Immediate and Emerging Needs Arising from the California Fires
Webinar: November 19, 2018 | 10:00am – 11:00am PST

Speakers

- **Masha Chernyak**, Vice President of Programs and Policy, Latino Community Foundation; [mchernyak@latinocf.org](mailto:mchernyak@latinocf.org)

- **Sonja Edd-Bennett**, President, NorCal VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster); [sonjaeddbennett@gmail.com](mailto:sonjaeddbennett@gmail.com)

- **Karma Hackney**, Program Manager, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services; [karma.hackney@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:karma.hackney@caloes.ca.gov)

- **Bryan J. Del Rosario**, Legal Counsel, Council on Foundations; [rosab@cof.org](mailto:rosab@cof.org)

- **Julie Aguilar Rogado**, Deputy Director, Legal Services of Northern California; [jaguilar@lsnc.net](mailto:jaguilar@lsnc.net)

- **Ronit Rubinoff**, Executive Director, Legal Aid of Sonoma County; [rrubinoff@legalaidsc.com](mailto:rrubinoff@legalaidsc.com)

- **(Moderator) Alan Kwok**, Director, Disaster Resilience, Northern California Grantmakers; [akwok@ncg.org](mailto:akwok@ncg.org)

Update on Fire and Resources being Deployed

- Local assistance centers, which provide one-stop places for disaster survivors to access essential services, resources, and advice. LACs’ addresses and hours of operations can be found here: [http://wildfirerecovery.org/current-incidents/november-2018-fires/local-assistance-centers/](http://wildfirerecovery.org/current-incidents/november-2018-fires/local-assistance-centers/)

- There has been huge strides in containing the fires in both NorCal and SoCal, however the number of structures destroyed and people missing has skyrocketed.

- Services being offered to those affected by the fire include aiding people access vital records that were destroyed by the fire, social and mental health services, insurance and financial assistance from FEMA and the Small Business Association.
• A bill was passed recently that requires disaster services to be presented in multiple languages, so that communities affected can know what’s available to them.
• First responders are making every effort to keep people local.
  o Many of the displaced have gone to stay with family and friends in other parts of California, as well as outside of the state.
  o Many people are camping outside of shelters because they are full. Many have also gone 20-30 miles outside of the city to access a shelter that has vacancy.

Those Most Impacted & Challenges

• Seniors
  o Seniors don’t have time to think about a 10 year rebuilding plan, need to think differently about senior planning and how they are being served.
• Young families
  o Many young families moved to Paradise because of the cheaper cost of living
• People with access and functional needs
• Low-income individuals
  o Those that were on the brink of poverty and/or homelessness before the fires
• Renters
  o Many are waiting on their security deposit because they are in desperate need of cash.
• Undocumented residents are not able to access FEEMA resources
  o More information on the fund can be found below.
• Residents who are eligible for FEMA and SBA resources are having trouble accessing services because of the bureaucracy.

Advice on Funding

• Non-profit staff are working around the clock to support their communities.
  o Need to support non-profit infrastructure, by funding staff time and not solely direct services offered to fire victims.
• Huge loss of jobs and housing- need to make long term investments that will provide affordable housing and get people back to work.
• Need to support and push insurance policy and benefits
• Fund legal services
• Need to listen to community leaders and build power. Also provide space for the community to come together and heal, ie. Host listening circles
Funds

Northern California

- United Way of Northern California - 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.

Southern California

- 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

- 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.

- 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.

Other Resources

- Find where legal aid services are being offered in the state at the California Bar Association website.

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

- December 12, 2018 | 10:00am – 11:00am
  Webinar

This Webinar was Co-Sponsored by: