

# LA Wildfires: Joint County – State Housing Task Force Meeting

Summary Document | April 9, 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	<b>Welcome &amp; Meeting Admin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance (Link in Chat)</li> <li>Introductions (New Participants)</li> </ul>	LA County Development Authority (LACDA) Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
5 minutes	<b>Housing Task Force Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening Remarks</li> <li>Announcements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debris Removal Program Expansion and New Right of Entry (ROE) Deadline</li> <li>Executive Order N-23-25</li> <li>Section 8 Housing Voucher Program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	LA County Development Authority (LACDA) California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
15 minutes	<b>Programmatic Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Individual Assistance</li> <li>Federal Individual Assistance</li> <li>Transitional Sheltering Assistance</li> </ul>	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
15 minutes	<b>American Red Cross</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-Congregate Shelters Update</li> </ul>	Erin McCann – American Red Cross (ARC)

Time	Topic	Facilitator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case Management</li> <li>Eligibility Overview</li> </ul>	
15 minutes	<b>Q&amp;A / Discussion</b>	All Members
5 minutes	<b>Wrap Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Items &amp; Next Steps</li> </ul>	Task Force Leads

## Action Items

#	Task	Status	Date Assigned	Anticipated Due Date	Owner
1	Document the estimated number of rental units required to be rebuilt or redeveloped for renters to return to impacted areas.	Pending	03/12/2025	04/14/2025	LACDA
2	Develop inputs for the Recovery Action Plan (Phase II) and the Recovery Support Strategies (RSS) to reflect metrics, track progress, and evaluate additional needs.	Pending	03/25/2025	04/14/2025	LA Co OEM
3	Develop Prefabricated Housing Permits Fact Sheet to navigate permitting requirements for mobile-manufactured and factory-built housing.	Pending	04/01/2025	04/18/2025	HCD

## Meeting Summary

### Opening Remarks

- The Senior Reverse Mortgages Working Group launched 04/09/2025 and will be providing report-outs in upcoming Housing Task Force meetings.
- Initial contact has been made with the [Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness](#) (BRCH), established by the Board of Supervisors in 2021, to begin cross-pollinating ideas with the group.
- Plans are in place to collaborate with grassroots and advocacy groups established for wildfire relief.

## Announcements

### Debris Removal Program Expansion and New Right of Entry (ROE)

- The [Right of Entry](#) (ROE) form has seen a total of 10,172 opt-ins, with 1,500 opt-outs as of 04/09/2025.
- Efforts are underway to reach out to as many of the parcel owners whom they have no contact with to meet the 04/15/2025 deadline.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a clarification document outlining granular decision-making categories and are having ongoing conversations regarding eligibility.
  - FEMA is now willing to include multi-family residential units in the current [Private Property Debris Removal](#) (PPDR) mission.
  - The aim is to avoid automatically including units owned by commercial or for-profit entities.
  - Commercial entities are not automatically excluded, but are expected to have their own insurance, which should cover debris removal.
  - While commercial entities are not automatically excluded from the PPDR program, these entities can make a request through their local government, which will be reviewed at the county and state level for possible inclusion in the program.
  - Entities must demonstrate an immediate threat to public health and safety, economic impacts, and issues related to insurance coverage.
  - FEMA's goal is to understand the scope of work that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be handling by mid-July.
- In situations where properties do not fit into the standard categories, properties may be eligible for the [Public Assistance](#) (PA) program or other programs.
- The key takeaway is to continue marketing and outreach efforts to encourage as many ROE submissions as possible before the deadline of 04/15/2025.

### Executive Order N-23-25

- The [Housing and Community Development](#) (HCD) discussed implementation of [Executive Order N-23-25](#) as it pertains to long-term monitoring of the affordable housing portfolio in the aftermath of recovery efforts.
- HCD issued an [Administrative Notice](#) to provide clarity on the issuance of the executive order.
- The order makes over 800 vacant units available immediately to households, with priority given to individuals who were displaced from the wildfires.

- Individuals must demonstrate that they are currently experiencing homelessness and must meet the eligibility requirements for the vacant dwelling unit.
- The Executive Order allows sponsors in the County to allow waitlist priority to displaced households who are experiencing homelessness due to the proclaimed emergencies and HCD provided the [Los Angeles Wildfire Waitlist Exception Form](#).
- HCD is collecting data and expects to have more information by the end of the fiscal year.
- In the coming week, HCD plans to conduct a survey of all project sponsors to identify which units are vacant, the income levels these units are restricted to, and any population or demographic requirements. This data will be shared with the [Local Housing Trust Fund](#) (LHTF) Program to help individuals navigate available assistance programs.
- The guidance and Executive Order remain in effect until 03/06/2026.

### **Section 8 Vouchers**

- A total of 50 [Section 8](#) vouchers has been allocated for individuals who lost their homes in the wildfires.
- The [Los Angeles County Development Authority](#) (LACDA) opened the [Section 8 Voucher Waitlist](#) on 4/04/2025 at 8 AM.
- LACDA has received just under 300 applications and will close the waitlist once 300 applications have been received. Approximately 20 slots are still available.

