

LA Wildfires: Joint County – State Housing Task Force Meeting

Summary Document | May 7, 2025

This document captures discussion outcomes and action items resulting from the LA Wildfires: Joint County – State Housing Task Force meeting.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Facilitator
5 minutes	Welcome & Meeting Admin <ul style="list-style-type: none">Attendance (Link in Chat)Introductions (New Participants)	LA County Development Authority (LACDA) Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
10 minutes	Housing Task Force Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">Opening RemarksAnnouncements<ul style="list-style-type: none">Senior Reverse Mortgages WorkshopSection 8 Housing Voucher Program	LA County Development Authority (LACDA) Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
15 minutes	Health and Social Services Task Force <ul style="list-style-type: none">Health Rapid Needs Assessment FindingsVulnerable Populations Subcommittee Updates	Dr. Malhotra – Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Jeremiah Garza – Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH)
10 minutes	211 LA <ul style="list-style-type: none">Program Update	Doug Quisenberry – 211 LA
10 minutes	Q&A / Discussion	All Members
5 minutes	City Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">Los AngelesPasadenaMalibu	City Representatives

Time	Topic	Facilitator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sierra Madre 	
5 minutes	Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Items & Next Steps 	Task Force Leads

Action Items

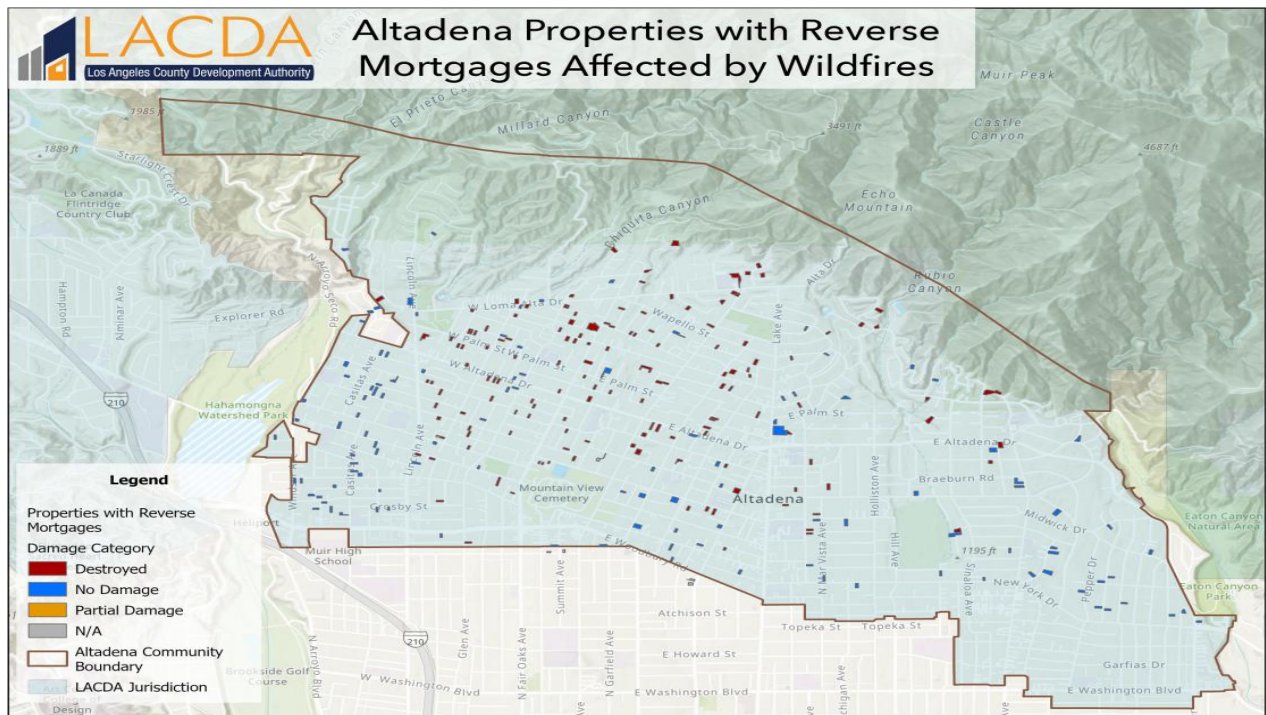
#	Task	Status	Date Assigned	Anticipated Due Date	Owner
1	Review Section 8 Housing Voucher Program waitlist to award 50 vouchers.	Pending	04/09/2025	06/30/2025	LACDA
2	Organize workshop materials, case management services, and logistics to host an introductory session on Reverse Mortgages for senior citizens, scheduled for May 10 th .	Pending	04/15/2025	05/10/2025	DCBA; LACDA; Department of Aging
3	Collect and analyze localized housing data to develop slides and talking points to strengthen federal advocacy efforts.	Pending	04/29/2025	5/16/2025	LACDA; LA Co OEM

