and mobilize volunteers by sending tailored notifications based on the incident's

requirements. Responses can then be followed up with additional directions, enabling efficient coordination during incidents.

Want to Participate? Given the significance of resource mobilization during disasters, MOUs play a pivotal role. Currently, with only 821 SAP-trained Disaster Service Workers that do not require an MOU, the collaboration of volunteers and local SAP personnel becomes invaluable during catastrophic events. However, to deploy these resources effectively, local jurisdictions must sign the CalOES MOU. While MOUs can be signed at any time, it's crucial for all jurisdictions to engage proactively in this process to ensure readiness for potential emergencies. **To request a SAP MOU with CalOES**, contact SAP at SAP@caloes.ca.gov

SAP Training Opportunities: The SAP liaisons and partner organizations continue to host trainings on the SAP website. And the SP team is developing a new version of the training in the near future. [Safety Assessment Program | California Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#)

All SAP trained evaluators and coordinators can access their SAP Veoci profile on <http://www.veoci.com/>.

Local Mitigation Planning Unit Revamps AB 2140 Outreach

Passed in 2006, AB 2140 allows California counties and cities to be considered for additional state cost-share on eligible Public Assistance projects by adopting their current, FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) into the Safety Element of their General Plan. Although communities can complete the required steps at any time, the best time to do so is during the approval and adoption of your LHMP!



The [AB 2140 Fact Sheet](#) is available on the [Hazard Mitigation Planning Division](#) page on the Cal OES website.

For more information on AB2140, please reach out to their team:
AB2140@caloes.ca.gov.

Hazard Mitigation Rolling Notice of Interest Submission

With some system expansions and staffing augmentation, the Hazard Mitigation Section now allows communities to submit their proposals (Notice of Interest) on a rolling basis in our [Cal OES Engage Portal](#).

This means that communities no longer must wait until there is an open Notice of Funding

Opportunity to be considered for funding! If you have any questions about the process or wish to set up a scoping call to determine if your proposal is eligible in the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs, please contact our team at HMA@caloes.ca.gov.

Quality Control and Monitoring



Cal OES **Quality Control and Monitoring (QCM)** Unit is tasked with monitoring Recovery Subrecipients to ensure that Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation subawards are utilized for authorized purposes, and in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subawards.

As of April 19, 2024 the QCM has reached a new milestone by completing at least one compliance assessment in each of California's 58 counties!

See the map on the left, which identifies percentages of awards monitored, by county. These monitoring efforts are a key part of the grant life cycle and allow our team to identify potential issues and help to correct them before they result in a loss of grant funding.



Upcoming Trainings

Capacity-Building Webinar

Join the CalOES Recovery Support Function team on **June 20, 2024, from 3-4 p.m.** for a capacity-building webinar. Speakers will include local, state, and federal subject-matter experts. The goal of these quarterly webinars is to foster a community of preparedness among disaster recovery partners and stakeholders. Visit www.caloes.ca.gov/RSE to view recording of prior webinars.

Is Your Business Ready to Outsmart Disaster?

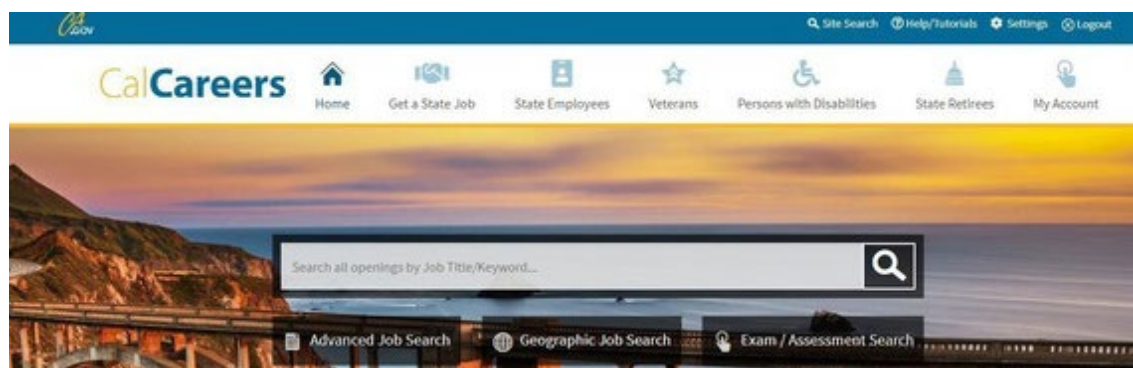
The **California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA)** is hosting a webinar **Wed, May 22, 2024, 10:00 AM** to help businesses Outsmart Disaster. You will learn how to protect your small business before, during, and after the next major disaster. This will include:



- The CalOSBA Resiliency Training Team, who will share tools and resources that can help your business get on a path toward resiliency
- Experts with the Department of Insurance, who will share advice on different commercial insurance options
- The Small Business Administration (SBA), who will educate business owners on how they can apply for disaster assistance

Please [register](#) to join this webinar and hear from agencies who can help your business OUTSMART DISASTER!

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.

May Opportunities



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