

LA Wildfires: Joint County – State Housing Task Force Meeting

Summary Document | March 5, 2025

This document captures discussion outcomes and action items resulting from the LA Wildfires: Joint County – State Housing Task Force meeting. The mission of the LA Wildfires: Joint County – State Housing Task Force is to support the transition from temporary sheltering programs to long-term housing solutions and develop housing solutions to facilitate the return of displaced families who want to remain in their community.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Facilitator
5 minutes	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance (Link in Chat) Introductions (New Participants) General updates 	Task Force Leads
5 minutes	Follow-Up from Previous Agenda Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA Household Relief Grant Homeownership SuperNOFA Housing Executive Orders (EO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Temporary Housing Fact Sheet (Upcoming) 	LA County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
10 minutes	Programmatic Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Individual Assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster Legal Aid Flyer Federal Individual Assistance Transitional Sheltering Assistance Non-Congregate Sheltering 	California Office of Emergency Management (Cal OES) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) American Red Cross (ARC)
5 minutes	Working Group Brief (Final Report Outs)	California Department of Social Services (CDSS),

Time	Topic	Facilitator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter Transition 	American Red Cross (ARC), FEMA
10 minutes	Health & Social Services TF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Care Update 	Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)
5 minutes	Overview of County Task Forces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery Status Update 	LA County OEM
5 minutes	Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Items & Next Steps 	Task Force Leads

Action Items

#	Task	Status	Date Assigned	Anticipated Due Date	Owner
1	Document and coordinate Housing Steering Committee (LACDA and BCSH) planning process requirements and the anticipated timeline related to the Governor's funding requested in low-income tax credits to incentivize the development of new low-income housing units.	Pending	01/27/2025	TBD	California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)
2	Determine the usage of the HUD Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) Grant allocation in the impacted and surrounding jurisdictions.	Pending	03/05/2025	05/02/2025	LA County Development Authority (LACDA)
3	Distribute and promote Executive Order Fact Sheet to ensure stakeholder use in supporting survivors' continued transition to	Pending	03/05/2025	03/14/2025	BCSH

#	Task	Status	Date Assigned	Anticipated Due Date	Owner
	temporary/intermediate housing solutions.				
4	Ensure MOUs between LACDA and 211 LA are signed to initiate Section 8 voucher distribution process.	Pending	03/05/2025	03/21/2025	LACDA
5	Determine the Eligibility and Vulnerability Framework for Section 8 voucher distribution process.	Pending	02/26/2025	03/28/2025	LACDA
6	Coordinate on Housing Dashboard development in preparation for Task Force Lead's meeting with HUD Secretary.	Pending	02/26/2025	03/13/2025	LACDA
7	Coordinate Housing Task Force data needs request with the Blue Ribbon Commission.	Pending	03/05/2025	03/28/2025	LACDA

Meeting Summary

Opening Remarks

General Updates:

- The Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Scott Turner will be visiting the burn areas on 03/06/2025, and attending a meeting with the local housing authorities.
- In response to the wildfires, Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath's Office launched the Blue Ribbon Commission on Climate Action and Fire Safe Recovery, in partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles, to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations.
 - Coordination with the Blue Ribbon Commission may support in the community engagement process and coordination on data to further reduce the risk of displacement and prioritize support for vulnerable communities.

Follow-Up from Previous Agenda

LA Household Relief Grant

- The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) launched the [LA Household Relief Grant](#) last week, which can be used for repairs, stabilization, and any wildfire impacts. The grant for each household is based on size and composition and prioritization of grant awards is based on a series of vulnerability factors.
- Deadline to apply for the LA Household Relief Grant is March 12th, 2025.

Homeownership SuperNOFA

- As a part of the state Housing Community Development department [Homeownership Super NOFA](#) (HOSN) is working to make homeownership program funds accessible to more developers and communities. These funds can be used for homeownership development projects, self-help technical assistance, mortgage assistance, owner occupied reconstruction/rehabilitation, accessory dwelling unit (ADU) programs, as well as acquisition of mobile home or manufactured housing.
- Deadline to submit applications for the Affordable Homeownership Projects and Programs was extended from February 14, 2025, to March 13, 2025.

Housing Executive Orders

- The Executive Order Fact Sheet will be released via the Housing Task Force Portal to the group upon completion and will focus exclusively on orders that affect temporary and intermediate housing recovery efforts.

Programmatic Updates

State Individual Assistance

- Cal OES continues to meet with local governments and FEMA on a weekly basis regarding Individual Assistance programs.

Disaster Legal Aid Flyer

- FEMA released new [Disaster Legal Aid flyers](#) on 03/05/2025 regarding disaster legal services for survivors, which is important information to circulate about accessibility to legal services.
- Disaster legal aid is free and available for all community members. Individuals can contact them for any item related to disasters, such as rental rights and displacement.

Federal Individual Assistance

- The Individual Assistance Daily Status update highlights ongoing efforts with FEMA [Individual Assistance](#) (IA) partners. For individuals receiving [Transitional Sheltering Assistance](#) (TSA), once they obtain rental assistance, need to secure housing since they are required to leave TSA accommodations within 180 days.

