# CA-4856 FEMA Wildfire Recovery Guide

Thank you for attending the discussion on recovering from the Los Angeles wildfires. Below are key resources and information to assist you on the path to recovery.

#### Resources Included:

- 1. FEMA Grant Assistance: How to Apply
- 2. Financial Assistance Programs
- 3. SBA Loan Assistance: How to Apply
- 4. Housing Support
- 5. Other Support
- 6. Eligibility/Inspection
- 7. Small Business Administration Programs
- 8. Protecting Yourself from Fraud

- 9. Mental Health Resources
- 10. Preparing to Return Home
- 11. Health Concerns
- 12. Debris Removal and Rebuilding
- 13. Business/Non-Profit/House of Worship Resources
- 14. Disaster Preparedness
- 15. Additional Resources
- 16. Key Contact Information

# 1. FEMA Grant Assistance: How to Apply (Social)

- Call: 1-800-621-3362 (7 a.m. 10 p.m. PT, daily).
- Online: Visit DisasterAssistance.gov.
- FEMA App: Download to register and track your application.
- Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams: In your community
- In Person: Visit Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs): (Video)
  - Altadena Disaster Recovery Center: 540 W. Woodbury Rd. Altadena, CA 91001.
  - Pasadena City College Community Education Center: 3035 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91106. Closes permanently on Friday, 1/31/25.
  - UCLA Research Park West: 10850 Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064.
  - Locations are open 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., including holidays.
- FEMA Offers Recovery Tips for California Wildfire Survivors



## **2. Financial Assistance Programs**

FEMA offers grant aid for: (Factsheets)

- Home Repairs: Financial help for uninsured disaster-related damages.
- **Temporary Housing:** Rental assistance, transitional sheltering, and lodging expense reimbursement.
- Personal Property Loss: Replacement for essential items lost in the wildfire.
- Disaster-Related Needs: Includes childcare, transportation, medical/dental expenses, and funeral costs.

## 3. SBA Loan Assistance: How to Apply (Social)

- Call: 800-659-2955 (7 a.m. 10 p.m. PT, daily).
- Online: Visit https://lending.sba.gov/search-disaster/.
- In Person: Visit Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs):
  - o Appointment
  - o Altadena Disaster Recovery Center: <u>540 W. Woodbury Rd. Altadena, CA 91001</u>.
  - Pasadena City College Community Education Center: <u>3035 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA</u> <u>91106</u>. Closes permanently on Friday, 1/31/25.
  - UCLA Research Park West: <u>10850 Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064</u>.
  - Locations are open 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., including holidays.

Important Deadlines: Apply for FEMA and SBA assistance by March 10, 2025.

#### 4. Housing Support (Factsheet)

- <u>Transitional Sheltering Assistance</u> (TSA): Short-term hotel accommodations while you develop a permanent housing plan. (<u>Translated TSA Journey Graphics</u>)
- <u>Rental Assistance</u>: Covers temporary housing costs for those with uninhabitable homes.

- Lodging Expense Reimbursement (LER): Reimbursement for out-of-pocket hotel expenses due to displacement.
- How FEMA Determines if a Home is Habitable
- What FEMA Assistance Covers
- <u>Help for the Unhoused</u>
- Help for Survivors with Insurance (Social)

For questions about <u>eligibility</u> or <u>housing</u> options, contact FEMA at **1-800-621-3362**.

## 5. Other Support (Factsheet)

- <u>Personal Property</u>: Financial assistance to repair or replace essential household items such as furniture, appliances, clothing, and tools needed for work that were damaged or destroyed in a disaster.
- <u>Childcare</u>: Assistance to cover increased childcare costs due to a disaster, including daycare or babysitting expenses for children under 13.
- **Medical and Dental:** Financial aid for disaster-related medical and dental expenses, such as hospital bills, prescription medications, or dental care resulting from injury during the event.
- **Funeral**: Assistance to help with disaster-related funeral or burial costs, including caskets, burial plots, or cremation services.
- **Transportation**: Aid to repair or replace a vehicle damaged or destroyed in a disaster, or to cover disaster-related public transportation costs.
- **Moving and Storage:** Assistance for the cost of moving and storing personal property to prevent further disaster-related damage.
- **Miscellaneous and Other Expenses**: Funds to cover necessary disaster-related costs not specifically listed, such as generators for medical needs or specialized equipment for individuals with disabilities.
- <u>Clean and Sanitize Your Home:</u> Financial assistance for cleaning and sanitizing a home damaged by a disaster, including debris removal or mold remediation.

# 6. Eligibility/Inspection

• Eligibility/Appeals

- After You Apply, Now What
- FEMA Determination Letters are Important First Step to Receive Assistance
- How Do I Appeal FEMA's Decision?
- Inspection
  - At Home Inspections

## 7. Small Business Administration Programs

- <u>SBA Overview Video for Eaton Fire</u>
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides long-term low interest loans to qualified homeowners up to \$500,000 to replace or repair their primary residence.
- Qualified renters and homeowners may borrow up to \$100,000 to replace or repair personal property such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances damaged or destroyed in a disaster.
- <u>Home Disaster Loans</u>: Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and personal property, including automobiles.
- <u>Business Physical Disaster Loans</u>: Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non-profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible.
- <u>Economic Injury Disaster Loans</u> (EIDL): Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

## 8. Protecting Yourself from Fraud

- Beware of Stolen Identity and Disaster Fraud
- FEMA representatives will always carry official identification. Verify their credentials.
- FEMA will never charge fees for applications, inspections, or assistance.
- Report suspected fraud or identity theft related to FEMA assistance by calling **1-800-621-3362**.

