California Fires Briefing with Local Responders and Funders
Webinar: November 13, 2018 | 10:00am – 11:00am PST

Speakers

- Karma Hackney, Program Manager, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
- Vanessa Bechtel, President and CEO, Ventura County Community Foundation
- Tanya Gulliver-Garcia, Assistant Director of Major Initiatives, Center for Disaster Philanthropy
- Kelly King, Senior Program Officer, California Community Foundation
- Larry Olmstead, President and CEO, United Way of Northern California
- Deena Margolis, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- (Moderator) Alan Kwok, Director, Disaster Resilience, Northern California Grantmakers

Update on Fire and Resources being Deployed

- On November 12th, the President issued a major disaster declaration for Butte, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties. These counties will receive federal assistance that will aid with housing, recovering personal property, medical and funeral expenses, and transportation.
  - Some people may not qualify for federal assistance and individuals that are eligible can apply for up to $34,000.

Major Needs

- Housing
  - Those who have been displaced by the fire are staying in shelters and with family and friends. This is a short term solution and there will be a significant need for providing long term housing solutions.
  - There are homes that are underinsured or not insured at all. Homeowners will struggle to find resources to start the rebuilding process.

- Transportation issues

- Aging population in Northern and Southern California
Notes

- Many seniors will need help evacuating and recovery support

Advice on Funding

- Need to collaborate across sectors and leverage talents, in order to make an impact.
- Provide flexible funding that empowers non-profits to use the funds the way they see fit.
  - Since schools have been closed, non-profits such as the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, and animal shelters are at capacity. Providing flexible funding to these types of organizations is essential.
  - Applying for funding should be simple. Funders can still conduct due diligence, while also streamlining the application process.
  - After a disaster there is an increase in domestic violence and substance abuse, and a heighten need for financial counseling. Many non-profits that specialize in these areas may not see themselves as disaster responders, but they are. There is a need to invest and build their capacity so that they can sustain and thrive in offering these services.
- Need to focus on both short term and longer term needs
  - One third of philanthropic giving to disasters comes in the first three weeks of a disaster. By the 5-6 month mark, philanthropic funds almost stops.
  - Due to the shortage of homes, these relief efforts can take 5-10 years.
- Need to think about economic recovery. How do we get people back to work and support entrepreneurs and small businesses so that they can invest back into the community?
- Consider who will not be eligible for federal funding and public benefits. Local giving can fill in these gaps.
- Don’t just give a grant, but partner and engage with the community to understand the current needs and understand that needs change over time.

Funds

Northern California

- [United Way of Northern California](https://www.unitedway.org) - A fund to provide immediate cash grants to those who lost their homes, provide gift cards, gas cards, and other essentials to people who have been evacuated, and support recovery in the weeks and months to come.
• North Valley Community Foundation Camp Fire Fund Relief Fund

Southern California

• United Way of Greater Los Angeles set up a Southern California Disaster Relief Fund used for longer term needs, and particularly targets low-income communities.

• Ventura County Community Foundation has set up a Disaster Relief Fund to support the immediate and mid- to long-term needs of those impacted by the fire.

• California Community Foundation’s Wildfire Relief Fund

• Latino Community Foundation’s 805 UndocuFund

• The SUN Fund (Sudden and Urgent Needs Fund), through the Ventura County Community Foundation, provides relief funds for organizations responding.

National

• The Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP) has launched the CDP California Wildfire Recovery Fund. The Fund is designed to support the medium- and long-term recovery needs for individuals, families and their communities over the weeks and months to come

Learn more about these funds and others by visiting Northern California Grantmakers and Southern California Grantmakers websites.

Upcoming Calls

• November 19, 2018 | 10am -11am Webinar

• December 5, 2018 | Webinar
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