Meeting Summary

Announcements

Senior Reverse Mortgages Workshop

- The Reverse Mortgage Working Group is organizing a reverse mortgage workshop for senior citizens on Saturday, 5/10/2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the MonteCedro Retirement Community.
 - The purpose of the workshop is to gather information on reverse mortgages, educate seniors, and build a support system for seniors in impacted communities to connect them with appropriate resources based on their individual needs.
 - The target population includes 300 households identified reverse mortgages in Altadena disaster areas.
 - Public data was used to identify 267 reverse mortgage properties, which have been mapped. The map is color-coded to indicate which properties were destroyed.



- The program aims to engage affected residents to discuss their financial options and provide important information on what to watch out for.
- The program will begin in Altadena and expand to the Palisades as soon as a venue is secured and marketing is targeted.

- Language assistance will be available in both Spanish and Armenian.
- Community members and partners are encouraged to share program [flyer for the Reverse Mortgage Introductory Session](#); and participants are encouraged to [RSVP](#).
- Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, 5th District, issued a [press release](#) to advertise the Introductory Reverse Mortgages Session.
- The event is in partnership with the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), Department of Aging, California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA), Housing & Urban Development (HUD), California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), County Office of Emergency Management (LA Co OEM), Neighborhood Housing Services, Bet Tzedek, and other senior-focused organizations.
- For those interested in joining the Reverse Mortgage Working Group, the contact information is:
 - Email: Carolina.romo@lacda.org
 - Phone: 626-296-6298

Section 8 Housing Voucher Program

- Approximately 320 individuals applied to the waitlist, and an initial group of 60 applicants were selected and sent application packets.
- As of 5/7/2025, 15 completed applications have been returned and are currently under review.
- Outreach is underway to the remaining applicants to identify any issues preventing them from submitting their applications.
- Applicants are undergoing eligibility screening, including verification of wildfire impact, before being scheduled for a voucher briefing.
- Following outreach, a second batch of applicants will be pulled from the waitlist.
- Depending on staff capacity, more than 60 additional application packets may be sent out.
- A total of 50 vouchers have been allocated for this application period, with the potential to serve more applicants.
- Initial applicants were notified by mail using the address they provided during the waitlist registration process.

Health and Social Services Task Force – Vulnerable Populations Subcommittee

Rapid Needs Assessment

- The Vulnerable Populations Subcommittee is one of four subcommittees within the Health and Social Services Task Force.
 - The subcommittee focuses on environmental health impacts, access to health and social care, enrollment in benefits, and support for vulnerable populations.
- A Rapid Needs Assessment was conducted to evaluate urgent needs and deliver timely insights to the task force.
 - The assessment was distributed electronically from 2/19/2025 to 3/10/2025.
 - The survey was designed to be temporary and responsive to changing community needs.
 - The assessment was shared with individuals living in fire-impacted areas to better understand and prioritize urgent needs.
- A total of 1,468 responses were received from Eaton and 838 from Palisades.
- The survey covered a broad range of topics including health care, social services, economic conditions, and housing.
- Respondent demographics generally aligned with the population of the impacted regions.

Housing Needs

- In Eaton, 60% of respondents were displaced, while 55% of Palisades respondents reported displacement.
- Many displaced individuals are struggling to find safe and stable places to sleep at night.
- Among Eaton survivors, 21% lacked homeowners or renter's insurance; and 25% in Palisades.
- The top housing needs in Eaton were home cleaning or repairs (39%); air purifiers (36%); debris removal (31%); and rent/mortgage assistance (25%).
- In Palisades, the top housing needs were air purifiers (32%); rent/mortgage assistance (27%); home cleaning or repairs (27%); and debris removal (23%).