- Over 238,000 Individual Assistance registrations have been received for the designated County of LA, with registration intake deadline set for March 10th. FEMA's Individual Assistance program continues to review the registration intake, with a 60-day late application process in place.
- [Individuals and Households Program](#) (IHP) - a total of \$83 million has been allocated, with \$16.5 million designated for housing assistance.
 - Over \$10.3 million of this amount has been distributed in tax grants, benefitting 238 applicants.
 - Additionally, \$21 million has been designated for displacement assistance and \$4.6 million for rental assistance.
 - Inspections of properties and applicants is ongoing.
 - Insurance continues to be analyzed for eligibility purposes.
- Rental assistance has not seen a significant increase between the past few weeks. While there has been a slight uptick from survivors, there are several survivors who have not returned to FEMA for additional assistance after receiving displacement assistance.
- FEMA has begun receiving information from insurance providers and expects additional increases, to be closely monitored.
- The FEMA data-sharing agreement is pending signature from the Federal Coordinating Officer.

Individual Assistance, Daily Status Report – 03/05/2025			
	Renters	Owners	\$
Rental Assistance	180	769	\$4,643,536.80
Destroyed Properties	6,411	3,911	--

Transitional Sheltering Assistance

- As FEMA reviews cases, FEMA is making calls to applicants to ensure that applicants are aware of all available assistance options, including TSA and rental assistance.

Non-Congregate Sheltering

- The sheltering aspect of response to the fires concluded with the last shelter, Pamela Park, closed.
- ARC worked with Pamela Park to close the sheltering aspect of the response to fires.
- As of 01/09/2025, two (2) days after the fires started, there were 1,549 people in shelters. Approximately 172 people were under an evacuation order, and 200,000

were affected by the orders. While the number of people under evacuation orders was significantly higher than previous years, less than 1% of the population under orders were in shelters.

- Throughout the seven (7) weeks that the shelters were in operation, a total of 10 congregate shelters were used at different times.
- The Non-Congregate Sheltering Work Group expressed gratitude to all partners who supported the community during this period.

Working Group Brief (Final Report Outs)

Shelter Transition Working Group

- The Shelter Transition Working Group is currently reviewing cases for a population of 675 people, with a focus on those who are insured, since the next round of ineligibility will include individuals who are insured.
- The group is working to avoid duplication of benefits and has reached out to applicants via calls and letters to collect this information.
- Regarding rental assistance, the group wants to ensure that people only request assistance when they are certain about their next housing destination.

Health and Social Services Task Force Update

Access to Care Update

- The Access to Care Subcommittee, is a part of the Health and Social Services Task Force, which focuses on the provision of physical, behavioral, and mental health services.
- In recent weeks, the subcommittee has met with multiple entities, including ARC, 211 LA, Cal OES, and Managed Care Entities, to assess the current situation and determine how to reach individuals in need of physical health, mental health, and social services.
- An Action Plan to coordinate services is being developed to provide available resources to the community; and involves multiple entities, including ARC, 211 LA, Cal OES, and Managed Care Entities.
- The subcommittee is working on coordinating services and improving outreach efforts, with a focus on both English and Spanish-speaking populations.
- The process involves health services, mental health support, substance abuse resources, and social services to meet the community's needs.
- 211 LA will continue to be the point of contact, pushing relevant information through virtual rooms. 211 LA has been in contact with approximately 6,000 households twice a week, and have crucial information to support in connecting community members to health services.

Overview of Task Forces

- An overview of task forces, associated department leads, and mission statements were presented to encourage collaboration within Task Forces.

Task Force	Lead	Department	Mission Statement
Debris Management Task Force	Cid Tesoro; Chris Sheppard	Department of Public Works (DPW)	Establish an organizational structure for debris removal and complete safety assessments for repopulation.
Watershed Task Force	Adam Ariki; Matt Frary	DPW	Protect communities, properties, and the environment in burn areas from flooding and the environment in burn areas from flooding and mudflows.
Health & Social Services Task Force	Dr. Anish Mahajan	LA County Department of Public Health (LACDPH)	Help individuals, particularly the most vulnerable, who have been displaced or otherwise adversely impacted by the wildfires, access health and social services; this includes people who live, work, and/or go to school in the Altadena or Palisades communities.
Housing Task Force	Emilio Salas; Tracie Mann	LA County Development Authority (LACDA)	Support transition from temporary sheltering program to long-term housing solutions and develop housing solutions to facilitate the return of displaced families who want to remain in their community.
Economic Development Task Force	Kelly LoBianco	Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)	Lead economic relief and recovery for impacted workers, businesses, and communities countywide.
Rebuilding & Long-Term Recovery Task Force	Amy Bodek; Ciara Barnett	Department of Regional Planning (DPR); DPW	Coordinate the efficient and resilient reconstruction of communities, including streamlining public and private property redevelopment, temporary housing, community infrastructure, and utility restoration.
Utilities Task Force	Luis Ramirez; Dominic Osmena	DPW	Facilitate the prompt and efficient restoration and improvement of utilities – including power, gas, water, and telecommunications – prioritizing safety of the community.

Task Force	Lead	Department	Mission Statement
Schools Task Force	Karen Kimmel; Jema Estrella	LA County Office of Education, LACOE	Supporting efforts to reopen and rebuild schools.

Relevant Links

- [Joint County-State Housing Task Force Portal](#)
- [Homeownership Super NOFA](#)
- [LA County Household Relief Grant](#)
- [Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#)
- [Individuals and Households Program](#)
- [Transitional Sheltering Assistance](#)