- Price Gouging
  - Here's how to file a price gouging complaint:
  - o Online: Online Complaint Reporting Tool
  - Phone: 800-593-8222
  - Email: <u>complaints@dcba.lacounty.gov</u>

#### **9. Mental Health Resources**

Disasters can take an emotional toll. Reach out for support:

- FEMA-Funded Programs
  - **988 Crisis Lifeline**: Call, text, or chat at 988 for 24/7 confidential support.
  - Disaster Distress Helpline: Call or text 1-800-985-5990 for disaster-specific emotional support. (Social)
- LA County Disaster Mental Health Resources: 1-800-854-7771
  - The Mental Health Impact of Wildfires
  - Helping children after a wildfire: Tips for caregivers and teachers

#### **10. Preparing to Return Home**

- Preparing to Return to Your Property After the Fires: Frequently Asked Questions
- <u>After the Disaster: Landlords and Tenants Guidelines</u>
- Can I Return Home App from CalOES: (<u>Genasys Protect App</u>)

#### **11. Health Concerns**

- LA County Public Health <u>Returning Home After a Fire Guidelines</u>
- South Coast Air Quality Management District: <u>2025 Wildfire Response</u> | <u>Air Quality Index</u>
  - South Coast Issues Windblown Dust and Ash Advisory (01/22/25)

- <u>Take Precautions to Avoid Exposure to Wildfire Ash</u> (01/15/25)
- California Smoke Spotter App: Provides real-time updates on air quality. (Fact Sheet)
- Environmental Protection Agency: <u>2025 California Wildfires</u>
- PPE
  - Pasadena Public Health Department is distributing free PPE to those affected by the Eaton Fire. (City of Pasadena)
  - The Los Angeles Public Library is also distributing PPE.

## **12.** Debris Removal and Rebuilding

- Debris Removal
  - Hazardous Household Waste Removal: Managed by the <u>EPA</u> to safely remove toxic materials like batteries, asbestos, and propane tanks. (<u>Frequently Asked Questions</u>)
  - Debris Removal Program: Residents must submit a Right of Entry (ROE) form to participate.
     Visit <u>recovery.lacounty.gov</u> for updates.
- Rebuilding
  - Hazard Mitigation under the Individuals and Households Program-Wildfire Measures

#### **13.** Business/Non-Profit/House of Worship Resources

- FEMA Help for the Self Employed: <u>FEMA Assistance for Self-Employed for Equipment, Tool</u>
  <u>Replacement</u>
- Faith-based organizations, community, volunteer and non-profit organizations may be eligible to apply for FEMA grants in areas eligible for the <u>FEMA Public Assistance Program</u>. Only organizations with state or IRS tax exempt status may be considered.
- SBA Economic
  - A separate SBA Disaster Assistance program known as business physical disaster loans covers property damage. A business may qualify for both an EIDL and a physical disaster loan. The maximum combined loan amount is \$2 million.

## **14. Disaster Preparedness**

- Wildfire Preparation
  - o <u>Wildfire Prep Video</u>
  - o Go Bag: Important Documents Video
  - o Evacuation Order vs. Evacuation Warning
  - Monitor California Fire Activity: <u>www.fire.ca.gov</u>
  - Watch Duty App: app.watchduty.org
  - o Wildfire Preparedness: ready.gov/wildfires
- Flood After Fire Risk
  - o Floods Increase After Fires: fema.gov/fact-sheet/flood-risks-increase-after-fires (Social)
  - Flood Risks Increase After Fires: <u>fema.gov/press-release/20250125/possible-rainfall-poses-new-concerns-wildfire-survivors</u>

## **15. Additional Resources**

- <u>Altadena/Eaton Resources</u>
- Los Angeles/Palisades Resources
- LA County Malibu Resources
- <u>City of Malibu Palisades Fire Page</u>
- Pasadena Resources
- **Disaster Unemployment Assistance:** FEMA-funded, state-administered.
- Disaster Legal Services
- <u>Assistance for Business Owners and Workers</u>
- <u>Replacing Lost Documents</u>
- Vital Records Replacement: Contact the LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office at 1-800-201-8999. (Online | In Person | By Mail)
- Los Angeles County residents directly impacted by fires can request property and vital records free
  of charge to help with recovery efforts from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County
  Clerk's Office. If you have been impacted, please call 800-201-8999 and select Option 1, followed
  by Option 2, or email your request with specific information to recorder@rrcc.lacounty.gov.
- GoFundMe Resources: <u>Support Page</u> | <u>FEMA Video</u>
- FEMA External Affairs Hiring for Los Angeles Wildfires

• Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans: Low-interest loans for home repairs, property replacement, or small business needs. Visit <u>sba.gov</u> for details.

## **16. Key Contact Information**

- California Wildfire Page: <u>CA.gov/LAFires</u> (<u>Social</u>)
- FEMA Disaster Assistance Updates: <u>fema.gov/disaster/4856/news-media</u>
- Los Angeles County Recovery Updates: recovery.lacounty.gov
- Southern California Edison (Outage Center): 1-800-655-4555
- SoCalGas: 1-800-427-2200
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Outage Map): (800) 342-5397
- <u>Clean Power Alliance</u>: (888) 585-3788
- SoCalGas (<u>Fire Updates</u>): (800) 427-2200
- Los Angeles Unified School District: (213) 241-1000
- Pasadena Unified School District: (626) 396-3600
- Los Angeles County Department of Education: (562) 922-6111

FEMA Mission: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

For more details or support, visit <u>FEMA.gov</u> or follow FEMA on social media: X: <u>@FEMARegion9</u> | <u>FEMA</u> | **Facebook**: FEMA | **Instagram**: @FEMA

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