Home Damage

- In both regions, 26% of respondents reported that their homes were completely destroyed.
- In Eaton 69.7% reported total destruction and 71.7% reported their homes were uninhabitable.
- In the Palisades, 79% reported their homes were uninhabitable.
- The majority of displaced residents are currently residing in Los Angeles County.
- Over 73% of those whose homes were destroyed or damaged had homeowners or renter's insurance.

- Among residents whose homes were not damaged, 64% in Eaton and 59.3% in Palisades had insurance.
- Family and friends were cited as the most helpful sources of support by the majority of respondents.
- More than 80% of those displaced by destruction or damage area living within LA County.

Renters' Needs

- In Eaton, 27.8% of respondents were renters before the fire, compared to 31.1% in Palisades.
- Over half of renters lacked renter's insurance: 54.2% in Eaton and 50.7% in Palisades.
- Legal help for tenant rights was needed by 19% of Eaton renters and 12.6% of Palisades renters.
- Assistance with rent disputes or landlord conflicts was needed by 15% of Eaton renters and 9.3% in Palisades.
- Lease termination or eviction protection support was needed by 8.0% in Eaton and 9.9% in Palisades.

Health Impacts

- Mental health support was identified as a critical need by 24% of Eaton respondents and 20% in Palisades.
- About 31% of Eaton and 34% of Palisades respondents were unsure if they had access to mental health services.
- Mental health conditions worsened for 77% of Eaton respondents and 74% in Palisades.
- Physical health also declined for 59% of Eaton respondents and 55% in Palisades.

Financial and Other Needs

- Over 45% of Eaton respondents reported needing financial assistance to replace lost belongings, compared to 30% in Palisades.
- Additional needs included help paying for rebuilding or repairs, and daily living costs beyond rent or mortgage.
- The most commonly needed goods were safe drinking water, household cleaning supplies, and bedding.
- About 35% of Eaton and 24% of Palisades respondents reported needing help finding reliable information.
- Roughly 41% in Eaton and 30% in Palisades felt overwhelmed by too much information.

- Approximately 33% in Eaton and 28% in Palisades did not know what services were available.
- Respondents with disabilities were more likely to report being unaware of available services.

211 LA

Program Update

- A total of 3,997 households have been accepted and enrolled in the [211 LA](#) program.
- These households represent long-term recovery cases requiring ongoing support.
- In the past month, staff recontacted many households to verify whether their situations have been resolved.
- The program is currently accepting only waitlist applications due to capacity limits.
- All 3,997 enrolled households have been assigned care coordinators.
- A waitlist has been established and is accessible through the program website.

Airbnb 30-Day Extension program

- A total of 875 households were referred to the Airbnb 30-day extension program.
- The program is continuing but is seeing fewer participants as more people transition to stable housing.
- The decrease in participation reflects that many households are no longer in need of temporary lodging through Airbnb.

Ongoing 211 LA Support

- 211 LA continues to provide information and updates to approximately 4,000 households via SMS, including application dates, financial resources, and community events.

Care Coordination Statistics

- Of the enrolled households, 27% are owners and 73% are renters.
- 22% of households reported damage to their homes, while 43% reported total destruction.
- Approximately 35% of enrolled households consist of one to two individuals.
- About 78% of households reported difficulty in finding affordable housing options.

CITY UPDATES

Los Angeles

- The Housing Recovery Support Function (RSF) has transitioned to email-based updates and monitors needs using FEMA data and partner reports.

- As of 5/1/2025, 575 renters are receiving rental assistance, 579 are receiving housing assistance, and 472 homeowners are receiving housing assistance.
- One renter and one homeowner remain in the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program.

Pasadena

- The City of Pasadena is preparing to launch [Emergency Solutions Grants](#) (ESG) [Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing](#) (RUSH) resources to support recovery efforts.
- The city received a grant that has been distributed through [Union Station Homeless Services](#), a Pasadena-based organization.
- These funds will provide short-term rental assistance to affected residents.

Relevant Links

- [Reverse Mortgage Introductory Session Flyer](#)
- [Reverse Mortgage Introductory Session RSVP](#)
- [Reverse Mortgage Introductory Session Press Release](#)
- [211 LA](#)
- [Emergency Solutions Grants](#)
- [Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing](#)
- [Union Station Homeless Services](#)