



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Joseph M. Nicchitta

November 26, 2025

To: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn

From: Joseph M. Nicchitta 
Acting Chief Executive Officer

**REPORT BACK ON LAUNCHING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY (COUNTY) FIRE
RECOVERY FUND (ITEM NO. 13-A, AGENDA OF JANUARY 28, 2025)**

On January 28, 2025, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion directing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to launch the Los Angeles County Recovery Fund (Fund) to provide direct cash aid to homeowners, renters, business owners, workers, and other impacted community members by the 2025 Los Angeles County Eaton and Palisades Fire and Windstorm Events (Fire Events); reallocate \$32.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) enabled funding to support the Fund; and continue to identify available County dollars that can be repositioned to support victims of the fires.

The Fire Events had devastating impacts in communities within the County. The goal for creating the Fund was to provide immediate, temporary assistance to impacted residents until longer term State and Federal recovery resources become available. In February 2025, three separate funding programs were established to meet this need: 1) Household Relief Grant; 2) Los Angeles (LA) Region Small Business Fund; and 3) LA Region Worker Relief Fund. The Household Relief Grant was administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) and the LA Region Small Business Fund and the LA Region Worker Relief Fund were both administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).

The CEO transferred ARPA-enabled funding in the amounts of \$29.232 million and \$3 million to DCBA and DEO respectively, through two separate mid-year budget adjustment Board letters earlier this year to kick off these programs. DEO added \$1 million of their departmental funding to help cover program costs.



DEO partnered with DCBA and The Center for Strategic Partnerships (CSP) to raise about \$29.33 million in philanthropic funding across the three funds. Additionally, about \$81,000 was raised through credit card donations from 185 individual donors to support the three funds through the County's fire relief website and donation link that was created by the Internal Services Department, in partnership with the Auditor-Controller and the Treasurer and Tax Collector.

LA County Household Relief Grant

DCBA contracted with a third-party administrator, The Center by Lendistry, to distribute funds directly to eligible applicants. DCBA and the CEO's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative and the Poverty Alleviation Initiative developed a set of criteria for prioritizing fund distribution. Eligibility criteria included being a County resident (homeowner or tenant) who was physically displaced due to the Fire Events and who met any of the following:

- Primary residence was completely destroyed by the Fire Events;
- Primary residence was partially destroyed or severely structurally damaged by the Fire Events making it uninhabitable; and/or
- A death occurred within the household related to the Fire Events.

Priority was given to the most impacted households based on need, including insurance status, social and economic vulnerability, loss of life, health conditions, and other risk factors.

Eligible homeowners and tenants selected for the program received grant sizes based on household size and composition as follows:

- \$6,000 for households of up to two people;
- \$12,000 for households of three or more people, including at least one dependent minor or dependent adult; or
- \$18,000 for households of four or more people spanning at least three separate generations.

Grant funds could be used for fire-related costs and expenses not covered by other forms of assistance.

Applications were received between February 26 – March 12, 2025. The number of applications funded as of October 1, 2025, are as follows:

	Eaton Fire	Palisades Fire	Total
Funding Disbursed	\$21,114,000	\$10,674,000	\$31,788,000
Applications Funded	2,252	1,173	3,425
No. of People Supported	6,412	3,241	9,653

On September 22, 2025, DCBA sent a notice of exhausted funds to all additional applicants. If additional funding is raised, the grant awards can resume until additional funds are also exhausted. The remaining funding gap to cover all additional applicants is approximately \$2.9 million.

LA Region Small Business and Worker Relief Funds

DEO launched the LA Region Small Business and LA Region Worker Relief Funds to provide immediate cash assistance to small business owners and workers most impacted by the Fire Events who face immediate economic crises as a result. The goal was to target critical needs in the response phase of the emergency while planning for long-term recovery and resiliency.

The LA Region Small Business and LA Region Worker Relief Funds provided small business and nonprofit grants between \$2,000 - \$25,000 (for home-based and brick-and-mortar businesses) and worker cash assistance grants in the amount of \$2,000.

Investments to the two Funds were managed by SoCal Grantmakers as the County's third-party administrator, in partnership with the CSP and DEO. The Funds were administered by Aid Kit which offered outreach, technical assistance, grant administration and distribution, and overall program evaluation.

DEO worked with ARDI to develop baseline eligibility criteria for those small businesses and workers to qualify for grants, as well as a methodology to prioritize awards, were limited by funding availability.

Eligible businesses and nonprofits included those located within the Fire Events areas, including evacuation and warning zone areas, who were small (e.g., under \$6 million in revenue and/or no more than 100 employees), provided goods and services, and planned to re-open in the County, if possible. Award levels and prioritization for awards were based on level of damage and loss, with a priority for those businesses fully destroyed in the Fire Events. Additional considerations were given for legacy businesses, lack of insurance, and compounding loss of a home after awards were distributed for those businesses that were fully lost.

Eligible workers included individuals who experienced loss of wages or employment due to an employer or home lost, damaged, or closed in the fire, evacuation, or warning zones. Prioritization for award considered level of loss, residence in fire zone, income level, lack of insurance or coverage, and vulnerable community

members, including leveraging the LA County Workers' Rights Income and Employment Index,¹ developed by ARDI.

Applications were received between February 6 – March 12, 2025. The number of applications funded as of October 31, 2025, are noted below.

LA Region Small Business Fund				
	Eaton Fire	Palisades Fire	Other Fires	Total
Funding Disbursed	\$8,343,000	\$8,209,000	\$1,154,000	\$17,706,000
Applications Funded	1,121	903	157	2,181

DEO raised sufficient funds to award grants to all eligible LA Region Small Business Relief Fund applicants.

LA Region Worker Relief Fund				
	Eaton Fire	Palisades Fire	Other Fires	Total
Funding Disbursed	\$2,258,000	\$2,574,000	\$854,000	\$5,686,000
Applications Funded	1,129	1,287	427	2,843

DEO also secured an additional \$100,000 from LA Cares which will cover another 45 worker relief applications and likely cover all remaining eligible applications. Those funds are anticipated to be distributed by December 2025.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Carrie Miller at (213) 262-7823 or cmiller@ceo.lacounty.gov.

JMN:JG:CDM
KM:acn

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Consumer and Business Affairs
Economic Opportunity
Internal Services
Treasurer and Tax Collector

¹ The LA County Workers' Rights Income and Employment Index was developed in partnership with the DCBA per a September 12, 2023 Board Motion:
<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/183779.pdf>.