



Funding Priorities & Guidelines



SPRING 2026 GRANT OPPORTUNITY

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Overview

The [California Fire Foundation](#) (CFF) is a statewide nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization based in Sacramento, CA. Formed in 1987, CFF's mandate includes an array of survivor assistance projects and community initiatives. Since launching our first funding cycle, over 80% of Governor declared disasters have been wildfire related. The last few fire years in particular have been the deadliest and most destructive in California's history.

Nearly 3 million California households – approximately one in 10 – are at high or extreme wildfire risk. California is home to more than 75 communities where at least 90 percent of residents live in very high fire risk corridors. Areas in California at the highest risk of burning are now among those with some of the fastest population growth in the Western United States. As more people move into our state's wildland-urban interface, the opportunity for fires to ignite rises -- and so does the number of people at risk.

Catastrophic, climate change-driven events pose a significant risk to the public's safety. But, too often, under-resourced communities in high-fire threat areas lack the resources and information needed to stay safe. CFF, fire departments, local firefighter associations and other community-based organizations are positioned to work in partnership -- providing needed resources to help mitigate the risk of wildfires and other climate change-driven disasters. Our wildfire prevention and preparedness grantees are tackling some of the state's toughest wildfire risk needs. *Each year, requests for grant funding steadily increase – with every funding cycle becoming more competitive than the last.*

Focus Areas

The California Fire Foundation supports projects that actively address wildfire preparedness and/or prevention needs, which protect and enhance the public's safety or the safety of California's firefighters and other first responders, including:

- **Vegetation Mitigation & Fuels Reduction**
- **Education, Planning or Community Outreach Campaigns**
- **Personal Protective Equipment**
- **Specialized Firefighting Equipment**
- **First Responder Training**

In this cycle, funding priority will be extended to projects grounded in and responsive to under-resourced Southern, Coastal and Central California communities located in [Southern California Edison's service area](#), with particular emphasis given to those [serving areas of heightened fire risk](#).

Guidelines

- Applicant must be a **California-based fire department, firefighter association** or a **nonprofit organization** located in Southern California Edison’s service area. *Other groups may apply when doing so in collaboration with one of the three above-referenced entities, including fiscal agents.*
- Fire departments serving and firefighter associations representing the same community within Edison's service area, or whose personnel/members serve the same geographic region, **are eligible** to individually apply for funding;
- Project **must benefit** communities served by Southern California Edison, with priority given to under-resourced populations in high fire-threat areas;
- Requested amount **should not** exceed \$15,000 (requests outside of this range will be considered on an as-needed basis);
- CFF **does not** require matching funds; and
- Funding decisions are generally communicated within four to six weeks **after** the application window closes. *Applicants may track the status of their submissions on their [grants portal dashboard](#).*

Should You Apply?

	Yes	No
Your project serves communities located in Southern California Edison's service area	X	
Fire Department	X	
Firefighter Association	X	
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization	X	
Tribal Entity	X	
Individual		X
Private Business (Corporation, LLC, sole proprietorship)		X
Political Campaign or Lobbying Effort		X
Capital Project		X
Annual Fundraising Appeal		X



Grantees: In Their Own Words

"We at the Soboba Fire Department are thankful to the California Fire Foundation and Edison for this grant. It will be hugely beneficial to the members of our reservation and to our surrounding communities to help us be better fire prepared." - **Soboba Fire Department**

"The California Fire Foundation grant has helped... in response to educating our community on how to be prepared for emergencies and disasters. We are proud to be part of helping better prepare Californians in our local community and make an impact on those who are experiencing social isolation, poverty, language barriers, or other hindering factors." - **Youth Action Program**

"California Fire Foundation has been an incredible partner to The C.R.E.W. in fire prevention, community education, and youth leadership. Our teen and young adult staff members work hands-on, all year, in fire prevention and education." - **Concerned Resources Environmental Workers (The C.R.E.W.)**

"The CFF grant was a great opportunity for Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District to purchase the Fire Prevention Inflatable House and Pluggie the Hydrant to provide a more realistic and more engaging educational tool for elementary students." - **Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District**

"The purpose of the Ready Kern Go Bag Giveaway was to "jump-start" Kern County residents to take action for disaster preparedness. Kern Fire Safe Council is very grateful to California Fire Foundation for partnering in this project." - **Kern Fire Safe Council**

