



**2025 California Rises 2.0 Funding Recommendations
as of 4.3.2025**

Funding Recommendations:

1. Ventura Fire Foundation/Fire Family Collective - \$20,000

2025 LA Area Fires: Firefighter Family Recovery

Firefighter spouses face unique challenges: chronic stress, isolation, and worry for their spouses, which are intensified post-disaster. This free, virtual, self-paced conference educates spouses on firefighter PTSD signs and how to respond. Crucially, it provides tools for spouses to safeguard their own mental health, fostering resilience within fire families. By understanding PTSD indicators and self-care strategies, spouses can better support their partners and themselves, building stronger, healthier relationships. This support system is vital, especially after traumatic deployments, where the entire family unit experiences the ripple effects of the firefighter's service. The conference will be hosted on the Fire Family Collective.

2. Special Needs Network, Inc. - \$25,000

Adopt A Family Initiative

Special Needs Network's Adopt-A-Family program supports families affected by the LA and Altadena fires by providing essential relief and long-term assistance. Through community partnerships and generous donors, the program offers financial aid, household necessities, clothing, and other critical resources. Each family receives personalized support to address their unique needs, helping them rebuild their lives and regain stability. This initiative ensures that vulnerable families, especially those with children with disabilities, are not left behind during the recovery process.

3. Catalina Island Marine Institute - \$22,500

CIMI Los Angeles Fire Recovery

Multiple schools in the fire zones have been coming to Catalina Island Marine Institute (both the Toyon Bay and Fox Landing sites) for years for immersive hands-on learning. For the students & teachers, this is often the highlight of the academic year. Our project targets removing fire-imposed obstacles that are preventing either schools or students from attending. We have started working with the schools directly to address these challenges. For schools, this can be program and transportation costs, headcount minimums, deadlines, and/or program rescheduling. Student obstacles might be not having a sleeping bag, warm-enough

coat, or needing additional chaperones for emotional security. Grant resources will remove more obstacles.

4. Children's Burn Foundation - \$25,000

Prevention Education Programs

CBF's Burn Prevention Programs educate children and families on fire and burn safety through interactive school performances, community outreach, and public awareness campaigns. Programs like La Troupe and Safety Smart Kids/Parents teach fire safety, scald prevention, and emergency response in high-risk communities. CBF collaborates with the California Science Center on its Fire Science & Safety Exhibit, which educates visitors on fire behavior, prevention, and response, including a wildfire safety component. These initiatives, in partnership with fire departments and educators, help reduce burn injuries and promote fire safety across Southern California.

5. Project:Camp - \$25,000

Rapid Response Camp Network Expansion - Los Angeles County

Continuing relationships both developed and enhanced during the recent wildfires, Project:Camp proposes to expand our Rapid Response Camp Network in Los Angeles County. Because of nearly 4 years of previous work with local government and community-based organizations, we were able to stand up 10 camps on 9 sites across Southern California starting within the first 48 hours of the wildfires. While we were able to care for over 800 children across the county, our hope is to expand preparation and access to work closer toward supporting any child in Los Angeles County impacted by disaster (at one point, CA Dept. of Education listed 35,000 kids out of school).

6. Redondo Beach Firefighters Association - \$75,000

Wildland PPE and Helmet Procurement

During the Palisades fire, a significant deficiency was found in our wildland firefighting gear, as there are only eight sets of wildland gear for 60 of our members. After an operational period on the Palisades fire, we had to turn over the dirty and contaminated gear with one another causing harmful exposure to contaminants to our members. When a third unit was sent out as a Task Force, we needed to borrow gear from neighboring agencies to fulfil the request. The "Wildland PPE and Helmet Procurement " project was initiated to outfit all our members with their own wildland firefighting gear. This will allow us to be better prepared to serve our community when the call comes.

7. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles \$25,000

ReBUILD LA

Our response to the 2025 wildfires follows a strategic, phased approach. These phases—relief, recovery, and reconstruction—address immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs. As the immediate crisis stabilizes, we are offering financial support, namely rent and mortgage assistance. We are expanding on existing Home Preservation Programs to repair homes, provide smoke remediation, and address long-term housing needs. Building

homes will be a critical component of recovery. We are working to expedite our current new construction pipeline to address the ongoing need for affordable housing and leveraging our partnerships and resources to ensure fair pricing and availability of materials for income-limited homeowners.

8. Food Forward - \$25,000

Fresh Produce for Community Recovery

Food Forward began 2025 with a plan to recover and distribute at least 100 million pounds of surplus fresh fruits and vegetables this year. When wildfires began in January, we pivoted to emergency response through our extensive network of produce donors and hunger relief organizations. As a result, in January and February 2025, we surpassed the volume of produce distributed over the same period in 2024 by 25% (more than 3 million pounds). Food Forward will continue to increase the volume and frequency of produce distribution in response to the evolving needs of fire-impacted communities, informed by those on the ground.

9. Ventura County Fire Protection District - \$25,039

Flight-ready: Enhancing Aviation Safety and Readiness in Wildfire Response

This project provides critical PPE for Air Unit pilots and flight crews, enhancing safety and survivability during wildfire response and disaster recovery. The VCFD Air Unit supports wildfire suppression, rescue, and disaster response in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, conducting reconnaissance, water drops, and aerial support. Pilots remain the only crew members without anti-exposure protection, making them vulnerable in a water crash. This equips pilots with lightweight, aviation-grade dry suits to reduce hypothermia risk in water landings and provides flight crews with night vision goggles to improve nighttime operations. These upgrades ensure aircrews are fully protected during high-risk missions, strengthening safety and readiness.

10. 805UndocuFund - \$25,000

"Raíces de Resiliencia" (Roots of Resilience)

This project will expand our Community Organizer position to full-time to lead equitable disaster recovery planning efforts in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Activities will include organizing a regional recovery roundtable, developing formal partnerships with local agencies, participating in VOAD and disaster coordination meetings, and training community leaders to support undocumented and Indigenous residents post-disaster. The project aims to ensure historically excluded communities are included in long-term recovery systems.

11. Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, San Gabriel Region - \$31,000

Catholic Charities, San Gabriel Relief Services

The San Gabriel Region of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles is providing direct support to individuals and families impacted by the Eaton Fire. Many residents are facing financial strain due to property loss, evacuation expenses, and the disruption of employment. Our project offers food and clothing gift cards, as well as financial assistance for apartment

security deposits and rent. By helping cover these urgent needs, we aim to reduce hardship and bridge the financial gap for those recovering from the fire's devastating effects. This support fosters stability and promotes resilience in the affected community.

12. Arcadia Fire Department - \$12,000

Fuel Reduction Through Goat Grazing

There is approximately 20 acres to our north end of our city that is in the wildland urban interface. Our city conducted previous wildfire fuel reduction projects, but certain vegetation was not cleared due to limitations. Goats can be used as a natural and effective means to reduce the wildfire risk by consuming dangerous fuels including poison oak and ivy and creating natural firebreaks. This project will lower the risk of wildfire to our community that was recently affected by the Eaton Fire.

13. Beacon Housing - \$25,000

Helping Hand Grant

Our Helping Hand Grant provides families and individuals with up to \$500 in emergency funds. Originally this grant was created to help families during the pandemic pay for utilities and moving costs but has now moved to focus on those affected by the Los Angeles fires. We were able to give out 95 grants but are still receiving applications every day. Our funds have been depleted and now we are seeking more funding to meet the demand of the needs of our community. To receive the grant, applicants must fill out and submit a form where we collect information like household size and grant use. We then ask for bills and income verification to ensure they are low-income. If everything is approved, they are sent a check by mail or pick-up.

Total Recommended: \$360,539.00