### **Programmatic Updates**

#### **State Individual Assistance**

- There are fewer than 100 households currently in the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program.
- Cal OES is collaborating with FEMA's TSA Mass Care team to ensure that ineligible applicants are not placed on the California Fair Plan.
  - Cal OES is contacting households to ask a series of questions, including whether they have found housing and what their plans are.
- A total of 434 homeowners and 1,935 renters have received over \$1 million in rental assistance through the [Individuals and Households Program](#), as of 04/09/2025.
- Households can request Continued Temporary Housing Assistance once their rental assistance has been exhausted after the initial two (2) month period.

- Cal OES is also reminding households to pay attention to their insurance documents and follow through with submitting required documentation. In cases of denial, applicants may need to provide additional information.
- The [Immediate Services Program \(ISP\)](#), [Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program \(CCP\)](#) is still in effect and has received a 30-day extension until 05/08/2025.
- The [Continued Temporary Housing Assistance](#) program is supporting 19 households as of 04/09/2025.

### **Federal Individual Assistance**

- A 60-day extension is available for the late application period, ending on 05/30/2025. Applicants must provide written or verbal notice justifying why they were unable to enroll during the initial timeframe.
- A total of 260,897 valid registrations have been received as of 04/09/2025.
- A total of \$113 million has been approved through IHP as of 04/09/2025.
- There are 19 inspectors in the field and a total of 56,000 inspections have been completed, which is 98% of the inspections planned.
- Maximum grants have been provided to 349 applicants, totaling over \$15 million as of 04/09/2025.
- Serious needs assistance has reached over \$22 million, which includes emergency funds provided immediately after the disaster.
- Displacement assistance has totaled over \$28 million.
- Funeral assistance has been provided to six (6) households, totaling \$36,000.
- Two (2) [Disaster Recovery Center](#) (DRCs) remain open, with 38,296 individuals served as of 04/09/2025.
- There are 30,000 registrants whose applications are awaiting insurance information.

### **American Red Cross**

#### **Status Update**

- The last two (2) clients were transitioned out of [American Red Cross's](#) (ARC's) Non-Congregate Sheltering (NCS) program as of 04/07/2025, and moved into longer-term housing solutions.
  - Through the NCS program, 108 households and 280 individuals were supported.
- The Bridge Assistance program will kick off on 04/22/2025, with focused outreach and enrollment beginning on 04/29/2025 through 05/13/2025.
  - This program aims to bridge the gap between the immediate response phase and long-term recovery by providing direct financial assistance to affected households.

- To be eligible, households must have experienced major destruction or damage to their homes.
- Additional outreach efforts will focus on impacted service sites to ensure that affected individuals are aware of the program.
- Eligible individuals must provide proof of identity and residence, they must not have previously received assistance from ARC for the same event to qualify for additional support.

### **Case Management**

- Every 48 hours, Shelter Resident Transition (SRT) Program workers checked in with residents to assess their challenges, unmet needs, and whether their needs were being met by the hotels they were staying at.
- The regular touchpoints with SRT workers facilitated navigation of the recovery process and coordinated with partners to bring additional support.
- Some residents had special medical needs that the organization was not equipped to handle. These individuals required caretakers or specialized care, which led to collaboration with government partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for assistance. Since many individuals did not evacuate with their caretakers, it has been more difficult to identify and address their needs.
- Another challenge was finding affordable senior housing for elderly residents without medical needs.
- Vulnerable populations required additional attention and resources. ARC's partnership with [211 LA](#) was instrumental in ensuring that people were connected with the necessary resources. 211 LA's extensive network of local organizations and deployment of 20 ARC members with case management experience helped move clients forward in the recovery process.
- Agencies like the [Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority](#) (LAHSA) were integrated into the NCS program, allowing them to provide services at the shelter locations.
- Additional organizations were also brought in to provide support for veterans, children, and other specific groups.
- Collaboration with organizations like [Operation Hope](#) and the [Hope Crisis Response Network](#) was critical in providing cleanup assistance and helping applicants through the application process.
- Although clients eligible for FEMA assistance were not automatically disqualified from the NCS program, the partnership with FEMA was crucial in helping individuals access available resources.

### **Eligibility Overview**

- Applicants had to be either pre-disaster homeowners or renters displaced by the fire.

- Priority was given to people over 60, families with children under 15, veterans, and individuals with medical or special needs who had nowhere else to go.

## **Relevant Links**

- [Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness](#)
- [Right of Entry](#)
- [Private Property Debris Removal](#)
- [Public Assistance](#)
- [Housing and Community Development](#)
- [Executive Order N-23-25](#)
- [Administrative Notice](#)
- [Los Angeles Wildfire Waitlist Exception Form](#)
- [Local Housing Trust Fund](#)
- [Section 8](#)
- [Los Angeles County Development Authority](#)
- [Section 8 Voucher Waitlist](#)
- [Individuals and Households Program](#)
- [Immediate Services Program \(ISP\), Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program \(CCP\)](#)
- [Continued Temporary Housing Assistance](#)
- [Disaster Recovery Center](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)
- [211 LA](#)
- [Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority](#)
- [Operation Hope](#)
- [Hope Crisis Response Network](#)